

JUDAS PRIEST

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Judas Priest

We got some of metal's finest names to
wish the Brummie legends a happy 50th



"Massive congratulations on 50 years of heavy metal! An incredible accomplishment, and something to be very proud of. Judas Priest defined everything that was cool about metal for me. Over the top, intense, fast, raging guitars, epic lyrics about strength and overcoming, hell... I must have stared at the cover of *Unleashed In The East* for at least 48 hours of my life thinking, 'This is the coolest band I've ever seen.' All Hail Priest!"

ROBB FLYNN, MACHINE HEAD



"We were supposed to celebrate Judas Priest's 50th anniversary on tour with them across the States, and were really looking forward to doing that with a band that influenced not just us but the entire genre we live and love. Then this stupid virus came along and ruined that. Death to corona, long live Judas Priest."

PÄR SUNDSTRÖM, SABATON



"The first time I saw Judas Priest was in 1980. I was just starting out with my first band and I was truly blown away. They became my favourite band and Rob Halford was my idol. Little did I know that this would be my first big tour with Warlock in 1986. When my manager said that we'd be the support act for Priest on the upcoming Turbo tour, I almost fainted and I immediately ran to my boss and told him I would quit my job. He was speechless, but I knew I was doing the right thing. Going on tour with my favourite metal band, my heroes. It was the best tour of my life and to thank Priest for this amazing experience, I recorded *Breaking The Law* – my favourite song – on our *Classic Diamonds* album. One night, when Priest played in my former hometown in Germany, Rob took my hand and said, 'Let's do this one together.' I'll never forget this feeling of absolute metal bliss! Congratulations Judas Priest for these incredible 50 years of true metal, power and tremendous inspiration! You're the real thing! We love you!"

DORO PESCH



"Congratulations on your 50th anniversary! Ever since we collaborated together four years ago and you told us to 'stay metal', your words have always stuck with us and it gave us the courage to believe in our music. We hope to see you again soon!"

SU-METAL, BABYMETAL



"A big congrats to Judas Priest on your 50th anniversary! I vividly remember our first encounter was at a festival and the band was immensely kind to us. It's always such an honour to see the legendary Metal God and we can't wait to see what the future has in store for the band! We love Judas Priest!"

MOAMETAL, BABYMETAL



"Judas Priest has and will always be a big inspiration for Helloween from the first minute on. No other band embodied classic heavy metal with such a fantastic, unique and at the same time very melodic style like this British band. Halford is one of the best and most innovative, emotional singers ever in this genre. K.K. and Tipton, world-class twin guitars. Without those guys heavy metal would probably be sounding a lot more boring! Happy birthday to the heroes!"

MARKUS GROSSKOPF, HELLOWEEN



"We raise our hammers high and salute one of the greatest and most influential bands in heavy metal history. If someone were to ask me how I would define heavy metal music, I would simply put on *Painkiller* and let the music do the talking. My best memory is still when I got to see them live on the same tour on February 2, 1991 in Stockholm. Little did I know that after that we'd get to share the stage many times, and I treasured every single time."

JOACIM CANS, HAMMERFALL



"Having loved Priest for close to four decades, it's wonderful to see this metal leviathan hitting 50! I've seen them numerous times over the years. The last time was five years ago at Brixton Academy – they sounded immense! Rob Halford was possibly the best I've ever heard him and it was also the first time I'd seen them with Richie, who is a fantastic injection of energy into the live show. It was such a great gig. I definitely sang my heart out with the crowd and had a few beers! Happy Birthday indeed, Judas Priest."

AARON AEDY, PARADISE LOST



"I believe I stand with the majority of anyone even remotely connected to metal when I say Priest is part of my musical DNA! Fronted by the undisputed God of Metal, they have influenced and reinvented the hard rock culture for several decades and moved generations of fans and musicians alike. I have found great inspiration in the immense diversity of their output, from the mellow, progressive elements of *Sad Wings Of Destiny*, through to the synth-laden *Turbo* and the overpowering *Painkiller*, and they're still at the top of their game with *Firepower*. Hats off, huge thanks and big congrats on the anniversary!"

IHSAHN



"Flashback to 1981: Accept are on their first ever 'real' professional tour, supporting Judas Priest all over Europe. We are just a bunch of wide-eyed, clueless kids in our early 20s, watching our heroes' every move from the side of the stage each night. They were larger than life! True professionals. Well, here we are, nearly 40 years later, and Judas

Priest are still out there kicking ass! A part of me will always be that little kid from back then, admiring my heroes. Congratulations and Happy 50th Birthday, Judas Priest!"

WOLF HOFFMANN, ACCEPT



"I do a podcast now about the history of heavy metal and I emphasise the importance of Priest. Their *Exciter* song did more for metal than the World Steel Association! Happy Birthday, Judas Priest."

FENRIZ, DARKTHRONE



"Happy birthday, Judas Priest! One of my fondest memories associated with Priest is the date October 23, 1979: they played the Santa Monica Civic, on tour in support of *Unleashed In The East*. When Priest hit the stage, we were mesmerised. They stormed through their classic songs – *Sinner*, *Victim Of Changes*, *Genocide* and *White Heat*, *Red Hot* were some standouts – and each song pushed us closer to an audio orgasm! We noticed Eddie Van Halen on the side of the stage and so did Glenn, who smiled at him and played the intro to *Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love*. Rob Halford is the best heavy metal singer of all time and the guitar duo of Glenn and K.K. is the major influence on any guitar tandem that followed."

JOHN BUSH, ARMORED SAINT



"I discovered Priest on *Sad Wings Of Destiny* in '76, and then *Stained Class*. I saw them live a few times around the local venues in Yorkshire, Sheffield and a few other places on the *Stained Class* tour, so I was a big fan of Judas Priest before I actually met them. Our first tour was with Judas Priest in Europe in 1980. It was their British Steel tour and we were on the *Wheels Of Steel* tour – two steels! Both albums were in the charts. Playing the sold-out shows everywhere and watching them play every night was inspiring stuff. We're playing with them next year, all being well, so I'm looking forward to seeing them again and congratulations for making 50!"

BIFF BYFORD, SAXON



"Heavy Birthday to Judas Priest! We celebrate your many metal moments of your monumental metal music pioneering and defining eras. Hail The Metal Gods! With vivid detail I can still recall our first support to Priest in the Netherlands. Rolling up to a magnificent 800-year-old countryside venue, it was a sight to behold, especially by all of their iconic stage leathers airing out in the Dutch sun on a barbed wire fence... there were fans climbing up to suck out the sweat! The show they played that night still chills me to my bones. Like an armoured tank division they are still unstoppable, full of firepower and very, very heavy. Here's to another 50!"

JOEL O'KEEFFE, AIRBOURNE