

Michael Schenker's Temple of Rock

MICHAEL SCHENKER | APRIL 14, 2013 | BY: MICHAEL KRİKORIAN |

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Having spent the last week watching one of rock music's elite ascend his throne, the crowds have been, to say the least, incredible! Through sold out shows, night after night in northern England and Scotland, [Michael Schenker](http://www.examiner.com/topic/michael-schenker) and his group which includes Scorpions' Herman Rarebell on drums and Francis Bucholz on bass, have brought the crowds to their feet. Okay so there are no chairs in the venues. That's beside the point.

I am getting an education in English rock music during this tour with the band. First, British rock fans have an innate ability to stumble from an abundance of alcohol usage and yet never spill a single drop of beer en route to their destination. I'll tell you, that takes a degree of talent! They don't teach that in school. Well, actually, maybe they do. I have never been to a British school.

Playing a set that includes a half dozen songs from the Scorpions, mainly pulled from the Lovedrive album since Michael played with the band on a handful of those recordings, and a half dozen more from his tenure in UFO, the crowds definitely seem to respond to the "home team" since all of the musicians are from the European Union. Such anthems as "Shoot Shoot", "Doctor Doctor", "Too Hot To Handle" and "Lights Out" couple with "Lovedrive", "Coast-to-Coast" and "Another Piece of Meat" to fill a set that also features many of Schenker's own band's material like "Armed and Ready". So as you can tell, it's a night of some of classic rock's greatest hits from start to finish! The crowds are more than getting what they hoped for.

The group does have a new album that is due out soon if not already. It's called "Bridge the Gap"

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and in truth, that is sort of a self-titled release for Michael Schenker. He is, arguably the bridge between Jimmy Page and Eddie Van Halen for guitarists worldwide. And so I don't know if that went into the thoughts as they produced the album. Knowing Herr Schenker as I have come to, I doubt he would even consider himself in such a manner. He is quite an unassuming, quiet gentleman in many ways. It does belie the original impression his reputation had given him. Phil Mogg, reportedly, will never step on a stage with him again as a result of years of problems between the two. This is a sad thing but again, I am new to the mix and haven't had time to see all sides.

Anyway, the tour will continue throughout most of 2013 throughout Europe. I don't know that there are plans to come to the US. If it does, it will be well worth the price of admission if you want a night of memories. You will leave the room knowing you got what you paid for.

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