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**June 28, 2009**

[Michael Schenker Group](#), [Doug Doppler](#)

8pm \$25



Born in Sarstedt, Germany, Schenker has had a long career that has seen him rise to become one of the most influential and respected rock guitarists working today. He started playing in his early teens when his brother Rudolf brought home a Flying V guitar, which captured Michael's imagination. Schenker debuted with Scorpions on their debut album Lonesome Crow at age 16 and was lauded at the time for his mature technique.

After Scorpions, Schenker joined upcoming UK band UFO under somewhat unusual circumstances. UFO left the UK to play some dates in Germany, and Scorpions were hired to open for them. UFO's guitarist Bernie Marsden forgot his passport and was unable to make the first gig. At the venue members of UFO spotted Michael playing a sound check with the Scorpions and managed to persuade him into playing that evening's show.

Shortly afterwards Schenker was offered the lead guitar spot in UFO and, with the blessing of his brother Rudolf, accepted it. Schenker wrote the music for most of UFO's major label (Chrysalis Records) debut album Phenomenon. His playing on this and subsequent UFO albums attracted attention from music critics and especially from the guitar community. Schenker's melodic style and clear, articulate playing were rooted in the approach of Hank Marvin who, with his band the Shadows, was influential in establishing the electric guitar as a lead instrument. Also evident in Schenker's playing is the familiar and fundamental blues-based hard rock framework established by players like Jimmy Page, Leslie West, and Jeff Beck.

Schenker left UFO soon after the last show of their US tour in Palo Alto, California in October 1978 and re-joined the Scorpions in late 1978, when they were recording the album Lovedrive, thus resulting in his contribution of lead guitar on 3 songs ("Another Piece Of Meat", "Coast To Coast" and "Lovedrive"). In 1979, Schenker toured with the band in support of the album.

Schenker decided he wanted to play his own music and not be a hired hand for another band. In 1979, he founded the Michael Schenker Group. In 1982, original vocalist Gary Barden, who sang on the first two studio albums, The Michael Schenker Group and M.S.G. as well as the band's third release (the live album One Night at Budokan) was replaced by Graham Bonnet (Rainbow, Alcatraz).

Bonnet lasted one album (Assault Attack) but before a Reading Festival performance Barden was called in at the last minute and did the show with only a few hours rehearsal and opening the appearance with the words: "surprise, surprise". Although many fans proclaimed Assault Attack as being MSG's best recording, Barden was enticed back to the band for Reading and stayed with MSG for the recording of a new studio album (Built to Destroy) and the band's second live album (Rock Will Never Die).

In 1990 Schenker briefly played guitar for the band Ratt appearing on their MTV Unplugged performance, filling in for a sick Robbin Crosby.

After Barden's second departure, Schenker reorganized the band around himself and new vocalist Robin McAuley as the McAuley Schenker Group and steered the group to a more commercial hard rock sound. After three albums with the lineup, Schenker and McAuley parted company.

Rejoining UFO for their reunion album Walk on Water, Schenker toured with the band briefly before ending the reunion.

Schenker then resurrected the Michael Schenker Group with all new members and recorded three more albums, The Unforgiven and Written in Sand. The group toured yearly around the United States and Europe.

He later rejoined UFO for two further releases, Covenant and Sharks.

Schenker got back to the business of making and performing music, recording the album Arachnophobiac and supporting it with two years of touring.

In 2004, Dean Guitars began producing a Schenker signature Dean V (with subtle differences from the Gibson, but still displaying the split black and white trademark Schenker finish) and Michael now plays Dean guitars almost exclusively.

2005 brought the 25th anniversary of the Michael Schenker Group. Schenker put together a new album of songs called Tales of Rock 'n' Roll to celebrate the anniversary and enlisted singers from each iteration of the band to sing on the album.

Michael hit the road in the UK as Michael Schenker & Friends in 2008. Shows in this tour have received rave reviews and show Michael once again at his best. Early 2008, Michael worked with Gary Barden, Don Airey, Simon Phillips and Neil Murray on a new MSG's album In the Midst of Beauty, which was released in May 2008.

Michael has recently announced that the touring band for the 2008 MSG tour will feature former MSG members, vocalist Gary Barden, Chris Glen on bass and Wayne Findley on guitar & keyboards and Chris Slade (The Firm, AC/DC) on drums.



Recording artist, touring musician, studio player, clinician and teacher are but a few of the hats that guitar master guitarist Doug Doppler wears.

Signed to Steve Vai's highly acclaimed Favored Nations label, Doug shares one other key thing in common

with his "boss", they are both former pupils of guitar maestro Joe Satriani - and yes, Doug has already played at G3. Doppler's upcoming U.S. tour frames him with another guitar hero - the legendary Michael Schenker of UFO and MSG fame. No stranger to the road, Doug most recently toured across Europe in 2006 opening for Gilby Clarke of Guns N' Roses and Rock Star Supernova.

Doppler's debut Favored Nations release "Nu Instrumetal" is a brilliant disc combining pulsating heavy grooves with Doppler's flair for melody and blistering solos. Guest appearances by Brad Gillis (Night Ranger), Billy Sheehan (David Lee Roth, Mr. Big, Steve Vai) and Stu Hamm (Joe Satriani, Steve Vai) add an admirable array of star power to the disc that was described as "Hip and innovative" by Guitar World Magazine. "The great thing about instrumental music is that the songs and the presentation of them can continue to grow and expand each night you perform them. I had an amazing time touring with Gilby, and am very excited to have the opportunity to play these songs for an American audience. And talk about great company, Michael Schenker is a living legend - what an amazing player!"

Doug is also a highly regarded studio musician and recently retired from teaching to work full time (day and night) for the number one video game music production house in the world. "When Joe went out on the road, he asked me to take over at the teaching studio where I'd studied with him. I taught there for 20 years, and the time finally came to hang up that hat." The good news is students everywhere can still study with Doug via his highly regarded Guitar 411 DVD series. In the April 2006 issue of Guitar Player magazine, associate editor Jude Gold had this to say - "When you're serious about learning this information - which you should be - then clinician, teacher, and Favored Nations recording artist Doug Doppler is the perfect guy to beat it into your head."