

# The Rattles

**The Rattles** are a German rock band, formed in Hamburg in 1960, best known for their 1970 psychedelic hit single, "The Witch".

Commonly they are referred to as the GERMAN BEATLES, due to their high musical similarity and close friendship with the latter.

One of the most successful, and certainly one of the most prolific, German rock groups of the '60s, the Rattles enjoyed great success in their native land without making much of an impression elsewhere (though some of their material was released in other countries). Starting out in the same Star Club-based Hamburg scene as the Liverpool groups of the early '60s, their early repertoire was built upon a similar base of '50s rock and soul/R&B. They used to be best friends with the BEATLES and TONY SHERIDAN. The RATTLES released about 30 singles during the '60s (some on the Star-Club label itself), as well as almost ten albums, eventually making the transition to original material, and marching on well into the 1970s.

## Career

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The Rattles performed in Hamburg, and played at the same venues as The Beatles on several occasions in 1962. In 1964, the group recorded "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah", which charted in the UK.

In March 1965 the RATTLES recorded with French mega star JOHNN HALLYDAY. In 1966 they supported THE BEATLES per their special request, on their legendary and only tour of Germany – the BRAVO BLITZ TOURNEE in June 1966: 24, Munich – Circus Krone, 25, Essen – Gruga Halle, 26, Hamburg – Ernst Merck Halle. In 1968, they recorded their first version of "The Witch", with vocals by Henner Hoier. The band's records sold extremely well in Germany throughout the 1960s.

Their second version of "The Witch" in 1970, this time with vocals by Edna Bejarano, was their only international hit. It reached the Top 10 on the UK Singles Chart, the top 20 in Austria, and the *Billboard* Hot 100 in the U.S. It eventually sold over one million copies.

Rosetta Stone released a gothic rock cover of "The Witch" in the 1990s. The Norwegian psychedelic hard rock band, Motorpsycho, covered the song during 1999 and 2000. A recording of this song can be found on their bootleg *Live Union Scene* from 14 April 1999.

## Members

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### Current members

- Herbert Hildebrandt - bass
- Manfred Kraski - vocals, guitar
- Eggert Johannsen - guitar
- Reinhard "Dicky" Tarrach - drums