

The Knitters - Bio

The Knitters debut recording **“Poor Little Critter On The Road,”** on which production was shared by Patrick McDonald, John Doe and Billy Zoom [a member of X], was released by the Warner Bros. subsidiary label Slash during 1985. The band line-up on that recording was guitarist Dave Alvin [born November 11th 1955 in Los Angeles, California] who, at the time, was still a member of The Blasters, plus three members of the Los Angeles punk band X – guitarist/vocalist John Doe [born John Duchac on February 25th 1954 in Decatur, Illinois], his soon to be ex-wife and vocalist Exene Cervenka [born Christine Cervenkova on February 2nd 1956 in Chicago, Illinois] and drummer D.J. Bonebrake [born December 8th 1955 in Burbank, California] and finally, on upright bass, Jonny Ray Bartel. Essentially a side project to X the band came together in 1982 to perform at benefit concerts.

Their 1985 roots sounding album paid tribute to the classic country sounds of artists such as the Carter Family and Merle Haggard, the blues of Huddie Ledbetter, and also featured original material penned by Alvin and Doe that paid tribute to the foregoing musical genres. After the album was released, The Knitters played occasional gigs through the latter part of the 1980's. In 1987 Alvin joined X for a short time, before launching his own highly successful solo career. In 1985 Cervenka released her debut solo album **“Twin Sisters”** [with Wanda Coleman], and Doe launched his solo career in 1990 with **“Meet John Doe.”**

In late 1999 the Chicago based Bloodshot label released a tribute compilation titled **“Poor Little Knitter On The Road”** which included tracks by alt. country bands Whiskeytown, the Old 97's [with John Doe] and Trailer Bride, as well as the previously unreleased Knitters track "Why Don't We Try Anymore?" The Knitters reformed and played a number of gigs around the time that the compilation album was released. Following a two decade long recording hiatus, The Knitters resurfaced five years into the 21st century with **“The Modern Sounds Of The Knitters,”** with a band line-up that remaining unchanged. The recording included readings of Steppenwolf's "Born To Be Wild" and The Stanley Brothers' "Rank Stranger," plus the first studio recording of "Skin Deep Town" penned by Cervenka/Doe which previously appeared on the X album **“Live at the Whisky A Go-Go.”** Produced by The Knitters, the album was cut over a three-day period at Winslow Court Studios in Hollywood and was released by Rounder Records.

Discography : **“Poor Little Critter On The Road”** [1985] ; **“The Modern Sounds Of The Knitters”** [2005] :

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