

WHIRLED PEAS

ACOUSTICAL MUSICIANS

Whirled Peas is a group of musicians that come together on a regular basis to share our love of blues, bluegrass and folk music.

Our musical journey includes rock, oldies and show tunes based on the audience's support and enthusiasm.

The core of our group focuses on guitar, harmonica, banjo and more. We often are complemented by an array of talented **guest** musicians.

December 21, 2009

Vol. 2, No. 51

THIS WEEK'S HONORARY PEA FROM A TO Z

Frank Zappa's music spanned virtually every musical genre. He was prolific – releasing over 75 albums of original material over a 35 year career. His compositions ranged from banal pop to precisely notated ensemble pieces which he would direct his musicians with hand signals. His lyrics were caustic satire, scatological and always inspired by the absurdities of American society and politics.



Learn a little about Zappa from A to Z....

BORN: 12/21/40 DIED: 12/4/1993

A-Ahmet Emuukha Rodan, Diva Thin Muffin Pigeen, Moon Unit and Dweezil were the names of his four children by second wife, Adelaide "Gail" Sloatman.

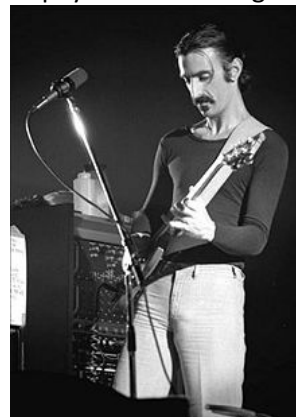


B-Bacterium *Proteus Mirabilis*, the gene that

causes urinary tract infections was, in 1995, named *zapA* by 3 biologists from Maryland, Zappa's home state. In their scientific article they "especially thank the late Frank Zappa for inspiration and assistance with genetic nomenclature."

C-Cameroonesse spider discovered by Belgian biologists in early 1980 was named, in 1994, *Pachygnatha zappa* because "the ventral side of the abdomen of the female of this species strikingly resembles the artist's legendary moustache."

D-Distain for formal education was persistent throughout Zappa's life, so much so he pulled his children out of school at age 15 and refused to pay for their college education.



E-Entrapped by the police in 1965 and incarcerated for a brief period of time left a permanent mark on Zappa and was key in the formation of his anti-authoritarian stance. A vice undercover officer approached Zappa to produce a

suggestive audio tape for an alleged stag party. He accepted \$100. Zappa and a female friend produced a fake erotic recording and when Zappa was about to hand over the tape he was arrested and the police stripped the studio of all recorded material. The police returned 30 out of 80 hours of recordings.

F-Fossil, a metazoan fossil, was discovered in the late 1900's and was named *Spygori zappania* to honor "the late Frank Zappa...whose mission paralleled that of the earliest paleontologists; to challenge

conventional and traditional beliefs when such beliefs lack roots in logic and reason.”

G-Gas masks were kept in Zappa’s home which was located close to Aberdeen Proving Grounds where his father worked as a chemist. Mustard gas was stored in the arsenal and the masks were kept “just in case.” In later life, he alludes to germ warfare and the defense industry in much of his work.

H-Havel, Václav Havel, the president of Czechoslovakia and avid fan of Zappa’s, in early 1990 invited him to his country and Zappa was asked to serve as consultant for the government on trade, cultural matters and tourism. Zappa enthusiastically agreed and proceeded to meet with corporate officials interested in investing in Czechoslovakia. The US administration put pressure on Havel to rescind the appointment, therefore, Havel made Zappa an unofficial cultural attaché.

I-International Astronomical Union’s Minor Planet Center in 1994 named the asteroid, discovered by Czech astronomer Ladislav Brozek, in Zappa’s honor: *3834 Zappafrank*. The citation for its naming says that “Zappa was an eclectic, self-trained artist and composer...Before 1989 he was regarded as a symbol of democracy and freedom by many people in Czechoslovakia.”

J-Jellyfish discovered in California by biologist Ferdinando Boero was named *Phialella zappai* in 1987. Boero said he had “pleasure in naming this species after the modern music composer.



K-Konsidered (no it is not a misspelling) running for President of the United States. Zappa’s passion for American politics escalated in the mid-80’s. He had always encouraged his fans to register to vote via his album covers. And, throughout 1988 he had registration booths at his concerts.

L-Lithuanian capital of Vilnius displays a bust of Zappa. The sculpture was done by Konstantinas Bogdanas in 1995.

M-Mollusc identified as extinct by paleontologist Leo P. Plas, Jr. in 1967, was named *Amaurotoma zappa* with the motivation that “the specific name, *zappa*, honors Frank Zappa.”

N-New Guinea Zappa - where a genus of gobiid fishes were named by Ed Murdy in 1980’s *Zappa confluentus*.

O-Off stage and onto a concrete-floored



orchestra pit was a 1971 accident which deeply affected Zappa. An audience member in London pushed Zappa off stage – the band members thought he was dead but this fall caused him to have serious fractures, head trauma and injuries to his back, leg and neck, as well as a crushed larynx, which ultimately caused his voice to drop a third after healing. Since he was wheelchair bound, Zappa could not tour for over a half a year.

P-Pellet of radium into each of Zappa’s nostrils was the treatment for asthma, earaches and sinus problem he underwent as a child. Later, nasal imagery and references appear both in his music and lyrics.

Q-Quarrelled with Tipper Gore, via testimony before the US Senate, Commerce, Technology,



and Transportation committee, as to censorship. Tipper co-founded Parents Music Resource

Center (PMRC) and she plus many wives of politicians and committee members were lobbying to address issues of song lyrics with sexual or satanic content. Zappa saw this as a road to censorship and in a statement said:

The PMRC proposal is an ill-conceived piece of nonsense which fails to deliver any real benefits to children, infringes the civil liberties of people who are not children, and promises to keep the courts busy for years dealing with the interpretational and enforcement problems inherent in

the proposal's design. It is my understanding that, in law, First Amendment issues are decided with a preference for the least restrictive alternative. In this context, the PMRC's demands are the equivalent of treating dandruff by decapitation. The establishment of a rating system, voluntary or otherwise, opens the door to an endless parade of moral quality control programs based on things certain Christians do not like. What if the next bunch of Washington wives demands a large yellow "J" on all material written or performed by Jews, in order to save helpless children from exposure to concealed Zionist doctrine?

R-Renamed his band *The Mothers* to *The Mothers of Invention* because the Record Company felt *The Mothers* could conjure up the term "motherfucker", which apart from its profane meaning also can denote a skilled musician.

S-Six different high schools in four years was Zappa's record. Because of the short tenure in each school, he was prone to boredom and disrupting the class with juvenile antics.

T-Telephone call to his idol, Edgard Varése, was his 15 birthday present from his Mother. The call from his Los Angeles home to New York was answered by Varése's wife as Varése was in Europe. He did receive a letter from Varése saying to visit him when he was in New York. The meeting never occurred (Varése died in 1965) but the letter was framed and displayed for the rest of Zappa's life.

U-Used a bicycle as a musical instrument when he appeared on Steve Allen's syndicated late night show for Westinghouse Broadcasting in 1963.

V-Varése was discovered by Zappa after reading a *Look* magazine article. The article described Varése's percussion composition *Ionisation* as a "weird jumble of drum and other unpleasant sounds." Zappa went to the Sam Goody record store and negotiated with the clerk to discount *The Complete Works of Edgard Varése, Volume One*. The clerk did and Zappa was hooked.

W-Working 12 hour days was not unusual for Zappa. As his first marriage was breaking up he moved to his studio and spend at least 12 hours or more



recording and experimenting. This pattern of long days continued throughout his life.

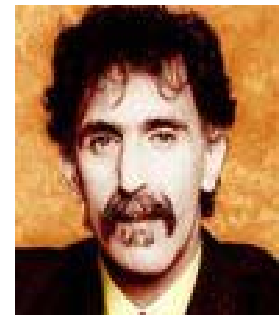
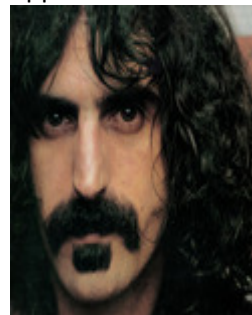
X-Xtra stuff.. His band *The Mothers* was named on Mother's Day; He was born in Baltimore to Francis Vincent Zappa (born in Partinico, Sicily) of Greek and Arab ancestry and Rose Marie Colimore who was three-quarters Italian and a



quarter French. Dad was a chemist/mathematician and Mom, a stay-at-home Mom; In 2002, a bronze bust was installed in the German City Bad Doberan since it is the location of *Zappanale*, an annual music festival celebrating Zappa; Berlin has a street named *Frank-Zappa-Straße*; Baltimore celebrates August 9th as *Frank Zappa Day* citing his musical accomplishments as well as his defense of the 1st Amendment.

Y-Yellow Snow – *Don't Eat Yellow Snow; I'm the Slime; Watermelon in Easter Hay; Ship Arriving Too Late to Save a Drowning Witch; Valley Girl; G-Spot Tornado* were some of the weird? clever? different? titles of his songs.

Z-Zappa died on December 4, 1993 of prostate cancer. He was surrounded by his wife and 4 children. On Monday, December 6th, his family publicly announced that "Composer Frank Zappa left for his final tour..."



BALLOONING ANSWERS...

Did you know that **2 convicts** were suggested to be the pilots of the 1st hot air balloon ride. **Fifth Dimension** were the vocalists who sang *Up, Up and Away in My Beautiful Balloon*. **Double Eagle II** was the name of the first balloon to cross the Atlantic. **Propane** is the gas of choice for modern balloonists. It was on the **Larry King Live** show that it was revealed the “Balloon Boy’s” story was a hoax. **Wolf Blitzer** was subbing for Larry.

December 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Christmas Day	Kanaka

WHEN AND WHERE

The *Whirled Peas* perform at the (BSG) Bourbon Street Grille. The highlighted dates listed above indicate when; they start about 7:30 and play until 10.

BSG, formerly the Coachhouse, is located at 2605 Philadelphia Pike in Claymont. If you go **north** on Philadelphia Pike, it’s on the left just before the Wawa at Harvey Road. If you are coming **east** on Harvey Road, turn right when you get to Philadelphia Pike. Go past the Wawa and BSG is on the right. There is no problem with parking.

AND THE PEA STANDS ALONE

Solo gigs... so you can mark your calendar: **John Frink’s** new CD, *Cabin Fever*, has been released. (see: www.crocodiletunes.com) **Fritz Horisk** can be heard online at www.realcountrywsig.com. weekdays from 10 til 1 and Saturdays from 10-3. He hosts *Real Country Classic Café* from noon til 1. Requests taken 540-432-1128.



TO ALL...HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE
WHIRLED PEAS

PEAS PONDERINGS

What do you make of a society that is so primitive that it clings to the belief that certain words in its language are so powerful that they could corrupt you the moment you hear them?

Tobacco is my favorite vegetable.

A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it's not open.

There will never be a nuclear war; there's too much real estate involved.

Consider for a moment any beauty in the name Ralph.

Interviewer: So, Frank, you have long hair. Does that make you a woman?

Frank: You have a wooden leg. Does that make you a table?

Without deviation from the norm, 'progress' is not possible.

Politics is the entertainment branch of industry.
According to Frank Zappa