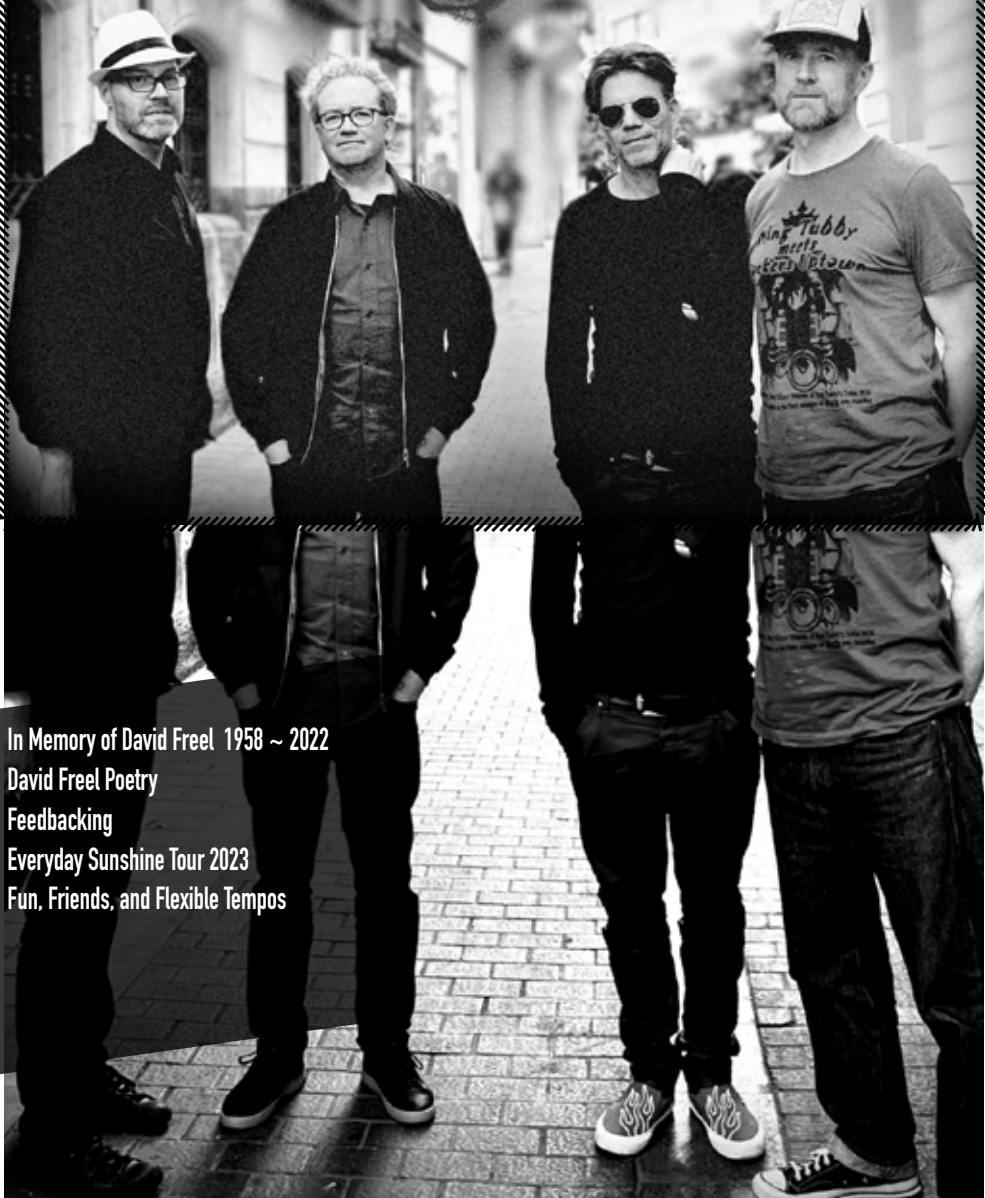


# SWOLLEN

ISSUE 6  
2023



In Memory of David Freel 1958 ~ 2022

David Freel Poetry

Feedbacking

Everyday Sunshine Tour 2023

Fun, Friends, and Flexible Tempos

# SWOLLEN

ISSUE 6  
JUNE 2023

A CELEBRATION  
OF THE  
CELEBRATION TOUR



Many times I wondered many things. I'm only \_here\_ through unfortunate circumstances. Period... An odd feeling to have. Would I get the opportunity to actually produce a new issue of SWOLLEN? I wondered if I would ever make another zine for that matter. The EDS Tour actually happened thanks to a ton of people, and a ton of effort. We talked about making a new SWOLLEN before the Tour, but it made more sense to wait.

Things can happen through patience, positivity and love -JDL

David Freel  
Sean Kirkpatrick  
Monte Vallier  
Niko Wenner  
John Dettman-Lytle  
You

# SWELL

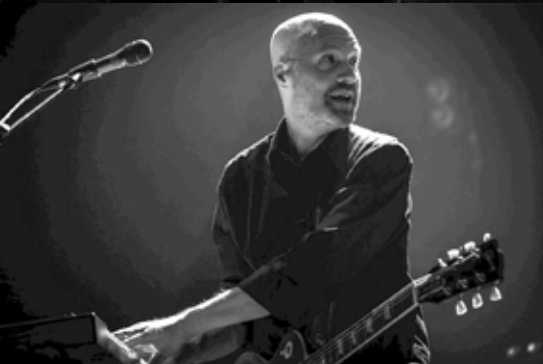
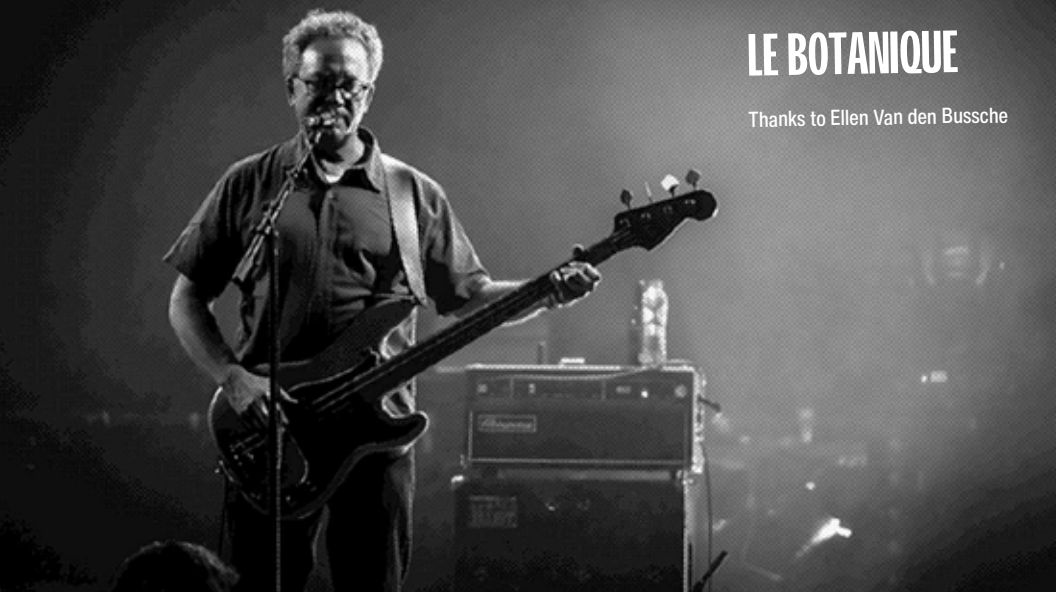


*We celebrated Niko's birthday while on tour with friends and family and a lovely time at Chez Janou in Paris.*



# LE BOTANIQUE

Thanks to Ellen Van den Bussche





## PÈRE LACHAISE CEMETERY

David and I used to joke about where we were going to have our ashes scattered. He wanted to be made into a bullet or dropped off somewhere in France : ) Ruby and I just happened to be going to Paris and staying about three blocks from Père Lachaise Cemetery, so we decided to bring him on our trip and drop him off there. We thought Le Division 41 would be perfect but there were too many cemetery cops to discretely dispense David. Next, we thought, "hey let's go put David with Jim Morrison!!!!?" But when we got to Jim's grave we realized that David was way cooler than him. Instead, we doubled 41, which came out to be Division 82. We scattered David's ashes under the sign for the 82nd Division. It is in the northwest corner of the graveyard. Coincidentally, in the grave closest to the sign, right next to where David is, lies Jean de Yakovleff who departed this realm on April 12th, 1882- exactly 140 years before David. And now that's where D.W. Freel lives today : ) So go visit him if you're there : ) —Bob Patrick 2023



## EULOGY BY MONTE VALLIER

April 16, 2022

David Wendell Freeland was a private man. He didn't share very much about himself, except in his cryptic lyrics where if you listened enough times, you'd find the story he was telling. His story was often your story too.

Playing in a band was never his intention. He didn't want to be on stage, or to be photographed, or to be interviewed. He found that part of being in a band painful. He only wanted to write songs, and record them: to create atmosphere and convey moods.

At times it seemed that Swell did provide a perfect vehicle for channeling David's angst and existential fears; ironically, the mere fact of being in the band and being the focus on stage caused much of the angst and amplified his fears. It took time, but he got better at dealing with the pressure and thrived creatively. He wrote some truly original and timeless songs that will outlive us all.

David Freeland, during the time I worked with him was mysterious. I spent countless hours days months in a constant state of unwrapping the enigma that was David. He was totally honest and yet unforthcoming, encouraging yet dismissive, welcoming yet cold, verbose yet silent, loved by many yet alone, and deadly serious yet absolutely hilarious.

The Swell days were some of the best ones of my life, also the most challenging. What held me there was the gravitational pull of David. I was lucky to be one of the planets in his orbit.

His demons did not get the best of him. The fragility of his human heart stopped him. David was becoming the man he always aspired to be. He had plans for the future including some new musical ventures. He leaves behind a family of friends, a fiancée, and a legion of people who loved him that he had never met.

We will miss this man. Rest in peace, David.

David W Freeland January 31, 1958 – April 12, 2022



# BIT O' POETRY BY **D. FREEE**

## **when the snow starts**

when the rain stops  
and the snow starts,  
the noise stops,  
and the quiet starts.  
when the rain stops  
and the snow starts,  
the muddy stops,  
and the icy starts.  
when the rain stops  
and the snow starts,  
the dull stops,  
and the shiny starts,  
and all the porchlights,  
and all the headlights,  
and all the candles  
and campfires  
and christmas lights,  
all the lanterns,  
comets,  
missiles,  
tracers,  
molotov cocktails,  
and road flares,  
are all so much brighter.

-----

when the snowS come,  
even starlight hurts my eyes.

## **kindness is**

kindness is a way to love  
the people that we claim we love.  
and kindness is not a sacrifice.  
and sacrifice is not a kindness.

## **surrender**

the courage to surrender  
is pure courage.

finding the courage to surrender  
will bring an end to all the struggle.

when the struggle ends,  
we triumph over everything.

“if you are no longer at war,  
defeat is not possible...”

expect nothing,  
and accept everything.  
expect nothing,  
and forgive anything.  
expect anything,  
and forgive everything.

surrender everything!  
surrender it now, and forever...

-----

it takes vast amounts of courage.  
maybe even a little ultimate courage.

it's the courage containing all courage.  
it's the beginning and the end of courage.  
it's the courage to be courageous,  
the courage to be embarrassed.

## think hobo

### SEMI HISTORICAL POEM

i know about my grandfather from rumor  
and from a tape he made  
talking about his childhood, and the ranch he grew up on.  
about falling in the river, and being fished out by his father.  
getting caught in a snow storm, and being rescued by a neighbor.  
losing an eye in a hunting accident.  
and a leg in a logging accident.  
WHAT I'M SAYING IS the non-existence of me  
has put my existence into great doubt.  
still,  
here i are.

it seems the casual causal nature of chance  
moves things in a particular chaotic way,  
that we, as mere mortals,  
should never hope to understand.

and any desire to climb up to the kind of height  
where the gods lounge in chairs  
and blow bubbles at each other  
is probably unwise  
it's better to see what little you can see from down here  
don't you think?  
and anyways, there might only be a random  
number generator up there  
and would you really want to see that?

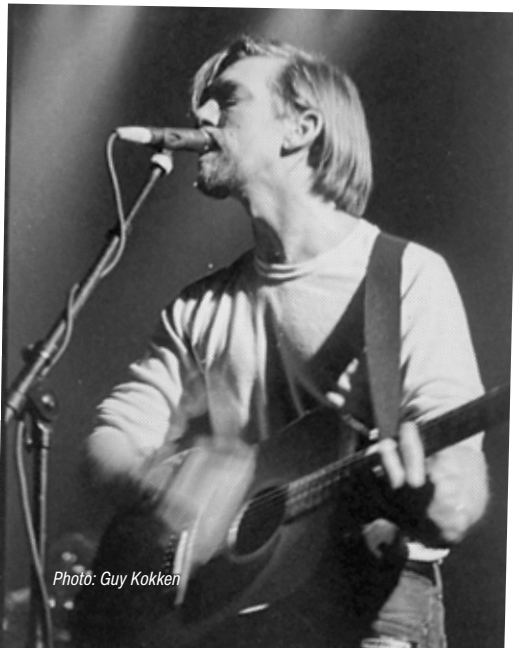


Photo: Guy Kokken

## there is nothing we must do

all the all in everything  
all the no in yes  
all the shit that turns to gold  
all the beer that you can steal  
i believe we'll figure it  
i believe it's real  
i believe for all of you:  
there is nothing we must do

cat picnic

# D. FREE

little roan fire  
jump bend sit and flex  
while the other cat  
licks at the high school gym floor  
tastes basketballs  
and sneakers  
looks for quiet under bleachers  
then cleans A paw  
till it is time to gather at the park  
near the river  
for the cat picnic  
where nobody swims  
and everyone tries to get everyone else  
to scratch their stomach

a dog enters  
lickity-split the dog has the park to himself  
he smells his way clean through the place  
then wades into the river  
and expertly dog-paddling  
crosses to the other side  
the last thing we see is the tip of his tail going  
over a hill

now the bluejays hop by  
to yell at everybody  
something is always wrong for the bluejay  
he doesn't like the picnic tables  
or the trash cans  
or the cats  
or the other birds  
he is a bully and a survivor  
that is the bluejay way my friends

later  
the deer will tiptoe in  
they like everyone  
but are scared of everyone  
so they stick together  
and because they are prey animals they live a  
little closer to god  
He walks among them with His eyes closed  
and points at who will be next  
but the deer also have their eyes closed  
so they are not burdened by this knowledge  
this is how they work,  
god and deer  
and it works well  
the deer shall inherit the park

i am rude

deemed acceptable to the committee  
made legal by law  
and moral by morality  
constructed exclusively from pieces of toilet  
paper  
found in dirty puddles  
in the parking lots  
of auto parts stores  
i wouldn't read the book  
i wouldn't watch the movie  
i wouldn't listen to the music  
i hope you don't think me rude,  
but please, please, please, please,  
DISMISS me from ALL CONSIDERATIONS,  
from the proceedings,  
from the responsibility you think is mine  
but is,  
i think,  
not.

since the shadow ate the son

while the dreamer dreamed of dreaming  
and the thinker thought of thought  
imperfection kicked perfections ass  
and all the 'is' became 'is not'  
since the little ones grew bigger ones  
and their shadows ate the sun  
we laugh and laugh  
and laugh and laugh  
this joke is zero sum



primero, de la Liga vasca femenina.  
**CONCIERTO DE ROCK.** - A las  
11 de la noche, hoy, en la plaza del  
pueblo, se ofrecerá un concierto de  
rock, con la participación de los si-  
guientes grupos: Swell y Baldin-  
Ba-da

**IRAURGI ABEZBATZA, EN AZ-  
PEITIA.** - La primera agrupación cor-  
ral azkoitiana actúan hoy, sábado,



## all by scared brothers and sisters

all my sacred brothers and sisters  
meet all my scared brothers and sisters  
meet those who bite without the preamble of a bark  
and those who have made choices without the benefit of consideration  
meet those who find solace in the gun and the knife and the book  
and in the baconburger and the potato chip

meet THOSE WHO FAVOR THE SOMBER OVER THE EFFUSIVE  
those whose favorite color is mauve  
or peuce or the green light of heaven  
(or the red light of the other place)

meet those who fumigate or fulminate or repudiate

meet those who seek the truth but in the truths absence can live with what's left  
for those who burn bright  
and burn long  
and for those who never should and never will  
for all those traveling through this great empire of ants:  
i've got nothing for you.

the best advice i ever got was  
'never give advice..'



Photos: Guy Kokken

BIT O' POETRY BY **D. FREEL**

# feedBACKING

*Greatest nights of my life.*

— Bry von Grenzenc

*Thanks again for doing this tour...!!! I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to see you twice...*

— Steve Cook



JDL with Loic de Bellabre

*Thank you guys! it was an amazing show.*

— Chals Roig

*I wish, so badly, I could be there for this...*

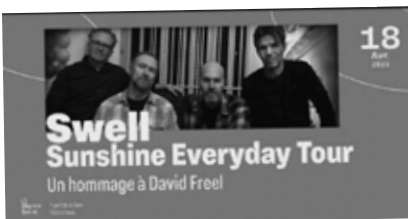
— Corey Bowman

*Vivement le concert ! Ça sera émouvant de vous voir sur scène ! Bon début de tournée.*

— Cédric Duchamp

*Lots of videos were taken that evening to keep the memory of the intensity of the tracks played by Swell in tribute to David Freel who left us last year, almost to the day. This one translates to the mixture of emotion, reverence, and gratitude that watermarked throughout the evening, shared by the group and the audience, even after the reminder.*

— Abus Dangereux



*What a great show, full of emotions... a real pleasure to see you again one more time yesterday. Good trip and good vibes for the last concert and wish see you again...*

— Nathalie Gubellini-Gilles

*A great track that encapsulates all great things about Swell. The girl in the video reminds me of a young version of my good friend Donna. Sadly, she passed on a few months ago. She really dug the song. I am a big fan and super grateful for the live show up on your site. Can't wait to dig into it!!*

— Fred Laphen

*Mission accomplished! You were already great during the try-out, so I can imagine that by now you are flying like a well-oiled magical machine. Wouldn't it be a good idea to write some new songs? At least give it a try? And maybe you have already done so in the meantime?*

*Then you'll have an excuse to go on tour again next year, with a try-out in Valencia and the final performance in Hnita (Belgium).*

*I'll already order an LP. Anyway, thank you for the music! Have a safe trip home.*

— Tim Coene

*I cried a lot yesterday seeing the first encore. See you saturday in Valencia. A dream come true. Thank you guys!!*

— Esteban Kaplan

*See you tonight! I will come over from Brussels!*

— Petra Uhrmeister

*so generous to allow this live stream*

— Contre False





*Monte and Maria, Le Boutanique*

*See you tonight ! I was in Meythet (near from Annecy) in a little club maybe 1991 or 1992*

*One of your first show in France I think.*

– Olivier Red

*Wat ching you guys from the comfort of my sofa tonight was not the same as seeing you onstage on Friday in Clermont-Ferrand, but it was still yet another highly enjoyable and moving experience. Very grateful for your organising this tour. Thank you.*

– Laurent Guerrier

*Thank you for the concert yesterday. Several songs literally made me shed a tear even 2... so many good memories*

– Gosub Goto

*Such a privilege to see you guys live on the web, superb performance, David would have been proud. Hope my jamming with you was up to par. RIP David Freel, a musical legend and influence to all the beautiful people.*

– James Laird

*Truely a moving experience to be there after all those years. Hearing your stories about what the songs meant for David and yourselves and simply much much respect for you guys coming over all the way to share that with us.*

– Hans Platteeuw

*Thanks for the live stream, so we could be there a little bit. It was very good. Hope there will be a next time in this line-up and then in Vera Groningen*

– Romke Kleefstra

*Last night, one of the most beautiful and moving concerts of my life Thank you Swell. Thank you La Coopérative de Mai*

– Delphine Dissy

*Was in Cologne last Monday. No words, simply great*

– Bruno Langer

*Beautiful live show at Hydrophone guys !! You gave us so so much emotions !!! Thank you soo much !*

– Alex Sorveyron

*So Happy to see U again*

– Tony Brulé

*Oh nice that you're getting a good response! Makes me hopeful for more shows!*

– Chris Gennaro

*Thank you for the show.*

– Arnaud Delyon

By Ellen Vanden Bussche, Muziekgerierigm 2023



By Stéphane Burlot, Petit Bain, 18 avril 2023



By Stéphane Burlot, Petit Bain, 18 avril 2023







By Stéphane Burlot, Petit Bain, 18 avril 2023

*"At long last", finally seeing you again since this September 3, 1992 to rock to the maximum on this April 14, 2023 at the May cooperative on this stage that I know so intimate and perfect...*

*... Huge thanks to John Dettman-Lytle (vocals and guitar, total respect because replacing David is a tough job...), Sean Kirkpatrick (incredible drums, Swell's strong imprint, what a sound!) Monte Vallier (single fine bass and so melodic far from conventionally rock basses) and Niko Wenner (guitar, keyboards perfect, precise, large and beautiful balancing number). Your music is particularly atypical, loud, meticulous, and deep... Well done for this David tribute show who was present with us all last night, "great class" as I told you. Thank you for these exchanges, the playlist, the photo of the photo that bluffed you all (rock one to the max!), The pics, the autographs..... Sunshine, everyday!*

— James Callahan

*Lars from Grotus played me one of your cassettes in their van for me in Cleveland in 1991 and have been a fan ever since... Eventually became as close as he'd allow you to be to Freel.... Thanks for keeping him alive... And long may you reign...*

— Jimmy Plankenstein

*I'm in the bus, 6 hours !*

— Vincent Lacam

*Thanks for the show. So good to see you playing !*

— Priscille Roy

*Merci merci beaucoup. The Last time it was at the Pezner ..with David. Merci.*

— Hervé Monlouis-Bonnaire

*It was a wonderful show and a heart opener. Thank you!*

— Loïc de Bellabre

*It is so great that you guys are doing these shows to celebrate David's life, music, and legacy. It is awesome you guys are actually doing it. Is there any chance of any of these shows happening in America. I would love to get to see it and would be great ful to help with any booking help needed. I am all the way in Texas and I'm in Dallas (sorry not Austin). I know you guys didn't make it to Texas that often. I was able to see you guys a few times. Once with His Name Is Alive in Houston. Not sure where I saw you guys the second time. Third time at Emos in Austin (inside stage) early 2000s (? Not sure of year). I did a review for the local paper of the show. I will find it and post it here for you guys to check out if you like. Still fingers crossed on a tribute show out my way. Enjoy the rest of this European trip guys. Swell fan forever. Thanks for the great music.*

— Mikey Gilbert

*Thanks a lot! The show was so good and full of emotions.*

— Tomo Nagaka

*I just learned last week that David passed away... in the early 1990s, Swell's "gold and black" albums helped shape the soundtrack for the happiest years of my life (so far), and I owe so much to him for writing and performing the music that fired my synapses in just the right way. R.I.P. David... and thank you so much.*

— Barry Cantin

*Thanks again for honoring his memory. Break a leg on your tribute tour!*

— Susan Diane Freel

*Yesterday in Lyon was a very very nice show. I never got the chance to see Swell with David but you guys managed to achieve something quite magical, because it really felt that he was there with you, last night. Thank you for the music and the emotions, I'll keep a special place in my heart for that gig. Good luck for the rest of the tour and I hope to see you again someday.*

— Vlad Pill

It was a special night yesterday evening at the Forum Bielefeld. Exactly 1 year after David Freel passed away. It was special for the band to perform with all the memories in mind and therefore also special for the audience being part of this ceremony/concert. I really don't know and can't say if it was a good or a bad concert/experience. The whole thing was special in every way. I wanted to talk to Sean and say thanks for putting me on the guest list, but after the concert it didn't feel right to me to do so. Strange experience.

– Dirk Pressler

So glad to have seen you last night in Brussels... shine on

– Martin Quinn

I just wanna tell you guys how much I enjoyed your show in Brussels. Of course I don't know you guys personally, but nevertheless I was quite emotional during the whole show. At the same time I enjoyed the music SO much. The songs you played that evening are still running through my head. I hope this tour does you guys good. Thanks for a memorable show!

– Johan Van Dyck



Thank you, Valencia



We all enjoyed David Verlinden's company



# SWELL Everyday Sunshine Tour 2023

by **Wouter De Sutter** 8/03/2023

A tribute to David Freeland (1958-2022)



*"Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get"* Forrest Gump said in the eponymous print. A hell of a one-liner. Albeit one in two chunks. Expect the unexpected, but better worded.

Exactly the same feeling came over us when the message came in that the Californian band Swell is being lifted from the dust after 15 years of radio silence. For the ultimate European tour. Conceived as a salute

to David Freeland, the enigmatic singer-songwriter and frontman of the band that passed away unexpectedly last year.

Swell was founded in 1989 in San Francisco by him and drummer Sean Kirkpatrick. With more ambitions than possibilities. Averse to the fads of the moment – grunge, rap metal and Madchester were not for the duo – a distinctive, recognizable ambient sound was created in the following years.

Not always a conscious choice because it is also the result of working with limited resources. Initially having little understanding of recording technique did the rest. A lot of trial and error, but the output sounded wonderfully good. Freeland was sometimes called 'the godfather of lo-fi' because of that unorthodox DIY approach. Something he could always laugh about. Mostly he was himself.

Swell's music combined the best of post-punk, psychedelia, folk and film scores against a backdrop of mysterious sounds. Sounded simple most of the time. But never simple. So deceptively simple. The band sound showed echoes of widely varying influences. Everything from Joy Division over Pink Floyd and Bowie to Morricone. This makes it difficult to catalog or compare with other bands. Not-fitting-in-a-box (wanting to fit) has played a major part in the band until the end. How do you also promote a wayward band that does not tolerate a label?

Be that as it may; with the first three full-lengths ('Swell', '...Well' & '41') Freeland & co invariably garnered jubilant reviews. They are among the best the group has produced in its 20 years of existence. And deserve a place in every record cabinet.

It was not limited to that, because Swell released a total of eight albums, in addition to two compilations, a large number of singles, EPs, mini albums, etc. Obviously on various labels on both sides of the ocean, including its own 'pSycho-SPEcific' label. The discography can be called a chaotic mess.

Commercial success largely failed to materialize despite the deal with major American (Rick Rubin), intensive touring and visits to several radio stations, MTV, French and Spanish

(national) television, etc. We would almost forget the session with the legendary John Peel.

The band had a small but persistent fan base in Europe. In the Humo guide to the Pukkelpop Festival (1998 edition) it was painfully accurately described as follows: "Swell,...one of those ensembles that have fifty loyal fans in every civilized country and have to be content with that". It couldn't possibly be worded any better.



In Belgium, the band played twice at Pukkelpop – organizer Chokri was a fan – and also at Rock Herk, the Dour Festival and the Cactus Festival. In the club circuit there were several performances in Botanique. Somehow the band was very popular in France for several years. The contrast with the lack of success and recognition in the US could not be greater. For every American fan, the band had 100 French fans, it seemed.

In the late 1990s, the fat was off the soup. The intended big breakthrough failed to materialize and Swell slowly but surely morphed into David Freel's solo project, who, eccentrically and stubbornly, continued to follow his own course. Musically he moved further and further in the direction of dark folk over the years.

Until 2008 he remained active under the name Swell. Then under the name Be My Weapon. Including bizarre samples and other crazy sounds. Greasy, the highly experimental last album, was released in 2014. Freel then stopped appearing in studios or on stages and threw himself full-time on 'Vinyl On Demand'. A record store that he ran with his partner Jen until disaster struck last spring.

For the upcoming tribute tour, all veterans will band together one last time under the direction of drummer Sean Kirkpatrick and Monte Vallier (bass). Also present: John Dettman-Lytle (guitar), Niko Wenner (guitar & keys). John Dettman-Lytle, who left the band 30 years ago, takes care of the vocals.

Swell will be on stage at Easter (April 9) in Brussels, at Botanique. Also the first concert of the two-week tour. A tour that your servant, last fan standing, will experience very closely. Never too many roadies and stage hands at such companies. Hence.

After the Botanique three more shows will follow in Germany, six in France, one in the Netherlands (Maastricht) and one in Spain. For those who can't be there anywhere, this: the records remain very worthwhile so many years after release.

***“Swell,... one of those ensembles that have fifty loyal fans in every civilized country and have to be content with that”.***





# **FUN, FRIENDS, & FLEXIBLE TEMPOS**

*Muziekjeterij 2023, ©Harry Heuts*



*Sean & Jason Honea in Berlin*



*Our beloved Funball joined us to make sound on a couple occasions, and always brought the goods.*



*Sean with childhood pal Dave Barber.*



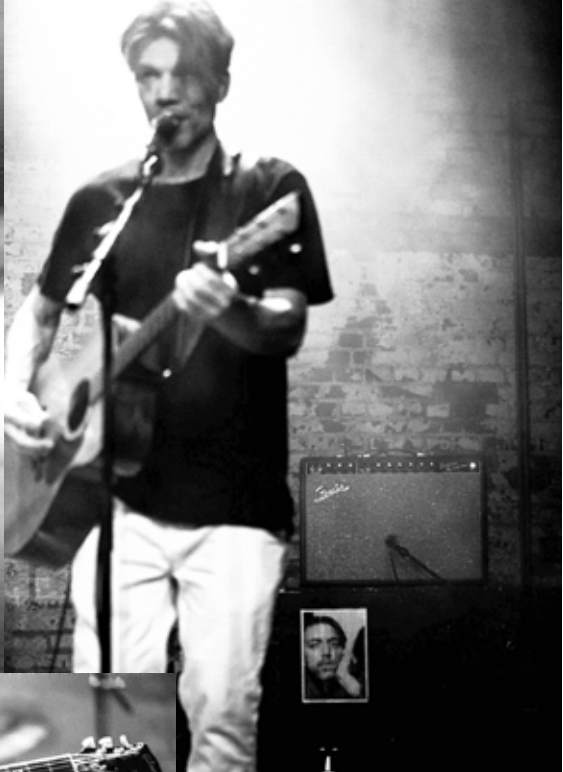
*All of our Spanish friends made the trip to Valencia.*



*Sean with Kevin Campbell*



*Maria and Funball at Boutanique*

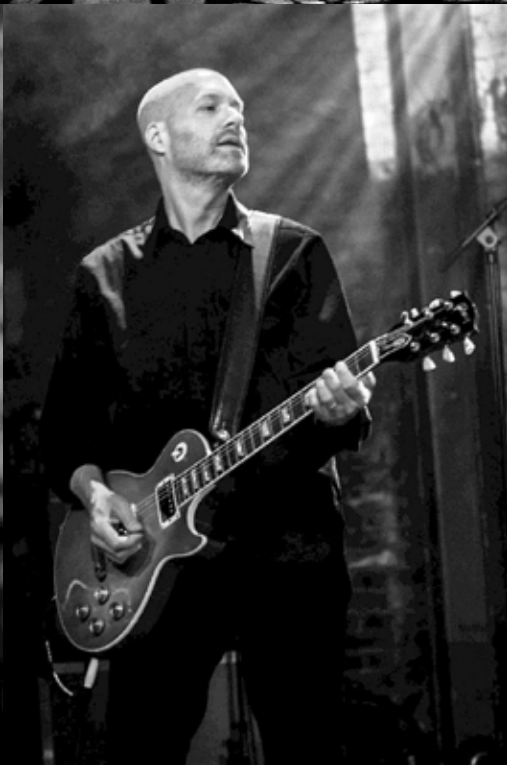


***FUN, FRIENDS,  
& FLEXIBLE TEMPOS***



# MUZIEKGIETERIJ

Thanks to Harry Heuts





**FUN, FRIENDS,  
& FLEXIBLE TEMPOS**







*Peter Verstraelen has been Swell's booking agent for 33 years, and continues to do fantastic work for the band, thank you Peter!*



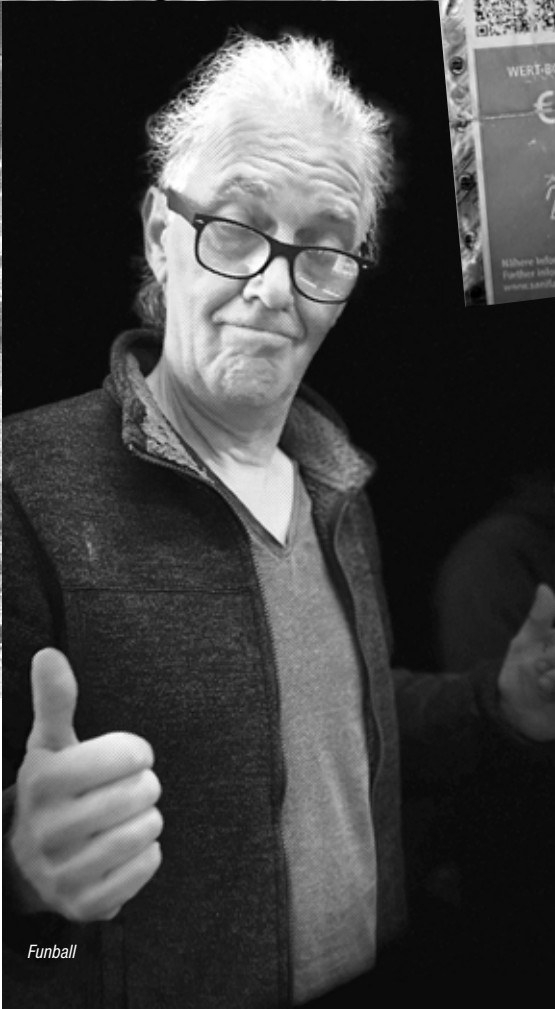
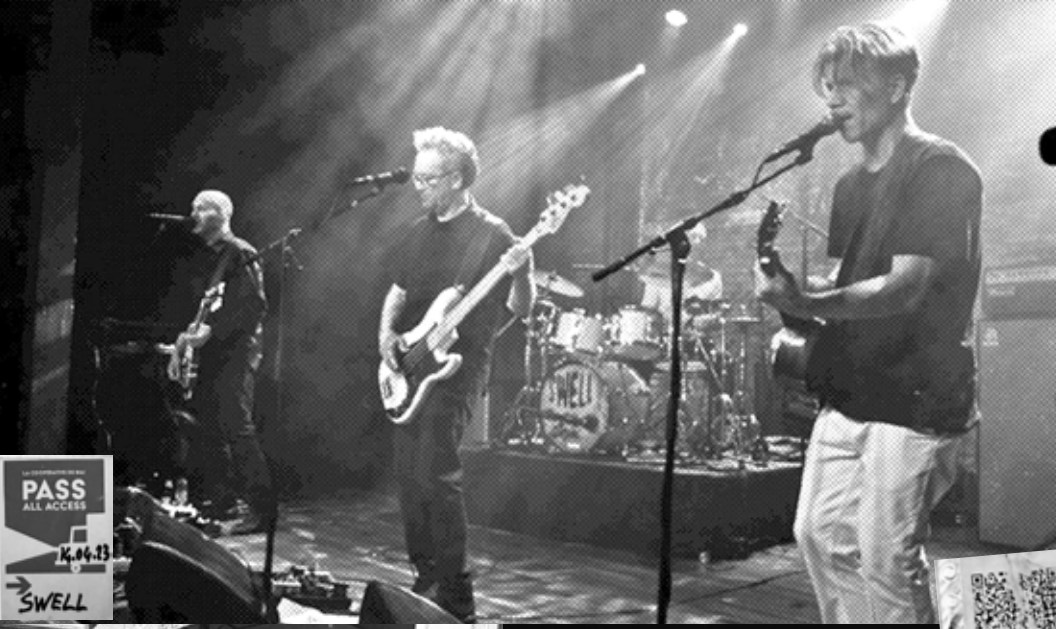
*Beers with Herman!*





# **FUN, FRIENDS, & FLEXIBLE TEMPOS**





Funball





*The lovely Shirley COQUAIRE and Clément SÉDILLE.*



# **FUN, FRIENDS, & FLEXIBLE TEMPOS**



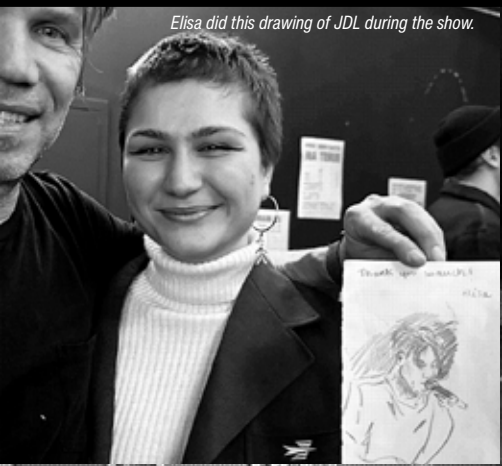
*SuperFans all around!!*



*Wouter "Comfort 48" De Sutter*



Gebäude 9, Köln April 10, 2023



Elisa did this drawing of JDL during the show.



Dinner pals!



@Forum Bielefeld - Monte with Manuel Liebeskind, Swell's soundman for many tours



@Le Grand Mix, Tourcoing



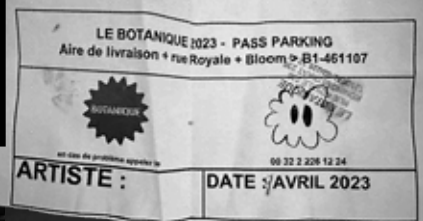
@Hnita, Bert



### SWELL DONE

SWELL DONE est un groupe de rock indépendant composé de quatre membres. Ils ont sorti un album intitulé 'Swell Done' en 2022. Le groupe est basé à Bielefeld et compte parmi ses membres Manuel Liebeskind, Swell's soundman pour de nombreuses tournées.

# FUN, FRIENDS, & FLEXIBLE TEMPOS



Wouter, back home

## EULOGY FROM SEAN KIRKPATRICK

David Freel,

Met you because of an ad I posted at Rough Trade Records in San Francisco; our city. Your slightly dark humor and take on it all, made me optimistic we'd make good music together-in that musty, forgotten space you called homeabove a parking garage in the Tenderloin.

We then upgraded to a larger "studio" above a transvestite bar down the street where our first three albums were born. Taking burrito breaks between sessions, we somehow connected as new friends and shared this off vision of where this music would go. We worked well together. I liked the interest you took in getting to know me... you were warm and curious. Then went away. But would come back time and time again. We were friends first, I later would say. Super bright, intuitive, and you could be gentle and caring.

Now I miss you and what was. But that's always fleeting in band relationships me thinks. I have a difficult time listening to our music; too many emotions tied up in it all. Maybe we will play them live one day soon, in your honor. Maybe see you that day? You said you'd sign my "41" tour poster I dug up recently... I waited too long, and now... you're gone. Let's not wait so long next time.

I want to close by saying to you, the reader - I really hear David in these two songs of ours: "Love You All" and "This is How it Starts." The David I knew all those years. He was a talent, a complex individual of many colors; blues and browns mostly.

-Sean Kirkpatrick





# MELVILLE DOSEMEUP

## DJ SET - HOMMAGE À DAVID FREEL @Hydrophone

The concert being a tribute to David Freel, the DJ set preceding the live performance offered by the Marché Gare had to be in the same spirit, turned towards him. Melville a.k.a DoseMeUp will host the Selecta aperitif, he explains how:

“The comparisons of Swell at the crossroads of Cocteau Twins or Killing Joke, left Freel unmoved. In an interview for Magic Mushroom in 1992, when asked about Velvetian or sonic influences, he answered: “I listened to Velvet for the first times only two months ago. Sonic Youth, I listened to stuff for their new album. Both bands didn't look bad to me. I mostly listen to Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Depeche Mode or things like Nine Inch Nails.” Charles Thompson/Black Francis (Pixies) once supported the band in the studio. More recently Ryley Walker declared his love.



But what music did David Freel listen to? So I got closer to his relatives, musicians, producers with an obsession in mind: which groups, which songs did he listen to? And so Jen, his companion for several years, wrote to me. From the first contact, she was touched by the approach. The type of spirit that facilitates mourning, she added. She then remembered this playlist David had on his computer. And a few emails later, the ‘Good Songs’ folder was extracted from the hard drive.

It's a musical photograph of a man at a particular time in his life. It's an incredible opportunity to have access to it. It's so moving too. The “Good Songs, in the helmet of David Freel” playlist is taken from this repertoire and tries to reflect the diversity, even the eclecticism, of the 40 songs initially present in the computer.

Thus, and thanks to Jen, far from clichés, far from myths, close to us, in our ears, David lends us his headphones for a one-hour mix so that Frank Ocean, AWOLNATION, Pinback or LCD Soundsystem.

This immersion will be followed by some contextual pieces from the time when Swell arose in the shifting and rough landscape of the 90's.

From 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., an intimate journey firmly rooted in our time.



## EULOGY FROM JOHN DETTMAN-LYTLÉ

David felt like an older brother to me and he commanded a certain level of respect when I was around him. There was enough of an age difference between us to create a level of friction we sometimes endured. I can still hear his voice, and I can still hear his half giggle/laugh, which fit his personality perfectly. Those times we shared at 41 and beyond were awesome. He was always busy in his studio or reading the Economist and various newspapers... he was an informed individual, and I thought he was brilliant. He and Cynthia were close and they had 3k feet of that warehouse, and I had the other 3k of it, facing the Market St. side. I paid my rent on time, so I never saw him get mad.

He taught me a lot about making music and how to properly strum a guitar. He was always happy to endure my 4-track recordings I was making down the hall, and I was even lucky enough to inspire the lead in his song, The Price.

We connected quite a bit over the years. David was an incredible human being. I'm very lucky to have known him.

**-John Dettman-Lytle**







**MERCH**

Available at [swell41.com](http://swell41.com)



Photo: Hugo Thomassen

# SWELL

*sweeps the West Coast...*  
*December 2023*

**SEATTLE**  
**PORTLAND**  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**LOS ANGELES**

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID FREEL (1958-2022)**

LOVE U  
AT LONG  
DON'T G  
EVERYTH  
FINE DAY  
IT'S OKA  
DOWN  
SMILE  
JESUS  
HOW  
SONG 7  
KINDA  
WANTED  
PRICE  
THOSE  
Suicide

GET  
HERE IT IS  
BRING

U EVOL  
SNO TA  
S T'GOF  
EVERYTH  
FINE DAY  
IT'S OK  
DOWN  
SMILE  
JESUS  
HOW  
SONG 7  
KINDA  
WANTED  
PRICE  
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Suicide

GET  
HERE IT IS  
BRING

