

Fifty Years Of The Scorpions!

By *Alexander Baron* - Apr 28, 2015



Scorpions (Credits: Carlos Delgado)

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There are some class rock bands around nowadays, but however good they are, they have some hard acts to follow in the longevity stakes. **Ritchie Blackmore** has been around since the 1960s, as have **UFO** and **Wishbone Ash**; now this year, Germany's premier heavy metal band are celebrating their half-century – incredible but true.

The Scorpions – or as the band is usually styled, Scorpions – was founded at Hannover in a country that no longer exists, West Germany. Although as with most bands there have been the inevitable line-up changes, there are still two founder members left: lead vocalist Klaus Meine and lead guitarist Rudolf Schenker. Rudy is the older brother of Michael

Schenker, who played with UFO performing that legendary guitar solo on *Rock Bottom*, from the classic live double album *Strangers In The Night*, unquestionably one of the finest albums ever made. Michael played originally with Scorpions before being poached by Phil Mogg and the gang.



The band had to wait until 1972 for the release of their first album, *Lonesome Crow*, with that epic title track. Nowadays of course most bands and singer-songwriters can record albums in their own bedrooms and release their music through [ReverbNation](#) or YouTube, yet still there are some people who brand the latter's parent company Google "evil".

In spite of their German origins, Scorpions record in the *lingua franca of the Universe*. Arguably their finest album dates way back to 1978, another live double, *Tokyo Tapes*: Germans performing in English before a Japanese audience equals...magnificence! The production may not have been that great, but the sounds made by Ulrich Roth on the nine and a half minute plus *Fly To The Rainbow* make it something out of this world.

The band has produced some quality albums since then, and the current line-up includes bass player Paweł Mąciwoda from Poland, who at 48 might be considered the new boy, having played with the band since (only!) 2003.

The Scorpions have a new album out, *Return To Forever*; details of this along with their new tour can be found on their [official website](#).

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