

Julian's Rockin Radio Podcast Show-70's Metal

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Hello ladies and gentlemen welcome to our first episode on 70s metal. We have a very special guest today Mr. Frankie G. How you doing Mr. Frankie G? Good morning Julian! Thanks for having me. You're welcome. So as you know this is our first episode on 70s metal. Let's get started. Alright. How did you get into the heavy metal music?

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So for me getting into Metal. It was always around. My mom was a big music lover so we had anything from the Beatles Beach Boys all the way to Black Sabbath Led Zeppelin AC DC Aerosmith all of that was always on. Music was always on 24 hours a day it seemed like. So I always had it there and always had a love and passion for it.

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Wow yeah! I was a really big Beatles fan to myself when I was in seventh grade I think I got like The Beatles Rock Band game. So that's how I got into them and I also saw the Beach Boys too in concert in 2013 on my birthday.

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Oh very cool! That's a topic for another show.

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What are some of your favorite hard rock and heavy metal artists of the 1970s?

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So, there's so much great music from that era of early Led Zeppelin Black Sabbath Aerosmith. Alice Cooper was a big influence, Van Halen. You know on the teeter end we got Slade and Quiet Riot which turned into Ozzy Osbourne's band and Metallica and all that stuff came from that too. So just kind of paved the way with those bands. Deep Purple was another one. They were very cool !

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Yeah same thing for me too I used to listen to 100 point seven The Bay and I heard the Led Zeppelin hour and that's how I got introduced to heavy metal.

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And I also had a very special teacher in high school that got me into other hard rock bands too. From there, I got heavier into Black Sabbath and then later my love of heavy metal just came into play. Awesome !

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What are some of your favorite heavy metal albums of the 1970's? Masters Of Reality, that Black Sabbath record. That's pretty much the pinnacle.

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That and Van Halen One and Diver Down and all that stuff and High Voltage from AC/DC. All very big influences on my guitar playing and just songwriting and all that.

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Wow ! Yeah I think my first album was Led Zeppelin's Houses of the Holy. Yeah.

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And I think my first Black Sabbath album was actually a Ronnie James Dio era album The Mob Rules actually and from there I kind of jumped back to Ozzy Osbourne and from there I became a big fan.

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That's awesome.

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In terms of 70s metal which is better , British or American metal?

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That's a hard question to answer just because the British metal influenced all the American bands.

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So you know if it wasn't for bands like Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath. We wouldn't have that turn of like Aerosmith and we wouldn't have that raunchiness of that era and the Van Halen thing you know he took a lot from Led Zeppelin as well. So it's even split for me I think for just being influential and new and bringing something new to the table. British is definitely the innovator seems to be that in music in general.

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But yeah I mean they both have great qualities you got the flair and finesse playing from the U.S. players more so like Van Halen or Steve Vai, Frank Zappa and all those guys and Randy Rhoads especially on the British side.

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The songwriting came first and brought that angry sludgy aggressive thing that that was the British side. So they both played very integral parts and I would give them an even split.

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Yeah yeah I did in my opinion. I think I like British metal too. It's really hard to decide because I love both both British metal. I like the intensity of it. I feel like it's more heavier and also too I guess like without the British bands you wouldn't have

the American thrash metal scene with Metallica. And that's because that's sort of my favorite type of metal. Like anthrax and all those bands.

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Exactly. What was your first rock concert? It doesn't have to be heavy metal. It can be another rock concert.

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My first rock concert was Bon Jovi. I was very young and I grew up in New Jersey so that was the hometown band and I got to go see them play at a big stadium. That was a lot of fun.

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Yeah yeah. My first concert was a Beatles tribute band called Rain. Yeah. Do you have your own band? If so what role do you play in what is the name of your band.

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I play with a lot of different bands.

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I do the hired gun and session player thing and I play with a country act named Ritchie fields where I'm kind of a utility player so I do everything from guitar banjo mandolin pedal steel backing vocals. We're just adding some keyboard stuff in and so we wear a lot of hats in that band and I have a little trio that I played with called Spilled Milk and that's my little thing and that's just a trio of just three piece where I'm the singer and guitar player and the bass and drums kind of power trio like Jimi Hendrix and Cream.

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You know that kind of thing. We do everything from Johnny Cash to Metallica to Nirvana to Justin Bieber every once in a while just to shake it up make it fun for everybody.

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So, you're a rock and heavy metal expert. And so are there any cool facts about 70s metal fans don't know about.

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Well I mean if we talk about little things like let's take Jimmy Page you know a lot of people know him for Led Zeppelin. But before that. He was in a band called The Yardbirds which are a very influential rock band and spawned three of the biggest guitar gods. Really you know Eric Clapton was the original then Jeff Beck and then Jimmy Page. So a great amount of talent but on top of that he actually got his start doing jingles playing guitar for commercials and ads and stuff.

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So. And he actually played guitar in a couple of Beatles movies that he's not credited for.

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Wow ! There's a little thing you can start to do some research on.

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That's really cool. Wow! And Alice Cooper he's a great golfer. You know the underground metal scene through the 70s too.

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You know Ted Nugent wasn't always out there and you know I don't know if you know the song Stranglehold.

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Oh yeah I love Stranglehold. One of my favorite tracks! That singers name is

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Derek St. Holmes.

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He's from the Maryland Baltimore area. He has a house down towards Annapolis so like he still comes and plays little shows here to play that song. And you know he's a killer guitar player. He's up there with some of the best guitar players that nobody knows who this guy is. But he will melt your face.

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Yeah I think Derek C. Holmes is also doing a small side project with Brad Whitford from Aerosmith.

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They started doing that in the 80s actually. They did. Ted Nugent and Aerosmith toured together and Whitford/St. Holmes became really good friends and said, hey we should write some songs together and they did. Their fantastic blues rock songs. You know there's Van Halen. Here's a here's a little known fact but he was so worried that people were going to steal his style that he would turn to the wall and play he wouldn't face anybody when they first started

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Wow. So he would play with his back to the audience because he didn't want anybody to see what he was doing.

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Interesting. Wow

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Black Sabbath is often called the definitive heavy metal band because of the aggression of their sound and influence of horror films in your opinion. What makes a band metal?

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You know there's there's content and the grittiness of it. To be a metal band. There's you know that's a pretty broad genre. You know there's in the late 60s early 70s there weren't all these different subgenres like there are now. Now there's black metal ,pink metal, Norwegian metal , power metal ,progressive metal all these different categories really. Part of it is tones .you know usually darker tones more aggressive attack lyrical content. You know there's

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always that it's almost a heavy blues if you think about it you know take a blues song and put some Black Sabbath style distortion behind it you got a metal song. You know those guys all came from that you know lot of the early Black Sabbath is blues riff- based. So Content just dark guitar tones and heavy overtone of the vocalist because as you know when you get closer and closer to the 80s that whole cycle changed and it became

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more bright and happy but still like calling it metal. So there's this transition from the 70s to the 80s that you had subgenres and had the genre split there where there was the hair metal vs. thrash metal kind of deal. So you got all these subgenres starting after that point where the whole process of writing a metal song changed.

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Interesting.

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1970s metal pioneers deep purple coming up with a new record this year called Infinite scheduled to be released this Friday actually. So in addition they're scheduled to tour with Alice Cooper on a tour called The Long Goodbye. And many people are questioning you know is this a final tour. So my question is do you think this is a final tour and should Deep Purple break-up?

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I don't think they'll break up. I don't think this is a final tour.

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I think they have a lot of years behind them especially with the band they have now. Steve Morse has been playing guitar for them for a while. You know Ritchie Blackmore has some hard shoes to fill. And Steve Morse does it well. He's one of those players that he's kind of a chameleon. He comes from a background of funk and country. So hearing him play metal is pretty neat just because him you know he

implies some of that country aspect into that which is really neat to hear over deep purple tunes.

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But as far I think that band they're very strong. They still have Ian McGregor. Ian Gillan

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That's a different band.

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Yeah you know Ian Gillan, he's still got a lot of vocal range left and Glenn Hughes. Oh I love Glenn Hughes. He's not just a killer bass player but an amazing singer as well.

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Exactly. And you know especially with Mark 3 lineup of deep purple He brought a lot of R&B soul and funk influences along with David Coverdale to Deep Purple and sort of put it back into like heavy metal when it came out. Awesome right.

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I think like one of my favorite tracks of that lineup is Burn. And I actually have the album too. That's really cool. I love it.

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So this is a four part question so we're going to try to get to this real quickly. So this is a lot of recent news it's happened in heavy metal in terms of 70s metal.

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So part a is what is your reaction to the death of Lemmy Kilmister and the break up Motorhead? So that didn't just hurt the metal community but for the music community all around . where Lemmy was kind of a crazy guy. Was not shy about it. Exactly. He was kind of like a metal philanthropist right. You know he did not see any genre blindness. He was always there for any band that was coming up. He would definitely try to help as much as he could.

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You know he brought a new sound like a fresh sound to that UK metal scene that nobody had really heard. Yeah there were guys plugging bass into a guitar but not the way that he did it. It was just raw passionate aggression.

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So we took a big loss and you know Motorhead did the right thing you can't continue ahead without Lemmy. There's a lot of bands that you know the singer is the face and the voice so it's really hard to repurpose that. It really can't just find somebody else. You know bands do it all the time but it's kind of you know in my eyes when a singer goes and should continue with the same members but just change the name.

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Yeah I agree. There will never be another Lemmy Kilmister. He was just so iconic so great. He was a big iconic figure in the heavy metal movement. Sorry, he passed away.

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So part B is Black Sabbath played their last show in February of this year. And what is your reaction to Black Sabbath breaking up?

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It was it was time I think those guys they've been at it for so long.

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You know they started with nothing and they grew and grew and grew into this huge thing. And you know it's pretty crazy to think that they started in 68. Technically you know first I think about 70 I think maybe even 71.

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It was 1970 as a matter of fact it came out on Friday the 13th of 1970.

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So that was really iconic.

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So these That's their advantage but I think you know Ozzy. He's doing a lot better now but I think with with that the loss of Gezzar Butler

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Your brother Ronnie James do you think he died when he was the second lead singer. I think he died back in 2010 of stomach cancer.

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He died a while ago. You know they just they just had another member that passed before he was the drummer.

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Yeah. Oh I think I know what you're talking about. It was their keyboard player. They had a keyboard player for their touring called Geoff Nichols.

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He played with them in the 80s and he died recently. Yes.

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So you know they it's just they're getting up there and they they've done a lot of good work and kept the music alive.

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So part C is recently Joey Alves's the rhythm guitarist for the band Y and T passed away from ulcerative colitis at the age of 63. If you know anything about him and the group you know tell me some of your favorite songs were of them.

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You know I listen to that band but I couldn't tell you. I like the other stuff that I heard but I didn't dive into that and I did some of the other bands unfortunately. Yeah. And actually this is when I have to go check some more out.

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Yeah yeah I've seen quite a few of music videos. I'm still kind of getting into them as well but things awesome music video some heavy metal blocks.

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I think they played one of their songs called Summertime girls.. And I think over time it might give them some more.

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So part D is there is a rumor going around in the heavy metal community that the original lineup of Kiss is getting back together and going on tour. So if they do get back together who is your favorite member of the original line-up that should return?

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Ace Frehley

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I learned a lot from learning Ace Frehley guitar solos. Kiss is another big influence. I still have make his army ID so. As goofy as that is it's a lot of fun and it's all like satire. You know it's a put on the make up and put on the show. And here's another thing that's been going around. They talked about retiring. And sending people out in the make-up as Kiss. So that would be pretty interesting. Now with

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you know with the original members coming back that be really cool. Those guys haven't really talked in a long time. Ace actually played in Annapolis not too long ago and came out and did his thing and sounded awesome. I haven't seen anything from Peter Criss in a while. And like Eric Singer the current drummer and Tommy Thayer. Both phenomenal musicians way you know Kiss music is pretty simple. Those guys are way above that level but they know how to dial

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themselves back and play to the song. So it's really cool to see that coming together. I hope it does. I hope it comes to fruition. I'd like to see the band play as a band together.

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Yeah I agree man. Ace Frehley man I just think he's one of the most underrated guitarists in 70's Metal

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He actually goes. He still supports heavy metal. He still supports a lot of things going on with that. I actually love his solo work especially his debut solo album I guess which was still sort of branded with KISS actually.

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But I love some of his work on that album like Rip It Out and Speedin back to my baby.

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The New York Groove and especially is some of his work with Frehley's Comet like Rock Soldiers. That's pretty pretty cool track. But man he was just amazing.

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So final question you know finally you know I'm majoring in mass communications here at the CCBC and I'm studying to be a radio DJ for rock and applying for an internship at a rock station. I think it's 98 rock. Yeah yeah. And in the future I hope to have my own radio show on this show some day for rock and heavy metal too. So do you have any advice for me and young metal fans that may have similar dreams.

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You know with the broadcasting role the way it is there's so many different outlets between podcasts and digital radio. You know like all the Sirius XM you know with all the streaming outlets there are. So as far as keeping that music alive there's a lot of great music that is getting out that doesn't get the recognition it should from those areas. You know you get into like Mercyful Fate. That household name. Oh yeah King Diamond.

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That's the theatrical metal. But keeping their music alive you know if you're passionate about it it's really easy to do and you have that passion drive. So going to places like 98 Rock

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I know a bunch of guys over there that are just that their life is music and their passion for it comes through in the way that they talk about songs and bring it to the masses. So if you keep that mentality you go far in this business.

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Thank you. Thank you. Yeah. I've have to say rock and metal is really my life man. You know I have Asperger's Syndrome and growing up was really hard. I never really had any friends and actually a lot of people kind of made fun of me. So music was kind of like my only escape from friends. Yeah I didn't really have too much social contact or really good communication with my parents some time. Sometimes they don't really understand. I guess it's just a generation thing.

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But yeah but you know music was my escape and you know I don't want to see it go away. And I'd love to have a career in it if I can.

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But yeah! One of my biggest influences in rock is Eddie Trunk radio deejay. He used to be on this show called that metal show. Yeah yeah I am so disappointed that it was cancelled. Eddie Trunk said that he's trying really hard to bring it back.

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But I hope he does and hopefully they'll find a new home for it because that was really just a great show really.

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Great topics. I love having the guest guitar players all the time. It's cool. Like you know Joe Satriani was on there who he played with Spinal Tap for a little bit.

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There's a metal thing and you also influence. He was a guitar teacher too for Steve Vai and Kirk Hammett from Metallica.

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You know that New York connection with Vai and the Bay Area Connection with Metallica is really cool. But they had Nita Strauss, the guitarist for Alice Cooper. She's awesome because she's you know she has a new series called the women of metal that she just released now with it's all women in the metal genre playing together which is really cool. She might even call it something like silly like girls can rock to which we know that is true. Right Lita Ford.

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The runaways. Exactly. But. Yeah. The Wilson sisters oh yeah. Heart! Yeah yeah. Well. Wow this is really great.

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Well you know before we go I would like to you know hear some of your guitar playing. We didn't get to hear much of your guitar in action man.

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Yes.

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Let's do this let's let's talk about some of the most influential guitar riffs from the 70s. Let's start with Zeppelin right.

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Right. I can hear Robert Plant just screaming in my head man!

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You said you got things like deep purple we were talking about the most iconic riff that everyone plays wrong.

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But let's talk about more like. You know they were kind of a thrash band if you think about it. So they had Highway Star

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I waste our own space.

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Stuff like that. Yeah I wish Ritchie Blackmore would come back to that. I mean he's too much he's too far doing the Renaissance music.

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Black Sabbath. I mean you want to talk about a band that encompass you think about bands now. OK. Have you ever heard the Rival Sons

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Oh yeah. The Rival Sons they opened for Sabbath. Exactly.

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They're like a mix of Sabbath and Zeppelin. In my eyes you know a great song writing the guitar too. But you know you think about Sabbath they had a mix of that thrash and what we call it now. Do you know she had like paranoid.

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So he had that. But then he had like electric funeral or black sabbath.

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To me.

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So here you got this broad genre in one band. They got a little progressive too with really long song arrangements.

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Yeah I think it was the album Sabbath Bloody Sabbath. We hear some of that progression. Yes. You know.

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You have that stuff like that many of you that do you know where you say you know. So you know then you know he definitely had a big hand in the savate songwriting. When you talk about heaven and hell. Bad moods he you know they use that in Heaven and Hell

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they just played a little slower.

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There's also Holy diver.

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And then foo fighters took it which was kind of a nod from Dave Grohl to this guy but I really think Ronnie James do you know really had a big influence and power and able to absolutely that voice you know see he kind of took the Zeppelin approach with lyrics to an extent where he's kind of mystical. You know he didn't sing about Middle earth as much you know. But there's definitely some implications there of like knights and dragons and you know which probably and Yngwie Malmsteen you know which is a huge influence of mine.

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But that's that's what he's like. Van Halen right. Or the scorpions

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Scorpions that. All that kind of stuff. Van Halen brought that tapping. You know if you're tapping into your style to the masses is like you know irruption where he's getting that.

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No one is really doing that in metal. At that point my technique of tapping.

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And you know differing different techniques. Ritchie Blackmore kind of help bring sweet picking in which can be seen. That's the next level in the 80s. But getting that I. Have stopped volume on. So all that kind of stuff comes from you know Ritchie Blackmore. Van having the guy guys like Angus Young wears his blues rock guitar.

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So you can say that blues rock. Same with Ted Nugent. You know it's me saying whole 80s but you know I still like his one of his iconic songs but.

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I'm trying to play Cat Scratch Fever

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So mountain. That's another band.

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Oh yeah I love Mississippi Queen

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You know you get to that there's stuff we say metal you know.

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Got to put it in that classification. Aerosmith

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I think they were a big influence on the in metal scene in the 80s like toys in the attic. Or.

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In. Yeah just big riffs. That's you know that's what brought that with heavy distortion.

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Oh how about some Judas Priest. Yes Judas Priest.

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And. Band we've been talking about for a while. Kiss

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You can't have 70's metal without Kiss.

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Or. You know Strutter.

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Boy Love Gun.

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Or how about the song that gets played.

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Way too much. You know you get tired of hearing that stuff. I guess if you're a mother of and.

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Extremism.

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We talked about how white the white snake. Yeah. They're kind of like on the cusp of like that this monster was able to. Take.

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They were very easy to separate him from in Spanish especially with like still tonight with. Very very much you know self-awareness kind of thing you know getting towards the 80s you start getting all that shred stuff you know you get that iconic rip from their early early 80s. Ray.

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So huge range huge spectrum of blues influenced rock and and you're just really in your face too. So you know you think it gets heart rate it's just wire metal and wood. So there's not much to it. And you had five different guys the same guitar. It's going to sound different every time it passes hands because everyone has their own technique and feel it. And they brought that to the influence of their writing

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just the way they attack the streams. You know Tony I don't mean as big. As his guitar sounds. He plays really like you know you got the. Is it the strings or the heart. Van Halen really digs into the guitar.

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You know to other bands just came to mind.

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We didn't really get a chance to hear some Motorhead are now as you.

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Say. We never saw anything hair of the dog.

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I mean that RIM is still like.

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The Beatles

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you know a band we didn't touch on too from Maryland Kix. Iconic kind of metal band.

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Ever listen to the ballad.

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Or think that one song that introduced me to Kix was body talk I think that's a good song.

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Played in a sense actually.

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Yeah.

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They have so many good songs to.

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Get it. Right. Yeah. There's a lot of attention in in Maryland in the late 70s early 80s a lot of bands came out here that people don't realize like Crack the sky was a big band more like the Pink Floyd side of things. So not exactly metal but definitely experimental men had little notions of heaviness. You definitely they came from a mixture of like the Black Sabbath Led Zeppelin world.

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And there's a lot a lot of material you know all that Zeppelin stuff you know some more of the iconic riffs.

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Oh how about the riff on no quarter.

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Oh he got me.

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It's been a while. I played. He said the whole thing. Yeah you said Dancing Days.

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You we ready.

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Or the ocean. That's another good good.

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Dan. And thank you for the Beastie Boys. Bringing that back around. Alice Cooper Oh.

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As one of those iconic you know starting riffs.

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Or the famous rebellious teenage song School's Out.

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So you know there's a lot of influential you still hear all that stuff in modern music and the band usually will say where it's coming from but people need to check it out a little bit more and that's why you know pod cast and radio stations. What you're trying to do here. That's why these things are so important because it brings awareness and brings that music back. Like oh that's where that came from you know and that's so cool when you can find a band that you really dig and go Wow. Why do they sound like this now. You can trace it back to what that was. So you keep it alive. Awesome.

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Well Frankie G! this was a great interview.

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Thanks for having me in. Can't wait to hear your next series.

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Thank you. Thank you man. Thanks and thanks for having me.

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This is Julian Johnson and this has been my first episode on 70s metal. Have a good day ladies and gentlemen.