

BOB DYLAN

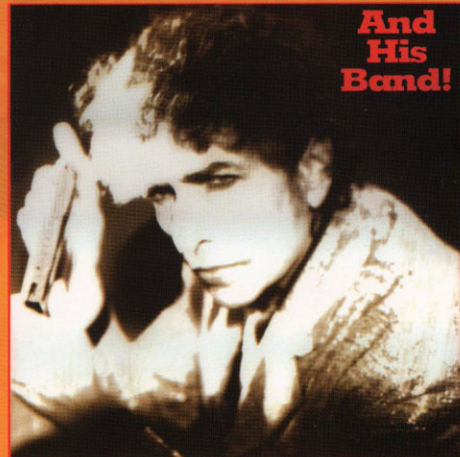
BERLIN ARENA

— Donnerstag, 11. April. 8:00pm! —

★ In Show & Concert! ★

BOB DYLAN

**And
His
Band!**



IN PERSON!



The great music. The great live show.

A Bob Dylan Concert. Tickets from \$40.00.

Th u . 1 1 t h A p r i l 2 0 0 2 , B e r l i n A r e n a , B e r l i n , G e r m a n y

Disc 1 74.24

1. Intro 1.42

2. I Am The Man, Thomas 2.47

3. The Times They Are A-Changin' 6.50 *harmonica*

4. It's Alright, Ma (I'm Only Bleeding) 7.00

5. Boots Of Spanish Leather 8.22 *harmonica*

6. Solid Rock 4.35

7. Moonlight 5.37 *harmonica*

8. Lonesome Day Blues 7.29

9. All Along The Watchtower 5.00

10. Visions Of Johanna 9.08

11. Masters Of War 4.45

12. Don't Think Twice, It's All Right 7.33 *harmonica*



Disc 2 72.28

1. Love Sick 5.37

2. Summer Days 6.51

3. The Wicked Messenger 4.40 *harmonica*

4. Leopard-Skin Pill-Box Hat 7.59

5. Not Fade Away 4.12

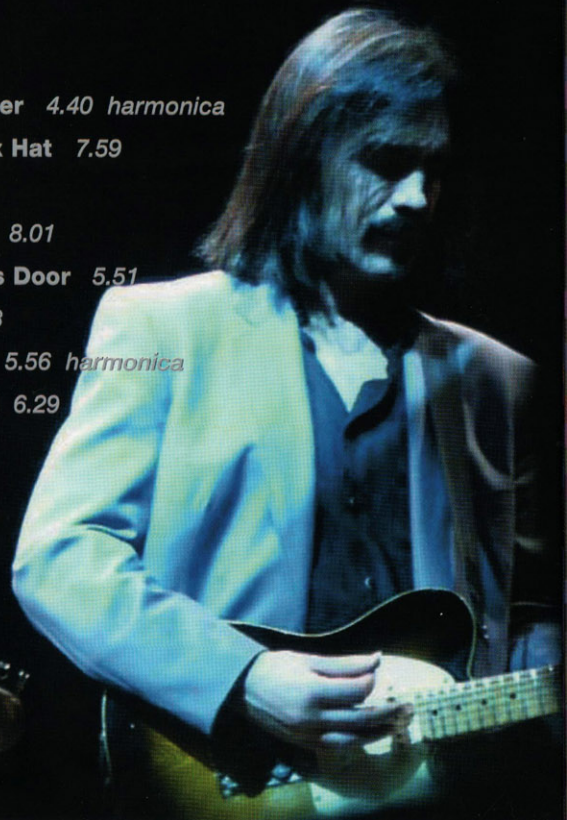
6. Like A Rolling Stone 8.01

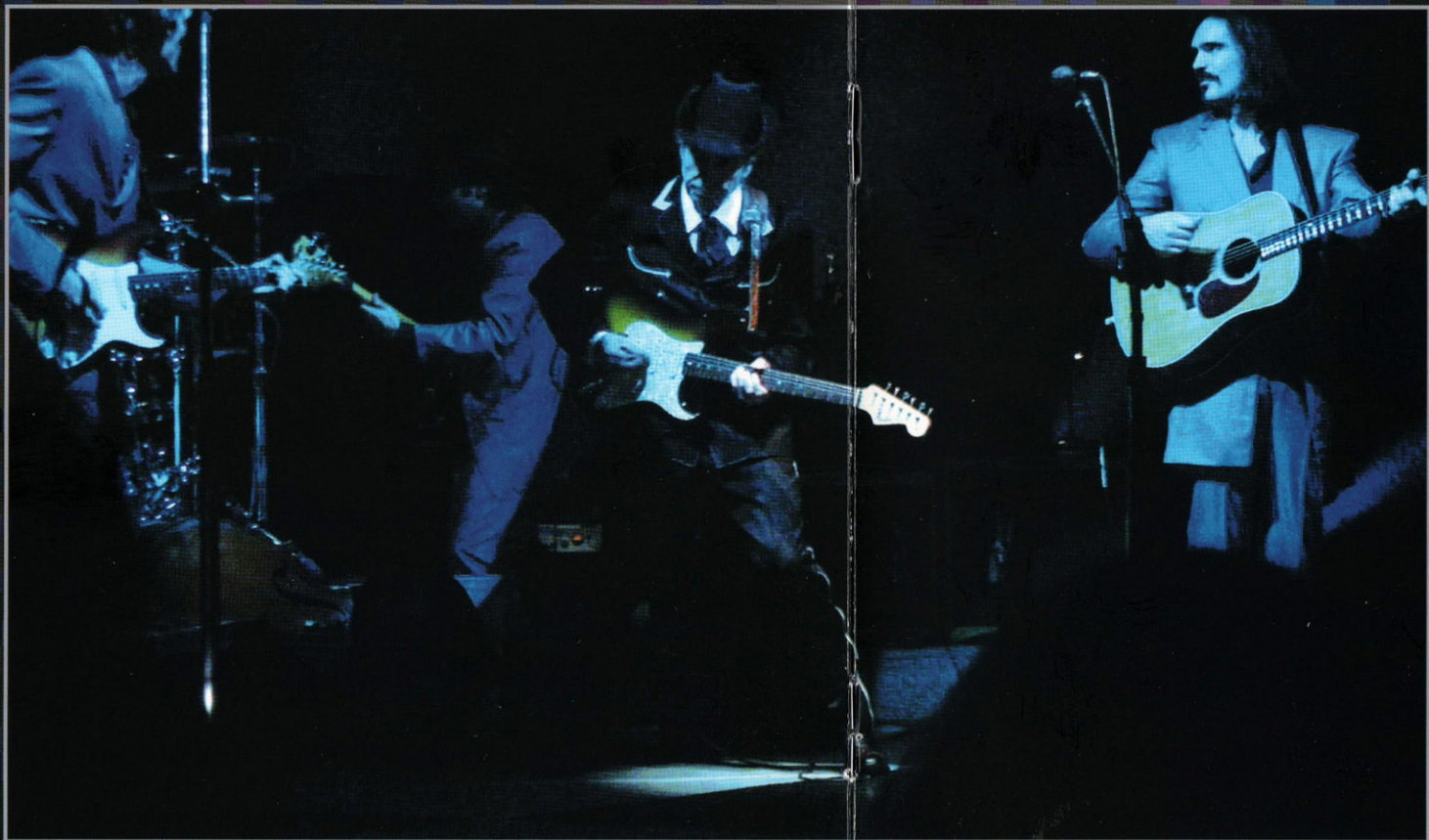
7. Knockin' On Heaven's Door 5.51

8. Honest With Me 6.28

9. Blowin' In The Wind 5.56 *harmonica*

10. Highway 61 Revisited 6.29





What was this concert like? Well, what is a Bob Dylan concert these days? A rock 'n roll show, plain and simple and the best there is, too! OK, it is not that simple, but that is exactly the spirit that pervades Dylan's performances these days and Berlin was as good as it gets!

So, here we were again, at the Arena, a former bus depot in the south-east of Berlin, where two years ago, Bob performed a very much celebrated show. Expectations were high when the doors opened less than one and a half hours before the show was to begin. The first concerts of this European tour had solicited enthusiastic reviews, especially among Dylan fans - a species that is seldom criticised as being uncritical.

Then, five past eight the lights went down and the boys came on stage - all in dark suits (Bob's had silver stripes at its sides), Bob wearing a tie and sporting one of his familiar dark cowboy hats.

The first song was, as always, a cover: I Am the Man, Thomas - a European premiere, beautifully performed with wonderful vocal harmonies from Larry (Campbell) and Charlie (Sexton). The, the regular second number, The Times They Are A-Changin' - introduced with a lovely harp solo and performed in a routine yet never boring and very relaxed way.

After this followed the first example of musical intensity, a driving and tense It's Alright, Ma. In this as in all songs, a peculiarity of the night could be observed: those guys enjoyed playing, the jamming passages certainly being among the musical highlights of the night!

After that, the only real surprise, a very tender Boots. I have heard better-sung versions of this song, but the harp intro was brilliant and the instrumental passages were just floating on as the ocean the song mentions. The focus, especially in the two acoustic sets, was more on the playing than the singing. Now, as far as Bob was concerned, the show started. On came the Stratocasters and off they went with a driving Solid Rock which has not lost any of its energy in 21 years of not being performed live! After this, two songs from the current album: first, the swinging and relaxed Moonlight (with a nice harp solo) which saw probably Bob's best, and incredibly tender, singing of the night. After that, a fast blues piece, Lonesome Day Blues, which they obviously enjoyed, and then what was for me the night's highlight: a blasting, almost apocalyptic Watchtower, so full of energy and the force of three guitars that I was fearing for the arena! After this, we all needed some quiet and got it with the second acoustic set, beginning with a minor surprise, Visions of Johanna - well performed, the singing being a bit too sloppy and monotonous for my taste. But it was good to hear this one anyway. This was followed by the night's second great highlight, Masters of War, performed in such a dry, bluesy, rough and almost menacing way you could feel all its anger of old. George Receli, the brilliant new drummer, added a few military march like elements which fitted the song perfectly.

Then came a decent Don't Think Twice in that very subtle and almost fragile version they do these days and ending on some fine instrumental work. Then back came the Stratocasters and we heard Love Sick, which can only be described as absolutely cool - dry and simple. After this,

Summer Days, and boy, did these guys enjoy it! A lot of smiling and laughing on stage, from everyone, including Bob! A hard, driving truly rockabilly performance which proved definitively how good Receli is!

Then they replaced the usual Drifter's Escape with a nice and steaming Wicked Messenger that saw another good harp solo - a very good choice! The set closed not on Rainy Day Women but on a fast and joyful Leopard-Skin Pillbox-Hat.

After the break the guys came on with another minor surprise, a precise and sharp-edged Not Fade Away which featured great backing vocals from Larry and Charlie. Next up was the usual crowd pleaser, Like a Rolling Stone, driving and surprisingly fresh. After this I hoped for I Shall Be Released or at least Forever Young, so, when Larry and Charlie started singing uuuuuuh...., I was disappointed, but for no reason: This was a version of Knockin' never heard before, with great singing from Bob as well as the two guitarists and some great musical variations in the chorus which made the song new and exciting - a wise man's statement!

Honest with Me was the usual rocker which saw the band at their best and Bob going on his knees to play a solo! Just amazing! After this came the usual closer, Blowin' which never sounds boring these days, with careful singing by Bob and nice choruse with the backing of Larry and Charlie. Bob's not afraid to sound "big" anymore and that is good, I think. Loads of applause, Bob flirting with a girl in the audience (!) and they were gone, for good, we thought.

Well, here we come to the biggest surprise of the night: They came back!

Apparently enjoying the show so much, they returned for another one: a driving, powerful, energetic Highway 61 that saw Bob dancing and sliding around on stage. A perfect ending of a perfect show! Well, what is there left to say? This was a memorable concert that saw brilliant playing from everybody: Charlie's solos, Larry's picking, Tony's unobtrusive bass playing and George's energetic drumming. Bob himself was playing at his very best, both in respect to his harp blowing and to his guitar playing. The singing was good, a bit sloppy at times during the acoustic sets, but at other times very sharp and precise, giving the songs the spin he wanted to give them - without any kitsch or false sentiments, but heartfelt and powerful.

What stays in mind, is the atmosphere - among the crowd as well as on stage! Bob was laughing more than one, swinging his left leg at almost every song, jamming with the band, dancing around and finally going down on his knees!

The longer the concert lasted the more the band seemed to enjoy it especially Larry and George who not only brings great drumming to the band but also a lot of energy and a joy of playing - a great gain for the band!

So, this is what it was like, an old man with all his experience and wisdom, playing his old songs from today's perspective while having retained a youthful joy of playing music. A memorable, brilliant live show by the greatest performer, singer and songwriter popular music has seen!

Sascha Krieger