

Maidens a face-melting metal tribute

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Who are The Iron Maidens?

An all-female Iron Maiden cover band based out of Southern California. Formed in 2001, the five-member band has since won multiple band, instrument and performance awards. The group takes on the songs and personalities of Iron Maiden, the iconic early '80s heavy metal band from England that has sold more than 70 million albums.

The name Iron Maiden derives from a medieval torture device, which is fitting for both the band's aggressive sound and style but also its lyrical imagery. Iron Maiden rarely wrote songs about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Instead, the group chose literature, movies, history, science fiction and folklore for inspiration.

What songs will you probably hear?

The Number of the Beast (1982): Inspired by a band member's nightmare, these lyrics are often misinterpreted as satanic.

Run to the Hills (1982): Deals with the conflict between Native Americans and U.S. soldiers.

The Trooper (1983): Chronicling 1954's Battle of Balaclava during the Crimean War, this song is known for the "galloping" sound of its guitars.

2 Minutes to Midnight (1984): An anti-war song that refers to the Doomsday Clock, a hypothetical scale in which midnight is a thermonuclear incident. In 1953, the clock was set to 11:58 p.m., the closest it has ever been to midnight.

Invaders (1982): Tells the story of the Saxons being invaded by the Vikings.

Aces High (1984): This musical dogfight is also a tribute to World War II fighter pilots. Linda McDonald is Nikki McBurrain, based on Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain.

Heather Baker is Adrienne Smith, based on Iron Maiden guitarist Adrian Smith, who bought his first guitar from his future band mate, Murray.

Aja Kim is Bruce 'Lee' Chickenson, based on Iron Maiden vocalist Bruce Dickinson, who All Music Guide calls "the most acclaimed and instantly recognizable vocalist to emerge from the New Wave of British Heavy Metal movement of the early-'80s."

Sara Marsh is Mini Murray, based on Iron Maiden guitarist and founding member Dave Murray, who is also the group's key songwriter.

Wanda Ortiz is Steph Harris, based on Iron Maiden bassist and founding member Steve Harris, who is Maiden's lead composer.

The Iron Maidens' mascot and stage ghou/grim reaper is Edwina, a monster based Iron Maiden's spooky, ever-present stagehand Eddie.

-- Josh Niva and Kevin Powell

Play staff

The Iron Maidens

When: 8 p.m. Thursday and Feb. 24

Where: Chilkoot Charlie's (2435 Spenard Road, www.koots.com)

How much: \$16, available at Chilkoot Charlie's

Web: www.theironmaidens.com, www.myspace.com/theironmaidens

More Maiden: www.ironmaiden.com