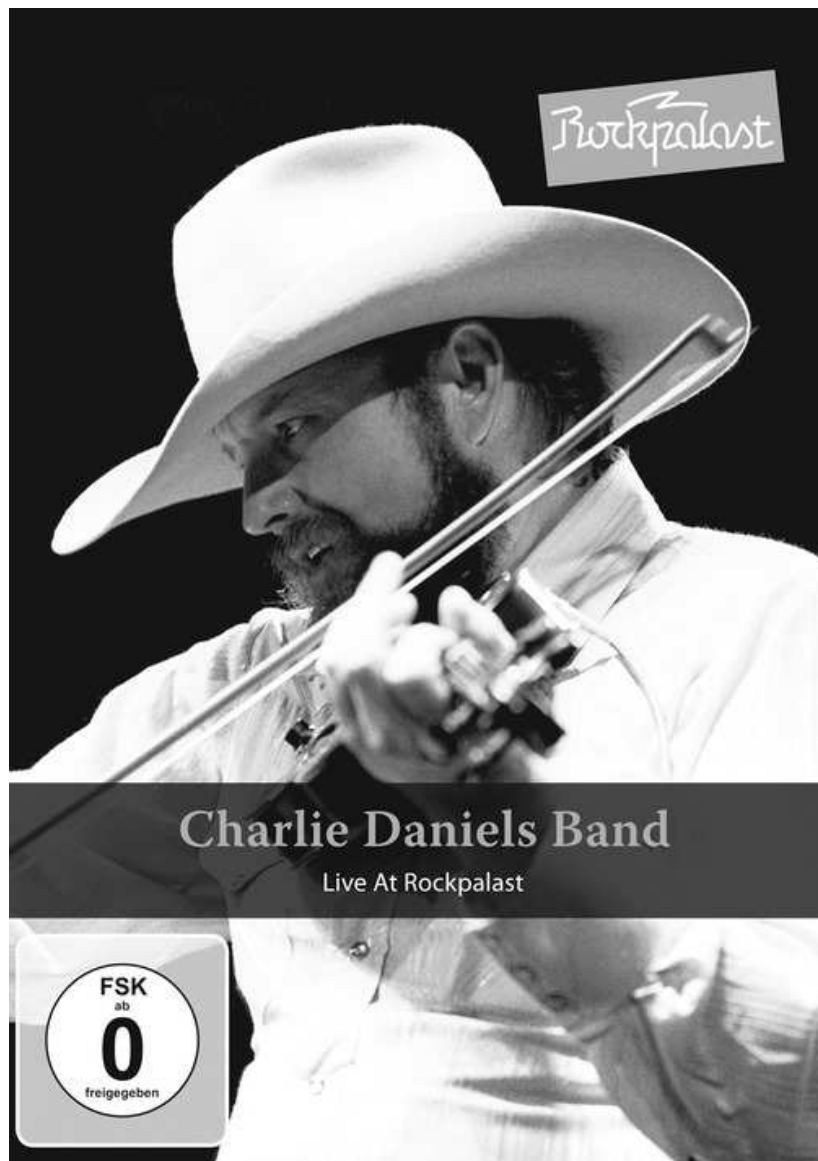


# The Impaler Speaks

Charlie Daniels Band - Live At Rockpalast



Charlie Daniels Band – Live At Rockpalast ([Rockpalast/WDR/MIG/MVD Visual](#))

Here's another dose of Germany's long-running Rockpalast program, which has been a core part of that nation's WDR TV since 1974. WDR, Made In Germany Records, and MVD Visual have conspired to release their choices of the best episodes from the early 80's, including this spectacular performance by the Charlie Daniels Band, captured live at the Westfalenhalle in Dortmund, Germany, on November 28, 1980. The first thing that needs to be stated – clearly and for the record – is that this DVD captures the Charlie Daniels Band in November 1980, and it must be viewed in the context of the times rather than with any revisionist elements... meaning: ignore everything you know about Daniels over the past 30 years, just place yourself into that comfortable little time capsule and take this for what it is. With that being said, prepare for some rock 'n' roll. In 1980, the Charlie Daniels Band were a straight-up southern rock band – primarily forged in the mold of The Allman Brothers Band, with elements of acts like Lynyrd Skynyrd and Blackfoot. On tracks like 'Funky Junky', 'Trudy', 'Reflections', and a nearly-nine-minute jam-rock version of 'Orange Blossom Special', it would be easy to mistake the band for the Allmans if you weren't watching the screen. Daniels and Tom Crain – each wielding gorgeous vintage Gibson Les Pauls – trade licks and solos using both straight and slide methodology like a young Duane Allman and a latter-day Dickey Betts joining forces, with each at the height of his respective prowess. Like the Allmans, this band featured two drummers (Fred Edwards and James W. Marshall) as well as a rock-solid bassist (Charlie Hayward) and a boogie-woogie



The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more.... Support indie music. Support indie film. Support indie life.

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If you have a serious question or comment, this is the place for it.

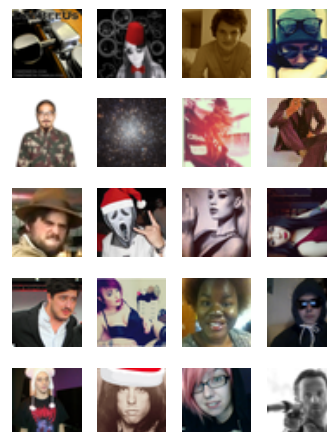
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keyboard whiz (Taz Di Gregorio), all of whom play with flair but refrain from being overly flashy, and all of whom add depth with their vocal performances. While neither Crain's lead vocal on 'Blindman' nor Di Gregorio's lead vocal on 'Jitterbug' have the power of Daniels' strong, deep voice, the fact that each is afforded the opportunity to take center stage in such a manner is a testimony to Daniels' vision of this outfit as a true band – mirroring Duane Allman's concept for the Allmans. There are tracks – like 'Legend Of Wooley Swamp', 'In America', and 'Long Haired Country Boy' – where Lynyrd Skynyrd makes for a more apt comparison stylistically, but even on songs where Daniels lays down his guitar in favor of the fiddle for which he's become best-known over the years – including 'The South's Gonna Do It Again' and Daniel's signature number, 'The Devil Went Down To Georgia' – the overall feel is one of Southern-fried jam rock, and at the time no one was doing it better than the Charlie Daniels Band. The band is simply on fire throughout, with the energy level never dipping below smoldering, such as during the semi-ballad 'Reflections'. In fact, the band seems damn near nuclear-charged throughout the show, absolutely destroying on jam-til-you-drop numbers like 'The Devil Went Down To Georgia' and 'Orange Blossom Special'. Unfortunately, there are no special features on this DVD, but the show – visually: sure; musically: yes, yes, a thousand times yes – is more than worth it all on its own. [The Impaler @impalerspeaks](#)

Review written for [Mass Movement](#) 35. *MM34 is out now!*

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