

## **“BE READY FOR A MINIATURE MAIDEN SHOW WITH A FEMININE TWIST”**

**We are celebrating Headbang Magazine’s first year with the only woman tribute to Iron Maiden: The Iron Maidens. Dogu talked to the metal chicks through internet. Here is a nice chat about Iron Maiden music, Phantom Blue and coming Turkey shows...**

**interviewer: Dogu Yucel**

**Let’s start with the beginning of the band. How did you all come together to make up a tribute band for Iron Maiden? Whose idea was this and how did that idea pop up in her mind?:)**

Wanda: The band was originally formed for fun but after our first few shows, we started getting calls from all over the country so now this project keeps us busy!

Linda: Our former singer came up with the idea but was unable to find 5 girls capable of playing this amazing music for years. Around the same time frame, Sara found them through an ad, and I found them while scouting for a bass player for my original band, Phantom Blue. They ended up recruiting us instead and the first lineup was complete!

Sara: The inception of this group was both happen chance and destiny. Another Maiden tribute band already existed with two female members - I answered an ad to fill in for one of the guitarist. Linda and her guitarist found the project around the same time so that added a final stamp on the validity of an all female tribute to Iron Maiden being possible.

Aja: This band came to be from a desire to hear this music played out live the way it should be done.

**You are the most well known tribute band of Iron Maiden. When most of the tribute bands aren’t taken seriously you have given shows before big bands like Motörhead, KISS... And you won a lot of awards. Did you think you would be this popular when you were forming the band? And what is your difference from the other Maiden tributes other than your gender?**

Wanda: I don't think any of us had any idea how successful we would become or that we would eventually become a touring project. The difference between us and other Maiden tributes varies with each individual band we're compared with but I think that, in a lot of cases, we work a lot harder to get where we're at.

Heather: I don't think anyone had this type of attention or success in mind when they first formed the band. It was more of an experiment that ended up being a lot more fun and exciting than anyone had dreamed. We work very hard on getting the songs to sound as much like the originals as possible. The stage show (on a smaller scale) is parallel to Maiden and still gives the show another visual aspect that makes their live show so lovable and entertaining.

Linda: I honestly joined this band because I thought it would be so totally fun to jam Maiden songs with a bunch of other girls!! I don't think any of us had a clue of what was to come, but we did notice there were people lining up and peeking inside our rehearsal room door window ever since our first get-together so that was an indication that people were interested in what we were doing.

Sara: Yeah being a female musician, especially with heavy metal, is sort of a novelty - people just don't see it. So then you add the music of Iron Maiden and it gets huge! Cuz musicians respect their music - we found trying to fill those shoes challenging on many levels - I think we have to be better than the other tributes to really send the show over the top.

Aja: We don't compare ourselves to other bands. We just do what we do. As far as popularity is concerned, you can never really predict what will strike people's fancy - all you can do is your best and hope people get it. Since it just keeps growing, I guess we're on the right track! It's rewarding to know that people appreciate the dedication and work that it takes to do this music justice.

What drew you to Iron Maiden's music in the beginning?

Wanda: As a bass player, I'm drawn to music with fun and interesting bass lines which Iron Maiden offers.

Heather: The bottom line is that Iron Maiden's music is a lot of fun to play and listen to, not to mention watch. The music showcases every instrument in such a signature way. Being a long time favorite of the girls, it was something they all knew and could collectively jam for fun.

Linda: The energy and power it made me feel; the musicality and melodic nature of every instrument in the band beneath the fantastically large and powerfully melodic vocal melodies too. Clive Burr's drumming is what sealed the deal though. It was so strong and moving and it reflected where I was in my life at that time with the attitude of the music.

Sara: The melodic guitar harmonies and cool triplet riffs are very innovative. The way the lyrics tell a story also caught my attention - makes you want to relisten to catch the whole plot.

Aja: Amazing songs, a great band and Bruce is really hot!

Are you all hard core Iron Maiden fans?

Wanda: Yes, it's a prerequisite! Haha!

Heather: I think that everyone has a common respect and love for their music.

Linda: We are all more into Maiden than ever before!!

Sara: We've yet to get tattoo's in the metal lord font - but hellz yes! Iron Maiden was and still is a huge influence for me musically.

Aja: Absolutely. And the deeper I get into the music the harder my core gets!

You have some interesting nick names and you are acting like an Iron Maiden member on stage. Did you have to practise for this "acting" part of the music?

Wanda: Yes, we've studied DVDs and concerts of the band and, in the beginning, we would rent out studios with mirrors so we could practice acting like the real band on stage.

Heather: We have taken the time to take on signature moves and clothing. This, along with the stage show, is a vital part of being a tribute.

Linda: You want to mimick some of their trade mark movements and mannerisms to a point, but you have to be yourself too or it all becomes a cheesy spectacle.

Sara: Playing the music with the band, it mostly comes very naturally and unscripted.

Aja: The reason this was such an appealing band idea to be involved in is because I'm a high energy performer, too and, his amazing voice aside, I just love Bruce's performance style and theatricality. I've watched Live After Death, Rock In Rio countless times ( and looking forward more with the new LAD DVD!) and I check out every video and bootleg I can find. Even though there's quite a bit of homework involved, I have to say it's not exactly a hardship to watch Bruce and Maiden perform. ;-P

**Iron Maiden members watched some of your shows and you had a chance to meet with them. What are your memories with the guys?**

Wanda: Michael Kenney, Iron Maiden's bass tech and touring keyboardist, arranged our first meeting with the band. I remember at the time that the girls and I were all very nervous and wanted to make a good impression. We prepared gift bags, brought cookies (which we accidentally left in the car!), and met the band backstage. Of course, we weren't as collected as we hoped we would be in these circumstances: we pretty much acted like total fans! But I guess that's okay since we really are fans. The guys were all really nice and it was a pleasure to meet them.

Heather: The girls met them a few years back and remarked that it was a very special moment. It's always a curiosity to know what the members of Iron Maiden think about this act. From what I know, they are quite flattered and have been very nice.

Linda: Oh, no, they were never at our show, but it was quite the opposite. We watched their show and then were personally introduced to each member by Michael Kenney, Steve's bass tech and Maiden's touring keyboardist. It was a privileged moment and a very nervous moment waiting for your male counterpart to come out from behind the curtain to meet you!!!! Knowing you're about to meet the band who are your biggest influence on your musical taste and style of playing,.....well.....EEEEEEKKK! I just remember courteous and kind men who seemed curious about what we were doing as women trying to play their music. Good times.

Sara: I couldn't stop smiling - and most the pics I'm blushing cuz it was such a happy experience - to meet your musical influences is like a dream come true.

Aja: I've met everyone but Bruce. Maybe one day! I want to thank him for inspiring me. Steve, Dave, Adrian and Janick were very gracious and kind - and Nicko is very funny!

Did you have a chance to play with any of the Iron Maiden members on stage and how did it go?

Wanda: Michael Kenney is the only member of the Iron Maiden "family" who has ever sat in with us during a show and you can see that show on our Route 666 CD-DVD. It was a fun show and a great experience! Michael was very nice to work with and was so sweet to us! A few of us also had an opportunity to play with Nicko at a casual jam session in a bar. We were all nervous but we still had a really good time. Nicko was a really nice guy with no rock star attitude.

Heather: A couple of our members got chance to jam with Nicko and Michael in a session and had a great time even though it was a little nerve-racking.

Linda: We played a couple shows with Michael Kenney on the keyboards! He is the touring keyboardist with Maiden as well as Steve Harris' bass tech. We were able to play Moonchild, Seventh Son of a Seventh Son and others that feature heavier keyboard parts.

Sara: I think I'll be a mush pie if that does ever happen to me!

Aja: Yes, with Nicko at a jam - he's amazing. We played the Trooper. I must admit it was a bit unnerving to turn around and see a big blonde barefoot man behind the kit instead of the dark-haired, petite and lovely Nikki McBURRain!

**Did you talk about your cover versions with Maiden members, how you should play or not play with them? And when you are covering the songs do you put your own style into it?**

Wanda: I've talked to Michael Kenney about a few things regarding my sound: since he's Steve's bass tech, I figured he would be a good person to ask. As far as playing the songs go, I try to sound as much like Steve Harris as I can.

Heather: We haven't spoken to Maiden about any specifics but the fans are very particular with how things are played and know the records to a detailed extent. I think that it's natural

to put your own spin on things even if you don't mean to. But we keep the music as close as we possibly can to the original recordings and do our homework.

Linda: Teehee, no. We don't know them like that! I'd be too scared to talk shop with Nicko! I think I'd rather have a pint with him instead! LOL! When covering their songs it's natural to put a touch of your own flavor into them while doing your best to keep and not disrupt the original signature Maiden vibe and energy.

Sara: I got schooled by thier guitar techs on gear one lucky day back stage before their show in L.A., and YouTube is great for catching a live version of a song so you can see what guitarist is playing what part. Stylistically, yes we all add our own slightly different feels here and there - like my vibrato is a bit wider than Dave's.

Aja: We've never discussed it with the band but we try to recreate the studio versions as faithfully as we can and we have Iron Maiden fans to tell us how we're doing. Iron Maiden fans are very honest - on that you can rely! I just try to sing the feeling. It's inevitable that your own voice will seep through. We're not robots - we play music - and I think that's what makes what we do so satisfying to the fans.

**You formed the band in 2001 and in that time Iron Maiden were 6 people but you are 5 and there is no Janick Gers in the band. Could this be injustice to Janick:)**

Wanda: I hope not because we love Janick! However, there are a couple reasons why we don't have a Janick in the band yet. First off, most of the places we play don't have a stage large enough to accomodate six people. We also haven't found the right girl yet.

Heather: Not necessarily because we are almost covering an early time period for Maiden. We play the songs how they were played when Clive Burr and Paul Di'anno were in the line-up the way they would have done them. The ward robe is the only thing that might not line-up, but it's mainly about tributing to the great music that has been put out through most of their years.

Linda: It's nothing personal, really! I feel it would be a greater injustice to Janick if we didn't have somebody at a high caliber to fill those shoes so it's better to leave her out at this point cuz we don't know where to find one! I think we're pretty lucky to have found 5 girls who are so devoted to playing this music, it would be pretty tough to find a 6th person with the availability and dedication that the rest of us have, let alone not a lot of venues have the room to accomodate 6 members properly with room to run about the stage. We did have a 3rd guitarist in our first promo shots we ever did, but that didn't quite work out as well as we had hoped.

Sara: It is! What a cool thing that would be to find another female guitarist to join and shred with us!

Aja: We can't fit another person in the van! ;-P Seriously, though we love Janick, we focus mostly on the early days of the 2 guitarists era. But Heather adds a manic Janick like energy to the show which is our little homage to him.

**Iron Maiden is sometimes critized as playing the same songs for too long. They are not playing such songs as Flight of the Icarus, The Prisoner, Alexander the Great, Infinite Dreams... Do your setlist contain some surprising songs that Maiden is not playing usually?**

Wanda: Yes. :)

Heather: We make it a point to play those songs that you don't really hear from them live often. Those songs are musical landscapes that are fun to listen to and play.

Linda: We mix it up as often as we can and as big a variety as we can. We like to incorporate songs that Maiden are not playing on their current tours to keep all the eras in the listeners ears until they get their next Iron Maiden live fix. Maiden have so many songs to choose from I can understand why they decide to play the newer songs these days because they have played the older stuff so long, but I do believe they should not neglect the songs that the fans want to hear from the eras that made them the icons of Metal they are today and throw in a couple of surprises every tour.

Sara: As a tribute band, playing to the audience's requests is more immediate - it's our job to keep the venues packed and the fans coming back for more.

Aja: There are so many songs it's hard not to leave out somebody's favorite. It's fun to mix things up with the lesser played songs - we've even played songs the band has yet to perform live - and like the rest of the fans, are hoping they will one day put them in the show!

**Other than this issue, what is your repertoire? How do you make the playlist? Do you change it between shows?**

Wanda: Even though we all have our own personal favorites, sometimes we have our audience decide for us: we took surveys at our shows and had people vote online (on our website) for their favorite Maiden song. We then used that information to determine what songs should be learned and in what order.

Heather: We are constantly updating the set list and learning new songs to keep our show fresh and interesting. Linda spends a lot of time arranging the sets to make the most sense and to keep a steady energy.

Linda: I keep a listing of the setlists from every show we've played and make sure to change up the sets when we return to the same venues so it is never completely the same set twice at any given location. It keeps them guessing, requesting and coming back!

Sara: Seems everyone's got a different favorite song so that keeps it interesting. We're always polling what song might be cool to do next time - sometimes certain songs don't work so we move on cuz there's definitely not a shortage of possibilities!

Aja: As a band we've performed over 50 Iron Maiden songs and make a different set list for just about every show.

**Most of the tribute band musicians are not into “creative” music. I mean they are mostly like session musicians but The Iron Maidens have all experienced musicians. Linda McDonald and Sara Marsh are from Phantom Blue which was a very famous band in 80's and early 90's. Phantom Blue was considered to be a rival of Vixen in that days. So how is it to be a part of a important girl rock band and then play in a tribute band?**

Linda: Thank you for your kind words. :-) I think of it as the next step in my road of performing. Our tribute band is every bit as professional a band as Phantom Blue ever has been and it operates at the same level even though it is not an original band. Success is about reaching people and having an audience that wants to listen and attend your shows, be it performing your own material or somebody else's. I think I am very lucky to be involved with the high-caliber level of musicians and wonderful people in this band and our inner circle, which is so fortunate to have high visibility, many opportunities to tour and enjoy a worldwide following. The Iron Maidens is my second "important girl rock band" in my musical journey and I am very proud to be a part of it. \m/

Sara: Sometimes people knock you for not being creatively active on the scene. The Iron Maidens tho, because people are already familiar with the music, bring women playing in a professional band to a broader audience. As long as it's with conviction, I think it's cool to inspire others no matter what I play.

Heather: The girls love playing music and will always. They never stop writing original material and are very creative in their own individual ways.

**Phantom Blue was very popular in the early days so I want to ask; what happened to Phantom Blue? What were your reason to split up?**

Linda: Phantom Blue never split up. I have kept this band going and alive when others had given up, but I decided to push the "Pause" button on it for a little while to focus on this project to avoid burn out. Phantom Blue was getting ready to do our very first tour of the East Coast when suddenly the 911 tragedy happened and unfortunately blew all the planning out the window. That is when I was offered to play with The Iron Maidens and the timing couldn't have been more perfect. Life is all about timing in my book! ;-) There is talk about a few Phantom Blue reunion shows next year but we'll see what happens. You can check out [www.phantomblue.com](http://www.phantomblue.com) for updates.

**Did you ever play a Phantom Blue song in an the Iron Maidens concert?**

Linda: Oh, no no no! That would be so wrong! LOL! The Iron Maidens' concerts are STRICTLY Iron Maiden only!!!!!! Though a promoter did play some Phantom Blue songs through the house system while we were still backstage getting ready. Hee hee.

Sara: No, but a couple times I heard the CD played before we went on - that was cool.

Heather: We are an Iron Maiden tribute, it would probably be a little conflicting to start playing any other artists. Although it would definitely be a great time.

**What are the other Phantom Blue members (like Gigi and Michelle) doing now?**

Linda: Michelle is doing her own band called Meldrum. I played most of the drum tracks on their last CD, Blowing Up The Machine, and Gene Hoglan (wow!) played on a few tracks too! Check em out at [www.meldrum.nu](http://www.meldrum.nu) Kim has played with various bands, including a studio stint with Asia! She's awesome! Gigi is doing well, not active in a band as of our last conversation, but ready to roll should a reunion come about.

Sara: Meldrum is a killer band - check out their Myspace!

**I think you are planning to do an album full of original songs. Is this true? And what are your plans for this album? In which musical direction will it be? And will it be under the band name The Iron Maidens?**

Wanda: We have been talking about putting together an original project for a while but we've been kept pretty busy with this band (The Iron Maidens) in addition to all of our other respective projects so it's been hard to find the time. We haven't really made any firm plans yet but hopefully it will all happen soon.

Heather: That hasn't really been discussed to the point of releasing any information.

Although, the band is more than capable of writing some great songs and do have these plans in the near future.

Linda: We are curious ourselves to see what direction a creative collaboration might go within this group but it would not be correct to call it The Iron Maidens though - that is strictly a tribute to the greatest band ever!! I'd love to demo some tunes and see what goes from there someday.

Sara: We've always got something up our sleeves, and writing originals has always been back burner cuz the project is soo damn busy all the time. This current line up is especially exciting for that endeavor and I hope we find some time to lay down some tracks soon.

Aja: We are working on some songs - and that's all I'll say. If I tell you more I'd have to kill you! ;-P

**Aja Kim, aka Bruce "Lee" Chickinson is also a solo artist which has a solo album and some works done with other musicians. Her solo stuff is different than Maiden's sound. So how is it like to sing Bruce Dickinson vocals? Is it hard?**

Aja: Yes I do have my non metallic side as well which you can check out at [www.myspace.com/ajakimusic](http://www.myspace.com/ajakimusic). At the end of the show I'm completely drenched - it's a very physically demanding performance- but I love it! And Bruce's vocal style is very challenging but not as far from the way I like to sing as you may think. I've always been know for belting it out.

**Bruce Dickinson has some methods to catch the higher notes, like putting his leg to amphis. Is Aja doing the same and is it working?:)**

Aja: I don't know that it helps me hit the high notes but the leg on the amp is a signature move of his! Bruce is such a great showman!

**Personally and as a band which Maiden songs you like to play most?**

Wanda: Some of my personal favorite Maiden songs are Phantom of the Opera, Powerslave, and Rime of the Ancient Mariner.

Heather: I really love playing the epics the most like "Alexander the Great and Infinite Dreams" because the parts are tied in in such a creative way. The solos are so melodic and expressive that it makes them enjoyable to play.

Linda: "Phantom of the Opera", "Seventh Son of a Seventh Son" and "Revelationsr" rank high on my favorites to play! I also like to play 22 Acacia Ave and Losfer Words cuz it allows me to catch my breath!! Haha!

Sara: Die With Your Boots On is my personal anthem on and off stage - dig in!

Aja: Some songs I especially love to sing are Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Revelations and Infinite Dreams.

**Which Maiden song is the hardest to play, and hardest to sing?**

Wanda: I think Rime of the Ancient Mariner is one of the harder songs for bass. I only sing back-ups on a few songs and they aren't very hard so Aja would be a better prson to ask about the singing.

Heather: I think that most Maiden songs have their moments in advanced playing and singing. There is not one song that doesn't have a challenging part, whether it be fast alternate picking and harmonizing leads or constant changing of parts.

Linda: I would have to say "Run to the Hills" only because it usually comes at the very end of a set which can run close to 2 hours! I'm digging pretty deep by then!

Sara: It's weird how it changes - I keep rediscovering cool stuff I've overlooked like any good art. Right now for me, Alexander The Great is in concentration mode.

Aja: I think Aces High and Where Eagles Dare are pretty challenging songs to sing- the melodies for both are in that continuously high belting range.

**For the Turkish people who never watched you please tell me what is a The Iron Maidens concert like? What can we expect from your show?**

Wanda: In addition to trying to be as spot-on with the music as possible, we attempt to emulate a Maiden show as closely as we can with costumes, props, monsters, and other effects. I don't think you will be disappointed.

Heather: They can expect to have a really great time hearing their favorite Maiden songs and watching girls pull it off more than just well. The stage show is a fun play on what Iron Maiden has done throughout their years of touring extensively with themes and elaborate costumes.

Linda: A miniature version of a mock Maiden show but with a feminine twist.

Sara: Infectious and fierce, unrelenting and mindblowing! hahah yeah!

Aja: Monsters and mayhem! Get ready for some ass kicking heavy metal, my Turkish brothers and sisters!!

**You will play in Turkey for the first time. So what do you expect from the Turkish maidenheads?**

Wanda: I don't know. Surprise me! :)

Heather: Maiden is a universal language and I expect that they will be a very interesting crowd.

Linda: We all speak the same language through this music. I am looking forward to sharing some classic Iron Maiden songs with fellow metalheads in Turkey.

Sara: Horns up - sing it loud - and don't be afraid to bang your head more than me.

Aja: I expect the Turkey fans to SCREAM FOR ME!!!!

**Iron Maiden never played in Turkey with its classicline up (Bruce Dickinson and Adrian Smith). And there are thousands of Maidenheads in Turkey waiting for Iron Maiden but they are not coming again this summer. So what is your message to them?**

Wanda: Be patient because Iron Maiden is not a band known to disappoint their fans. I think they will get out there eventually.

Heather: It's unfortunate they are unable to hit everywhere on the globe because it's obvious that everywhere would be a packed house, and it's sounding like Turkey is in dire need of some Maiden!

Linda: I am hoping we can at least offer a surrogate Maiden fix until the real band makes it back to Turkey again!

Sara: To Iron Maiden fans in Turkey - Hang in there - Australia finally got their shows!

Aja: Don't lose hope- after all Maiden finally played in Australia after 20 years.

**In your career as the Iron Maidens, what is the best gig you ever played?**

Wanda: We've had a lot of great gigs so it's hard to pick only one. Opening for Kiss in San Juan Capistrano, Calif was a blast! Having Michael Kenney sit in with us for a show was also an experience not soon to be forgotten and playing with Phil from Motorhead was really great too!

Heather: In my time of playing with the Iron Maidens, the show with KISS was such an amazing experience.

Linda: I think this is the hardest question you have asked. I am stumped. They all keep getting better and better! Puerto Rico and Mexico City were pretty wild events. Our first shows with Aja and Heather were monumental and heartwarming too; I felt like I could see into the future! :-)

Sara: St. Paul, MN - just The Iron Maidens and a handful of people who braved the first blizzard of the winter. One of the best sound mixes we've ever had on borrowed equipment, no props or effects - perfect show! - warmed my metal heart.

Aja: There have been so many amazing shows - it's hard to choose just one - but the Galaxy Theater show when Lemmy of Motorhead introduced the band and Phil Campbell sat in and played the Trooper was pretty memorable. The Hard Rocks in both Mexico City and Puerto Rico were pretty intense, too - and I have a feeling that we'll be adding Turkey to the list of unforgettable shows! ;-P

**As a hardcore Iron Maiden fan I have this idea: Iron Maiden have some instrumental songs like Genghis Khan, Transylvania and Losfer Words... They were written to be a song with vocals but then they left it instrumental. So I always wish for someone to add vocals to it. How does this idea sound to to you:)**

Wanda: The songs sound great the way they are. I wouldn't add vocals to them.

Heather: That is an interesting idea and we could definitely throw it around.

Linda: Haha, I can hear some screechy and corpse death or black metal vocals on Genghis already if you double time the snare! LOL!

Sara: I've tried to find a melody to go over Losfer - it's tough - that's why it's an instrumental! The other two - yeah I'll have to try those next!

Aja: Hmm... that's a really cool idea.....

### **What is the best compliment you heard from a Maiden fan?**

Wanda: I would have to say that the best compliment I heard was from someone who said that when he closes his eyes during our show, he feels like he is at a real Maiden concert.

Heather: One person said to me in Denver, Colorado that when they closed their eyes, it was like they had stepped back in time and truly felt old feelings and memories of past years rush through their body and soul. That was a very dear comment that anyone would be proud to be a part of.

Linda: When I close my eyes I could start to believe I am at a real Maiden concert! \m/

Sara: Thank you for playing Alexander The Great - now I know what it sounds like live!

Aja: After a show someone came up to me and said, "You ladies make me feel the same way I feel as when I see the boys."

### **What are your favorite solos in a Maiden song?**

Heather: That is a hard call to make, but i'd have to say the the solo in "Caught Somewhere in Time," and "Phantom of the Opera" are my favorite solos to play.

Sara: I love Adrian's solo on 22 and Davey's solo on Clairvoyant

### **Wanda, what is your favorite bass part that you like to play a lot in a Maiden song?**

Wanda: Playing any Maiden song is a lot of fun but I particularly enjoy the bass parts to Phantom of the Opera, Powerslave, and Rime of the Ancient Mariner.

### **Steve Harris is a very important man, an icon for all the Maiden fans. So is this making a pressure on you and is it hard to fill his shoes?**

Wanda: I just play and I don't think about that because if I did, it would be hard to get through a show!

### **Linda, what is your favorite drum part in a Maiden song?**

Linda: Small parts include the intro to Genghis Kahn, the accents in the last verse of Infinite Dreams where he sings "I'd like to think that when I die, I'd get a chance another time..." and the intro to Where Eagles Dare....I just love the signature bits both drummers do and their overall energy and feel.

### **Aja, you have black belt in karate, did you have to use your skills during a concert or after a concert?**

Aja: I rely on my martial arts mentality to help me foresee issues before they become problems but I've never needed to physically use it and hope that would never be necessary - because it is only appropriate to use in a life and death situation. Besides, Maiden fans are cool and respectful people.

### **Who are your favorite vocalists?**

Sara: Mike Patton, Ian Gillian, Pink

Heather: Bjork, David Bowie, Thom York, Stevie Nicks, Daryl Polumbo, Imogen Heap.

Linda: Rob Halford, Karen Carpenter, Barry Manilow

Aja: Maiden aside, I also love the voices of Janis Joplin, Paul Rogers, Aretha Franklin and Chaka Khan

Wanda: I have a lot of favorites including Bruce Dickinson, Rob Halford, and Geoff Tate to name a few.

### **Who are your favorite bass guitarists?**

Sara: Steve Harris

Heather: Paul McCartney, Flea, Victor Wooten.

Linda: Steve, Harris, Chris Squire

Aja: Lynn Woolever, Jaco Pastorious, Charles Mingus, Rocco Prestia, Aston 'Family Man' Barrett

Wanda: There are a lot of great players ~ Steve Harris, Geddy Lee, and Chris Squire are a few of my favorites.

### **Who are your favorite guitarists?**

Sara: Bumblefoot

Heather: Dimebag Darrell, Tom Morello, Pete Townshend, Keith Richards, Eric Johnson.

Linda: Steve Vai, Eric Johnson, Marty Friedman and Jason Becker in Cacophony

Aja: Jimmy Hendrix, Bruce Conte and Eric Clapton

Wanda: Adrian Smith, Dave Murray, Janick Gers, Alan Holdsworth, Larry Carlton..I could go on...

### **Who are your favorite drummers?**

Sara: Dave Lombardo

Heather: Josh Freeze, Keith Moon, Jarrod Alexander, Ginger Baker, John Bonham.

Linda: Clive Burr, Simon Phillips, Thomas Lang, Nicko McBrain, John Bonham, Alex Van Halen, Vinnie Paul, John Dolmayan, Alan White, amongst many others.

Aja: Dave Grohl, Keith Moon and John Bonham

Wanda: Again, I have a pretty long list but Nicko McBrain, Clive Burr, Neil Peart, Bill Bruford are some of my favorites.

Thank you very much, and see you in Turkey...

Linda: Thank YOU! We will see you soon! Until then, please visit us online at [www.theironmaidens.com](http://www.theironmaidens.com) Cheers!

Headbang magazine:

[www.myspace.com/headbangmagazine](http://www.myspace.com/headbangmagazine)