

VELMA BIOGRAPHY



THE VELMA COLLECTIVE

Christophe Jaquet (voice)
Christian Garcia (guitar & electronics)
Stéphane Vecchione (drums)
Olivier Mariette (films & multimedia)
Regina Bölsterli (management)

CONTACT

Rue du Maupas 8bis
CH - 1004 Lausanne
t +41 21 648 13 92
f +41 21 648 13 93
e: info@velma.ch
www.velma.ch

LABELS

MONOPSONE (www.monopsone.com)
distr. DIFFER-ANT (F), WIDE (I)

GENTLEMEN (www.gentlemen.ch)
distr. IRASCIBLE (CH)

A SHORT HISTORY

During the private viewing of Fernando Landovitch's retrospective, three amateurs, weary of the endless aphasia surrounding them, discovered a common ground for their individual researches in musical art. Sharing a similar interpretation of the great Vladislav Bauer's masterworks, they decided to emerge together from the current cacophony under a promising name: Velma

A self produced album (*Rythmique*) was quickly followed by appearances on various compilations (see discography below). These first foundations gave Velma the opportunity to give several gigs in Switzerland and in Europe. In summer 1999, the band signed on the Californian label Emperor Norton Records for the release of *Cyclique*, which came out in October 1999. *Cyclique* was released in Europe through the labels Noise Product and Namskeio Records. In March 2000, *Parole*, a 12-inch record presenting the latest recordings of the band was released on Stetic Records.

Parole was reissued in CD format on M Narsitik Records under the name *Panoramique*. This release features remixes from Ma chérie for painting (Germany), Köhn (Belgium), Alog (Norway) Bruce Gilbert (UK), Pluramon (Germany), Jan Jelinek (Germany) Terre Thaemlitz (Japan) and Liryc (Switzerland).

Recorded in the South of France in June 2002 and produced by London-based Mark Van Hoen (Locust, Seefeel, Mojave 3, Scala, Annie Williams, Sing-Sing), *Ludwig*, Velma's third album is the long-awaited follow-up to *Cyclique*. This collaboration allowed the band to tune its sound towards a more "pop" feeling. *Ludwig* was released in Switzerland in October 2002 (M Narsitik), in Italy in June 2003 (White and Black) and finally throughout the rest of Europe during the Fall of 2003, with a license deal with Belgian label Zealrecords.

Ludwig's announcement was closely followed by the release of a split single with New York's hip hop band Dälek. This vinyl 12-inch is published by M Narsitik Records and hit the stands in the end of 2002. In 2003 appeared a single vinyl on French label Lykill: *A different atmosphere*.

In October 2005 the fourth album of the trio *La pointe Farinet 2'949m.* was released on two different labels: on French Monopsonne and on Swiss Gentlemen. Also produced by Mark Van Hoe this one is haunted by heavy and dirty and hip hop loops. *La pointe Farinet, 2'949 m.* contains some intense moments such as *Metropolis* (a cover of Mötörhead) and *Voices of the Ether* another collaboration with Dälek.

THE VELMA TOUCH

Hypnotic and atmospheric electro-pop.

CONCERT

Velma does not content itself with usual live musical performances. The band has developed an original form of musical performance which runs decidedly against the codes of mainstream live music. In order to underline this artistic choice, Velma has collaborated from the beginning with a visual art performer who contributes to the peculiar atmosphere of Velma's shows with, among others, 8mm film projections.



ABOUT THE CONCERTS

This Swiss experimental band starts its concert by three minutes of silence. Straight like Justice eyes staring in the void. Dressed like 70's accountants these Swiss have a fake Gilbert and George look [...] Long silence in the Palais du Grand-Large. Then laughs, a guy salutes the Swiss " Deschiens ". Audience laughs, and laughs, and then a lot less when the cocoos get out of their box. The guitar sound of Christian Garcia becomes quickly very hard. Because Velma music is dark, fake funny, nearly sick. There is something fishy about them, something wrong. And it's for the best.

Jérémie Dubois, L'HUMANITE, August 16th, 2004

Not to be missed the Swiss band Velma whose album Ludwig is sadly not available in France yet develops an electronic pop, the blackness of which is delightful.

Libération, May 17th and 18th, 2003, Alexis Bernier

ABOUT LA POINTE FARINET 2'949 M.

The French label Monopsonne [...] demonstrates once again that it has a good sense of smell with the band Velma originating from the bordering Swiss confederation. [...] Joseph-Samuel Farinet, money counterfeiter and Swiss 19th century sort of Robin Hood, would have appreciated the easiness of these young lads who seldom lack air... even at this altitude!

Magic, November 2005, Marc Gourdon

With "La pointe Farinet, 2'949 m.", Velma guides us in the altitude towards never reached musical summits that are governed by capricious microclimates. Beware: dangerous ascent...

Arte, November 2005, Emmanuel Dosda

Once again produced by London Mark Van Hoen, this is a dense and bewitching assembly, a true labyrinth of loops and melodies in trance.

Le Courrier, Thursday October 13, 2005, Roderic Mounir

The Swiss are good at creating sticky ambiences, a viscous music between machines and guitars that interfere in each convolution of your brain with a cold determination. Without a yell and without becoming a violent music (Private perfection stops just before) it makes you think that the band members are dangerous psychopaths who did not take action yet!

MagicBox, November 2005, Denis Zorogniotti

Velma let you believe in an impossible compromise between pop and avant-garde.

Octopus, November 2005, Christophe Taupin

Huge.

A découvrir absolument, November 2005, Gerald de oliveira

Tremendously composed and produced *La pointe Farinet, 2'949m.* proves to be one of the best albums of the Swiss band. It would be a shame to miss this album: you have to rush into Velma universe!

Xsilence, mercredi 5 octobre 2005, par Jpbowersock

ABOUT LUDWIG

"Ludwig", third album of Lausanne's trio, sublimates the experimental aesthetics of the group in a brilliant melodic swirl. [...] With Ludwig, third album published these days, the Lausanne-based trio stealthily makes one of the most beautiful discs of the year. One of these rare sound objects whose patient apprehension reveals in its digitized mazes the obvious intelligence of a major formation. [...] Sound universes with a spectacular depth of field, erecting scaffolding by enmeshed modules of singular auditive scenarios, the pieces of Ludwig evoke in their cinematographic introductions the dramatic universes of hip-hop. [...] Ludwig, one of the rare albums able to reconcile the pop in crisis to its hybrid time.

Nicolas Julliard, LE TEMPS, November 1st, 2002

The melody, and the singing which swims in it, shines in this last delivery of Velma. [...] Often dazzling!

Xavier Alonso, 24HEURES, November 21st, 2002

That could be a ritornelle for adults. Electro-ritornelle. One would believe oneself in turn on a magic roundabout or the feet at the edge of the swimming pool. *Claude Ansermoz, dimanche.ch, January 19th, 2003*

Warm production, obstinating melodies [...], the beautiful Ludwig is not less the very original album of a group in errance, and it is precisely what gives desire for following it. *Patrick De Rham, Abstract, Winter 2002-2003*

One image remains, like springing back and forth from a broken television, between clarity and dream. *Philipp Wegmüller, FACTS, Nr. 47, 2002*

ABOUT PANORAMIQUE

Maybe the ultimate answer to the following question: where can the avant-garde go without entangling itself into atonality or jazz? *Carsten Sandkämper, SPEX Magazine, janvier 2002 (Allemagne)*

ABOUT THE SECOND ALBUM, CYCLIQUE

As you may have understood, Velma provides a real alternative to the actual music soup and insulates you from radio junk and other MTV aggressions. *JK, pump, October 2000 (Paris, France)*

This record is full of sounds and emotions, really exciting, from head to tail. [...] Without any doubt, a must! *LL, SDZ, October 2000 (Paris, France)*

You will experience an uncommon and striking feeling of pleasure, but its very brevity will let you enough attention to catch every sound, the smallest note, and you will be engulfed by a wave of ideas and experiences. *Renaud de Foville, Café Calva, September 2000 (Paris, France)*

Velma's music is cuddled with loops, haunted by samples or playful sound effects, evokes instinctively Can at its peak. Poetry and liberty constitute the dominant features of a canvass of classical or electronic resounding samples working for elegant and refined melodies. *Jean-Philippe Bernard, La Liberté, January 15th 2000 (Fribourg / Suisse)*

It's high-concept, exploratory electro-art, courtesy of the adventurous folks at Emperor Norton - the same label that brought us Arling & Cameron and Fantastic Plastic Machine. *T'Cha Dunlevy & David Kristian, The Gazette (Montreal), December 16th 1999, (Montréal / Canada)*

Finally, from Switzerland, the "anti-rock" record Billy Corgan promised before we realized he just meant "slow." *Jeff Salomon, American Statesman, November 18, 1999 (Austin, Texas / USA)*

... ABOUT THE FIRST ALBUM, RYTHMIQUE

Original and sensible, *Rythmique* gives eventually the peculiar impression that you are listening to Can's and Long Fin Killie's records at the same time, with your window wide open. *Jean-Bernard André, Les Inrockuptibles, October 29th 1997 (Paris / France)*

Some try hard, others find out. *Philippe Morrison, Magic!, February 1998 (Paris / France)*

SOME CONCERTS

2005

Zürich (CH)	Rote Fabrik	December 9 th , 2005	With the Young Gods
Poitiers (F)	Le Confort moderne	November 26 th , 2005	
Caen (F)	Nördic Impact	November 18 th , 2005	With Sébastien Schuler
Metz (F)	Musiques volantes	November 11 th , 2005	With the Organ, Kid 606
Dijon (F)	Festival Novosonic	October 20 th , 2005	With Mugison and Akron Family
Palermo (I)	Kals'Art overground festival	September 4 th , 2005	With Wilco
Santarcangelo (I)	Santarcangelo dei teatri fest.	July 6 th , 2005	
Paris (F)	Festival sous la plage	June 26 th , 2005	
Milano (I)	Festival Corbetta	June 24 th , 2005	
Padova (I)	Summer Student Festival	June 17 th , 2005	
St-Petersbourg (RUS)	Sergey Kuryokhin International Festival	April 23 th , 2005	
Moscou (RUS)	Brest Club	April 21 st , 2005	
Grenoble (F)	Eve (Radio Campus)	February 11 th , 2005	
Düsseldorf (D)	Forum Freies Theater	January 21 st , 2005	

2004

Winterthur (CH)	Musikfestwochen (Albani)	29 août 2004	
St-Malo (F)	LA ROUTE DU ROCK	August 13 th , 2004	With Coco Rosie
Dour (B)	DOUR FESTIVAL	July 17 th , 2004	With Pinback
Firenze (I)	Assalto al Castello Festival	July 8 th , 2004	
Nantes (F)	Scopitone Festival	July 3 rd , 2004	With TV on the radio
London (GB)	Spitz	June 8 th , 2004	
London (GB)	The Bull (Disastronaut),	June 7 th , 2004	
London (GB)	Buffalo Bar (Shoot & Slice),	June 6 th , 2004	
Geneva (CH)	L'Usine	June 3 rd , 2004	With ToRococoRot
Fribourg (CH)	Fri-Son	June 2 nd , 2004	With ToRococoRot
Faenza (I)	Clandestino	May 31 st , 2004	
Finale Emilia (I)	Musica nelle Valli	May 30 th , 2004	With Chinese Stars
Legnano (I)	Jail'l,	May 28 th , 2004	
Verona (I)	Interzona, Intersezioni festival	May 22 nd , 2004	
S. Mauro Pascol	Stereofonica Festival	May 21 st , 2004	
Vasto (I)	Glam 73	May 20 th , 2004	
Roma (I)	Locanda Atlantide	May 19 th , 2004	
Napoli (I)	Teatro Instabile di Napoli	May 18 th , 2004	
Bari (I)	Les fleurs du mal	May 16 th , 2004	
Vittoria (I)	La Mangiatoia (Ragusa – Sicile)	May 15 th , 2004	
Catania (I)	Zo	May 14 th , 2004	
Gent (B)	Courtisane festival	May 1 st , 2004	
Berlin, (D)	Hebbel-am-Ufer Theater(hau2),	March 9 th , 2004	
Berlin, (D)	Paradies	March 12 th , 2004	

2003

Rennes (F)	Elektroni[k,	October 23 rd , 2003	
Reims (F)	Octob'Rock	October 18 th , 2003	
Avenches (CH)	Rock'Oz'Arènes	August 14 th , 2003	with Beck (US), Console (D), Placebo (GB)
Düdingen	Bad Bonn Kilbi	June 13 th , 2003	with Dälek (US), Faust (D), Ministry (US)
Paris (F)	Nouveau Casino	May 17 th , 2003	with Pole (D)
Fribourg (CH)	Fri-Son Jubilee	February 14 th , 2003	with Gustav (CH) & Beaumont (CH)

2002

Geneva (CH)	L'Usine	November 24 th , 2002	with Dälek (US) & Sage Francis (US)
Bern (CH)	Reithalle	November 23 rd , 2002	with Dälek (US)
Sursee (CH)	Kulturwerk 118	November 22 nd , 2002	with Dälek (US)
Zürich (CH)	Rote Fabrik	November 16 th , 2002	with Radian (AT)
Paris (F)	Batofar	June 2 nd , 2002	
Hasselt (B)	Belgie Kunstcentrum	January 26 th , 2002	with Loscil (CA) & Stars of the Lid (US)

2001

Bern (CH)	Festival Taktlos	September 15 th , 2001	with Thomas Brinkmann (D) & Kid 606 (US)
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Londres (GB)	Arts Café	July 18 th , 2001	
Londres (GB)	Cargo	July 17 th , 2001	
Lausanne (CH)	Festival de la Cité	July 10 th , 2001	
Londres (GB)	Notting Hill Arts Centre	June 30 th , 2001	
Fribourg (CH)	Apart Festival	May 26 th , 2001	
Hasselt (BE)	K-RAA-K Festival	March 3 rd , 2001	with Köhn (B)
2000			
Paris (F)	Festival Mix Move	September 17 th , 2000	with DAT Politics (F) & Mils (F)
New York (US)	The Brownies	August 15 th , 2000	
Philadelphia (US)	The Khyber	August 10 th , 2000	with Bardo Pound (US)
Athens GA (US)	40 watt club, Expo 2000 festival	August 9 th , 2000	with Japancakes (US)
Pully (CH)	Pully for Noise Festival	July 21 st , 2000	with Arno (B)
Sofia (BL)	All Saints Club	June 21 st , 2000	
Bucarest (R)	Green Hours	June 16 th , 2000	
Geneva (CH)	L'Usine	May 4 th , 2000	with Rhinocérôze (F)
1999-1997			
Berlin (D)	Maria-am-Ostbahnof	April 24 th , 1999	
Bourges (F)	Printemps de Bourges	April 16 th , 1999	with Orbital (GB)
Berlin (D)	Volksbühne / City Slang Festival	November 29 th , 1998	with Ikeda (JP), Tarwater (D) & Kreidler (D)
Bienne (CH)	Gaswerk	May 20 th , 1998	with Stereototal (D)
Paris (F)	Café de la danse	May 13 th , 1998	with Chokebore (US)
Dijon (F)	La Vapeur	April 10 th , 1998	with Purr (F) & Little Rabbits (F)
Thiers (F)	Baltazar	March 21 st , 1998	with 3DK (F)
Lausanne (CH)	Dolce Vita	February 13 th , 1998	
Lyon (F)	Pezner	December 7 th , 1997	with Make up (US)
Metz (F)	Musiques volantes	November 9 th , 1997	with Sophia (US-GB), Scanner (GB), Purr (F)
Geneva (CH)	L'Usine	September 27 th , 1997	Underground Festival
Bienne (CH)	Festival "Am Bielersee"	July 1997	with Mich Gerber (CH)
Pully (CH)	Festival for Noise	July 11 th , 1997	with Nada Surf (F)
Lausanne (CH)	Festival de la Cité	July 6 th , 1997	
Lausanne (CH)	Dolce Vita	May 31 st , 1997	with Third Eye Foundation (GB)
Fribourg (CH)	Fri-Son	May 30 th , 1997	with Third Eye Foundation (GB)

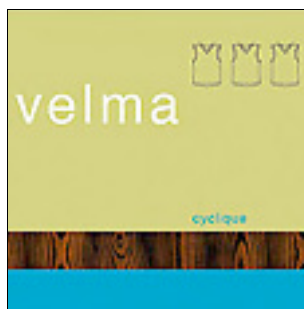
VELMA DISCOGRAPHY



Rythmique (1997)
Namskeio Records

ITT 00172

eight tracks album



Cyclique (1999)
Noise Product (CH, F, B)
Namskeio Records (Europe)
Emperor Norton (rest of the world)

NPS0036CD

EMN 7025

eight tracks album



Ludwig (2002)
Namskeio Records (CH, I)
Zeal Records (rest of Europe)

Mn-006CD

Zealcddee 004

Eleven/ten tracks album



Dälek vs. Velma (2002)
M Narsitik Records
mn-00712
split single with New York's
hip-hop band Dälek



A different atmosphere (2003)
Lykill records
lyk006
Two tracks single



La pointe Farinet 2'949 m. (2005)
Monopsonne / Gentlemen
mops012 / gen021-2
Eleven tracks album

LICENCES

La pointe Farinet 2'949m. (2005)

Ludwig

Parole, Panoramique

Natal, Cyclique2 and Finale

Cyclique

Monopsonne for France, the UK, Italy etc.

Gentlemen Music for Switzerland, the Benelux and Germany

Namskeio Records for Switzerland and Italy

Zeal Records for the rest of Europe

Namskeio Records

Namskeio Records

Emperor Norton Records for the world, Europe-excepted

Noise Product for Switzerland, Belgium and France

Namskeio Records for the rest of Europe

DISTRIBUTION OF LA POINTE FARINET 2'949 M.

Switzerland

France

Italy

UK

Irascible

Differ-ant

Wide

Cargo

DISTRIBUTION OF LUDWIG

Switzerland

BeNeLux

Namskeio Records

Konkurrent

AND OTHER PROJECTS



Panoramique (2002)
M Narsitik Records
 mn-005CD
 CD re-release of *Parole* on
 M Narsitik featuring eight remixes



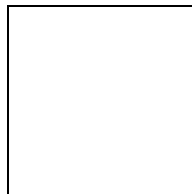
Parole (2000)
Stetic Records
 Stetic01
 four tracks limited edition 12-inch



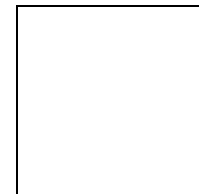
Music for listening to (1999)
Bubble Core Records
 BC 026
 one track on the Bubblecore
 label compilation



Stone Fox (2000)
Emperor Norton Records
 one track on the Emperor Norton
 Records label compilation



Barcelona (2002)
Testing Ground
 miniCD-EP for the Bside Project of
 Barcelona's label Testing Ground



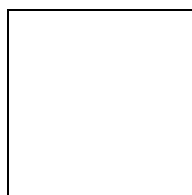
Warenkorb #4 (2002)
Ware Schallplatten
 one track on the Ware
 label house music compilation

VELMA B. LANDOVITCH DISCOGRAPHY

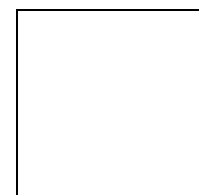
Apart of its purely musical activity, Velma produces theatrical performances and composes music for other stage artists. Some of these works have been published and released on CD, using the Velma B. Landovitch name in order to differentiate them from the regular Velma records.



Cyclique2 (2001)
M Narsitik Records
 mn-001CD
 music for a theatrical
 performance by Velma



Natal (2001)
M Narsitik Records
 mn-002CD
 music for a choreography
 by Fabienne Berger



Finale (2001)
M Narsitik Records
 mn-003CD
 music for a performance by the
 Robert Pacitti Company