

## **MY SISTER GRENADINE**

*Berlin Free Folk*

### **BANDINFO**

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**My Sister Grenadine** plays minimalistic folk with a love for details. Their music is an encounter with sound and language, far and nearby, openness and reduction. Free folk, John Cage pop, radical softness.

**My Sister Grenadine** lives at various places. These places are songs, these songs are people. Let's meet and walk for a bit while listening to each other. You will hear of shy volcanoes and homeless cities, of curiosity and solidarity, of combed teeth and colliding landscapes.

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#### **Line Up:**

Vincenz Kokot – ukulele, guitar, vocals, text

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#### **Press:**

„My Sister Grenadine is a songwriting project that wins you through its always light and sensual sounding, its enormously complex and substantial pieces. Very fresh, very skillfully conceived and very, very beautiful.“

***Intro Magazine***

„Amazing Berlin dscovery!“ ***Rolling Stone Magazine***

"How the catchy can be combined with the sophisticated in the most pleasant way - My Sister Grenadine demonstrate it and once again raise the bar for what is still possible off the beaten singer/songwriter paths in the genre today."

***Public Broadcast Hessen***

"My Sister Grenadine are probably one of the few bands that - despite successful records! - are an eye-opening live band, by speaking to all of your senses." ***Titel Magazine***

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My Sister Grenadine is not a sister.

It is an open box where everyone puts letters in.

Unwritten ones, strange ones. Full of sharp thoughts and nonsense.

The box is not a box, though.

It is a steady sound. Mystical mysterious. Never ending, changing.

Constantly standing still and always moving.

The sound is more like whispering.

Silent words in our ears. About night and day and everything in between.

All again and all different again.

This is what we wish to share.

With a sister.

With all of them.

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#### **WEB:**

=> [mysistergrenadine.com](http://mysistergrenadine.com)

=> <https://mysistergrenadine.bandcamp.com>

=> youtube video playlist: [here](#)

=> facebook/instagram: [mysistergrenadine](#)

## Biography:

My Sister Grenadine was formed in 2007 as an acoustic project by Berlin-based musician Vincenz Kokot. Already the debut album "*shine in the dark*", which was released the following year via Solaris Empire, was received extremely positively by both the audience and the press. The **ZEIT** magazine declared it the "singer-songwriter album of the summer, without any songwriter pretentiousness".

After a year of various tours through Germany and neighboring countries, the remix album "**more like a snowflake**" was released in 2009 via AnaloSoul, on which ten different artists each presented their version of a song from the debut album. At the same time, My Sister Grenadine began to work on new material, using electric guitars, effects and loop pedals on the one hand, and growing into a trio with Angelina Kartsaki and Felix Koch on the other, performing their songs primarily acoustically with ukulele, violin and trumpet.

The result of this twofold change became visible on the following album "**subtitles & paper planes**", which was released in 2010 once more by Solaris Empire and was chosen by the Neue Musikzeitung (NMZ) as the "only valid definition for the genre of independent singer/songwriters". The double album consists of two different and at the same time interconnected musical worlds: While the first part is a surreal journey through everyday experiences with acoustic songs, the second part offers more experimental and partly electronic tracks that explore associative soundscapes.

After a solo support tour for the Swedish band Solander, My Sister Grenadine were on the road in 2010 and 2011 - now consistently on stage as an acoustic trio - for several tours through Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and other European countries. They played numerous concerts, ranging from intimate house concerts to performances at the Red Salon of Berlin's Volksbühne, cementing their reputation as a **unique live band** that can develop its magic in many different contexts.

In 2012, My Sister Grenadine returned to the stage and presented a whole new set of tracks on several tours as well as at various festival appearances (including Fusion, Transeuropa), then recording their third studio album "**spare parts**", which was released in spring 2013 via Solaris Empire in Germany and via fool tribe in Italy. It also met with a strong positive response - one song was selected for the **Rolling Stone sampler**, the magazine called the band a "great Berlin discovery!". Extensive record release tours through Germany, Switzerland and Italy followed.

Due to personal separations, My Sister Grenadine took a break in 2014 and 2015. Kokot used this phase for other artistic projects, such as the release of "**löschpapier**", his first book of poetry, or for working with movement and improvised music in various performance projects. From 2016 on he wrote new songs for My Sister Grenadine, which he performed together with Frieda Gawenda in changing constellations, including support for Sarah Neufeld (Arcade Fire). In spring 2017 My Sister Grenadine went on tour as a duo through Germany, followed by various festival appearances in the summer .

Eventually My Sister Grenadine grew into a quartet with Sebastian Kunas and Gisbert Schürig and worked on a new, multi-layered sound. While Kokot's vocals and ukulele/guitar playing, as well as the joy of reduction and experimentation, still formed the musical center, new colors joined the sound palette with horns, polyphonic vocals, percussion and abstract live electronics/sampling. They toured Germany and the Czech Republic together and played several festivals in the summer.

The following album "**wounding the weather**" was recorded with Sebastian Kunas and Gisbert Schürig, now present as guest musicians, in the fall of 2018 - together with Nicolas Schneider at Trafo Hannover and released in early 2019 via Solaris Empire. Rolling Stone compared it to the work of Sufjan Stevens, Folker Magazine wrote about the album: "It is folk after all, and freer, more modern, more playful - great and an artistic identity of its own." Now accompanied live by Portuguese violinist and performer David Lima, the album went on a record release tour through Germany, followed by festival appearances in this country and in other European countries.

Shortly before the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic, My Sister Grenadine were still on tour in the Czech Republic, but subsequently had to cancel several tours (including Switzerland and Italy) due to travel restrictions and lockdowns. Thus, in a phase of reduction to the essentials, the new songs for the band's now fifth album, were created.

Recorded with Antonio Passacantilli in Berlin's Wolvesinsound studio, partly on tape machine, the album is a look at inner landscapes and outer circumstances, in a time of multi-layered upheavals and massive crises. For the first time, the new work also features songs in German, settings of poems by lyricist and filmmaker Thomas Brasch (1945-2001). "**sleep material**", described by Rolling Stone as a "beguiling poetry album", was released again on Solaris Empire in October 2021, and the duo went on an extended release tour in fall 2021 and spring 2022.

Since the summer of 2022 Vincenz Kokot is back as a solo musician with My Sister Grenadine and is working on new songs. A tour through Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands is planned for the fall/winter.