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How far are you willing to go for your idols? Learn from the faithful U2 fans of Zürich.

The outdoor space at Letzigrund stadium remained crowded on Sunday despite the chilling wind and steady rain that fell throughout the concert. With puddles in their shoes, the fans did not stop jumping, dancing and singing. Yes Bono, they love you that much.

After Ryan Tedder, the vocalist of American opening band One Republic, thanked the audience with their hit *Apologize*, the mix of anticipation and impatience came to a climax as Bono and his comrades: The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen, Jr. strutted towards the stage.

This was the first time U2 was performing two outdoor gigs (Sept. 11-12) on one tour in the Swiss city. On the first night the legendary Irish rock band thrilled their aficionados with a couple of surprises within their 22 track set list.

The stadium was packed with 45,000 people on the second night. The extent of enthusiasm was shown earlier when tickets for the performance sold out just 15 minutes after the pre-sale opened in January.

Donning his typical rock-star black leather jacket and pants, Bono swayed his feet playfully as the band kicked off with

Return of the Stingray Guitar. As the lighting turned dark with a single spotlight on Bono, the audiences exploded with cheers when they recognized the intro to *Beautiful Day*.

The rain, which began falling even before the band came out, became like a drug (rather than a discouragement) that fueled the crowd's energy to stand, sing and scream. The show had just begun.

"We've never played this one before on stage," Bono said after grabbing his guitar. The audience clapped and cheered in anticipation. He then added, "Sunday night, right? What else you're gonna do? Experiment on yourself!"

Bono began singing *Mercy*, which was originally written and recorded during the *How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb* sessions, but was cut from the final track list.

Surprise, surprise. It was not just because this track finally made its first-ever live debut on stage, but also because of the fact that Bono changed some of the lyrics, such as "You wanna kill me, I wanna die, we're meant for each other, you and I".

This was probably missed by most other than U2's most hard-core fans.

Tony Cotts was one of the many thrilled fans. "I've seen U2 concerts 11 times since 1998, and this was the best gig ever. I've had so much fun tonight", claimed the 49-year-old Brit who lives in Switzerland.

Bono's struggles to maintain his voice on a couple of tracks didn't seem to effect the audience's joy. When Bono apologetically remarked that he may have had too much wine the day before, the audience tolerantly responded with laughter.

The gigantic stage area circled a round center where the musical instruments sat under two edgy blue-lit umbrellas. The stage had four huge "legs" of multi-colored lighting, and a sound set with a giant round screen on top. Stretching from the center stage to the outer ring were two bridges that occasionally moved during the concert.

A moment of melancholy set upon the crowd when Bono sang *Walk On* — a song dedicated to Burmese activist Aung San Suu Kyi — accompanied by images of her on the screen. Equally as touching was *Mothers*

of *The Disappeared*, only its 15th live performance since its release 23 years ago.

Some other U2 hits performed included *Magnificent*, *Get On Your Boots*, *Mysterious Ways*, *Elevation*, *Until the End of the World*, *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, *I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight* and *Miss Sarajevo* — which was complemented by a lovely spectrum of lights.

The rain continued to pour, but the fans' spirits were dampened. Once, as if to cheer up his soaked audience, Bono threw his umbrella to his audience while belting out a famous chorus from the musical *Singing in the Rain*.

When Bono was about to begin *Where The Streets Have No Name*, he teased by singing verses from *When the Rain Comes*.

Ignoring the drizzling sky, the drenched audience was still unbelievably charged as the gig was slowly coming to end. In answer to the torrential rain, Adam Clayton finally took off his white sparkly top. In their soaked, shivered but satisfied states, the fans enjoyed their *Moments of Surrender*.

U2 performances soak and satisfy Zürich