

“The only polka band to perform at a Woodstock Festival!”

FRITZ’S POLKA BAND

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Listen for our tunes on the TV show, ‘Breaking Bad’ during season four in the Hermanos and Face Off episodes!

November 26, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FRITZ'S POLKA BAND NAMESAKE, FRITZ SCHERZ INDUCTED
INTO THE NATIONAL CLEVELAND-STYLE POLKA HALL OF FAME!**

Fritz's Polka Band (FPB) namesake, Fritz Scherz (accordionist/vocalist) from Verona, NY, was inducted into the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame on Saturday, November 25, 2023 during the Awards Show at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South in Independence, OH. Fritz received the Trustees Honor Roll Award. The Awards Show was part of the 59th Annual Thanksgiving Polka Weekend.

“Leading up to this weekend and during the Awards Show as well, I remained quite stoic, as I was worried about getting choked up during my acceptance speech,” said Fritz Scherz, band leader of Fritz's Polka Band. “Later in the evening when I got back to my hotel room after the Awards Show, I watched the video of my induction and sure enough, got very emotional. The entire weekend was a whirlwind for me as so many friends and even strangers congratulated me! It was so special having my brother-in-law Gabe (FPB member since the first FPB gig on October 14, 1978) and my sister Nancy attend the Awards Show as well as Frank Nelson (FPB member since the early 90’s) and his wife, Carolyn. Former FPB member, Rick Szczyt (drummed for FPB for 25 years!) and his wife Linda pulled off quite a surprise by showing up as well! It was awesome to have family and friends with me! As I said during my acceptance speech, the words ‘Thank you’ are not enough to convey how appreciative I am for this incredible honor!”

Fritz Scherz started playing the accordion in 1976 and then in 1978, along with his Dad, Fred Scherz Sr. and brother-in-law, Gabe Vaccaro, formed Fritz’s Polka Band (FPB). FPB first performed on October 14, 1978. In 1989, Fritz won the National Accordion Contest in Gibbon, MN. In 1999, FPB made history in 1999 by becoming the only polka band to play at a Woodstock Festival and appears on *“The Manchurian Candidate”* DVD, released in 2004. In 2011, FPB had two songs (‘Grandparent’s Polka’ and ‘Here Is Fritz’s Polka Band’) included in two episodes of the TV show, ‘Breaking Bad’. On March 4, 2022, FPB won a Syracuse Area Music Award (SAMMY) for their recording, *“The Hands Of Time,”* which was released October 1, 2021.

For more information on Fritz and/or Fritz’s Polka Band, visit the band’s website: www.fritzspolkaband.com, Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/fritzspolkaband, X (formerly Twitter) page at: www.twitter.com/fritzspolkaband, and/or Instagram at: www.instagram.com/fritzspolkaband. For more Polka Weekend details, go to: www.clevelandstyle.com and/or call (216) 261-3263.

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