

FAMARA HISTORY

FAMARA, born Thomas Nikles, grew up in the picturesque Leimental region at the foot of the Jura Mountains (BL, Switzerland). After attending a percussion workshop in 1984, he discovered his passion for African rhythms – and never stopped playing drums from that moment on.

Following numerous solo performances, he joined various Afro and Latin bands. During a guest appearance with Basel-based rapper «Luana», he evolved from a percussionist into a Raggamuffin singer. His first single, «Sunshine Bubbler» (1997), received positive feedback. However, it was his trip to Gambia in early 1998 that brought him unexpected recognition in musical and media circles. After performing at the Gambian Independence Festival in front of an audience of around 15'000 people, the Gambia Weekend Observer headlined on February 6, 1998: «Swiss Reggae Star in Town».

During his second visit to Gambia later that same year, he embarked on a national tour and recorded his debut album «Natural Fact», released in 1999. This was followed by an African tour in 2000, taking him through Gambia, Mali, and Senegal.

Over the years, FAMARA has performed countless concerts and tours and appeared on various TV shows both in Switzerland and internationally – including collaborations with artists such as Youssou N'Dour and Tiken Jah Fakoly. He has released a series of albums: «Natural Fact» (1999), «Sunlife» (2001), «Toubab Man» (2003), «Famasound» (2004), «Double Culture» (2005), «Oreba» (2008), «The Sound Of Famara» (2010), «The Cosmopolitan» (2012), and «Karibu» (2014).

After a longer creative break, the reggae veteran made a strong comeback in 2023 with the album «Tembo Power», once again highlighting his deep roots in African music and global influences.

With the EP «Tropic Tonic», scheduled for release in autumn 2026, FAMARA opens a new chapter. The project blends classic reggae with modern dancehall elements, delivering vibrant, danceable rhythms and a fresh evolution of his signature world-beat sound.

Colorful, cosmopolitan, and raw, FAMARA's Africa-rooted reggae style stands out for its authenticity and energy. His powerful live performances captivate audiences within moments and consistently ignite the crowd. With well over 500 shows in Switzerland and appearances at major national and international festivals – including Gampel, St. Gallen, Frauenfeld, Heitere, Summerjam, Chiemsee, and Rototom Sunsplash – as well as more than 25'000 records sold, FAMARA is considered one of the most active and successful reggae acts in Switzerland. He has also shared the stage with internationally renowned artists such as Seeed, Gentleman, and Ziggy Marley, further cementing his place in the global reggae scene.

FAMARA MEMBERS

FAMARA - Thomas Nikles	Vocals, Percussion
backed by	
Sandro Zurbrügg	Keyboards
(u.a. Fusion Square Garden)	
Dominik Baumgartner	Guitars
(u.a. Steff la Cheffe)	
Marcel Suk	Bass
(u.a. Fusion Square Garden, Jammin')	
Michael Nobel	Drums
(u.a. Fusion Square Garden)	

FAMARA DISCOGRAPHY

2026 «Tropic Tonic»	EP	N-Gage (NG 01214-2)
2023 «Tembo Power»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01213-2)
2016 «Are you ready?»	Single	N-Gage (NG 01212-3)
2014 «Karibu»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01211-2)
2012 «The Cosmopolitan»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01210-2)
2010 «TSOF»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01206-2)
2008 «Oreba»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01205-2)
2005 «Double Culture»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01204-2)
2004 «Famasound»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01203-2)
2003 «Toubab Man»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01201)
2001 «Sunlife»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01202)
1999 «Natural Fact»	Album	N-Gage (NG 01209-2)
1998 «Jamou»	EP	N-Gage (NG 01208-2)
1997 «Sunshine Bubbler»	EP	N-Gage (NG 01207-2)

FAMARA CONTACT & BOOKING

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