

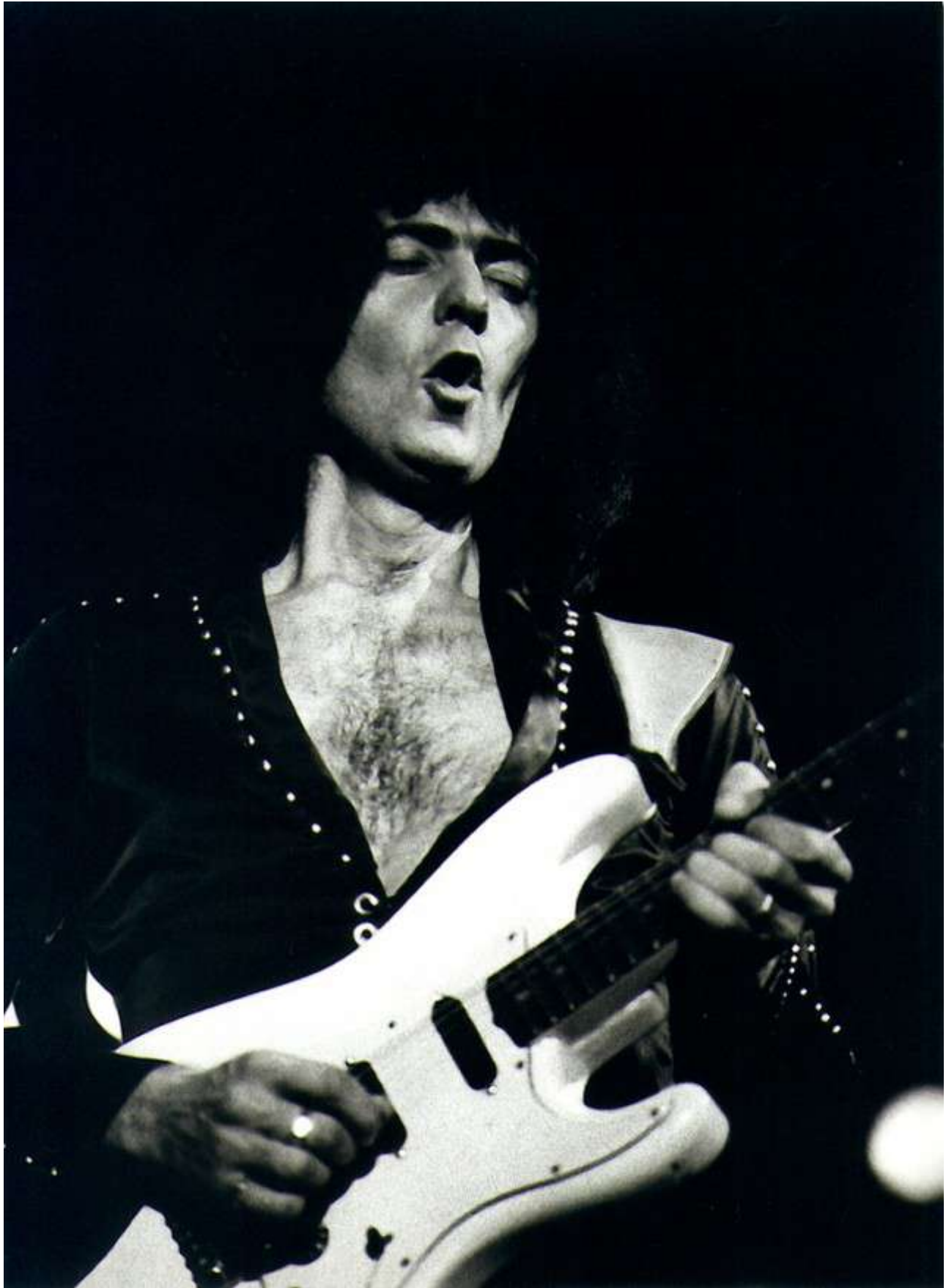
Metal Anniversary

By **Alexander Baron** - Apr 15, 2015



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April 14 this year may have been Ritchie Blackmore's **70th birthday** but it was also the **35th** anniversary of the release of the **debut album** by Iron Maiden. So they have been around for exactly half as long as Ritchie has been on this planet? Well, not quite, the band was actually formed five years earlier, and on February 15, 1980 they appeared on a compilation album called *Metal For Muthas*, but the date is significant. Iron Maiden were in the vanguard of the NWOBHM; if you are not familiar with the acronym, it stands for New Wave Of British Heavy Metal. They were one of the most commercially successful bands of that crop which includes Praying Mantis and Saxon. Although both these other bands are **still around**, Praying Mantis didn't quite make it.



Ritchie Blackmore