

## A.k.a. Robert Zimmerman



In his early Minnesota days, Robert Zimmerman (a.k.a. Bob Dylan) was a multi-instrumentalist extraordinaire. After graduating *kazoo cum laude* from the Hibbing Conservatory of Music, he was immediately hired by Joey Wojkiewicz's All-Star Polka Band, where he was featured prominently on cornet, tabla and aviator glasses. Because he was a disciple of the Mahavisigoth Yogi, Robert wore long, silken robes. His attire became the butt of his bandmates' gibes when he dropped his kazoo into the folds of his robe just as he was about to solo, then couldn't locate it until two charts later. When the yogi was drafted into the Pakistani Air National Guard, Robert followed his lead and switched into a brown flight suit, and the ribbing subsided. Although Joey would have preferred everyone to wear a traditional tuxedo, he permitted Robert this one foible because he was so darn good in every other respect. One time, for example, Joey was auditioning a dozen guitar players, but not one of them had what he called "that pickety-pockety polka passion." Then Robert unsheathed a previously unseen Fender Stratocaster – a real beaut! – and commenced to "polka out." Joey had his man. Little known fact: in 1960 at Omaha's Blue Barn Theater, the band opened for The Amazing Wallabyes Gymnastics Troupe, and it was there that Robert got his idea for his hit song, "Mr. Trampoline Man."