

## Bernie Tormé - Biography

**Guitar legend, blues rock psychedelic shredmeister, glam punk sleaze rock frontman: Bernie Tormé has enjoyed a long and remarkable career.** Hit records, world tours and international acclaim came as lead guitarist in **Gillan**. Bernie stepped in for **Ozzy Osbourne** in the aftermath of guitar legend Randy Rhoads' tragic death before going on to front **Electric Gypsies** and **Tormé**. Teaming up with Twisted Sister's **Dee Snider** and Iron Maiden's drummer Clive Burr he formed Desperado and later reunited with ex-Gillan colleague, John McCoy and drummer Robin Guy in Guy McCoy Tormé (GMT). More recently, Bernie Tormé has been touring with **Chris Heilmann** (bass) and **Ian Harris** (drums) releasing two critically-acclaimed solo albums, '**Flowers & Dirt**' (2014) and '**Blackheart**' (2015). Both were crowdfunded, connecting Bernie directly with his fans.

Bernie: **“In the past you were pretty distant and separated from your fans with a record label in between. Making these albums with pledge campaigns has been a great experience. I like having the connection with fans and getting the feedback direct on making an album.”**

His love of performing is still strong: **“I feel very lucky, very blessed, to be able to still perform live and as long as I can keep doing it I will!”**

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It has been said of Irish guitarist Bernie Tormé that he plays his Stratocaster through a Marshall as though he knew them in a previous life. Dublin-born Bernie learned his trade from local heroes such as Rory Gallagher, Gary Moore and Eric Bell before moving to London in 74, where he initially played with heavy pub rockers Scrapyard, and then formed the Bernie Tormé Band in 76. The BTB toured with Bob Geldof's Boomtown Rats and Billy Idol's Generation X among many others.

In early 79 Bernie joined ex Deep Purple singer Ian Gillan's band Gillan, and was crucial to the band's success as guitar hero foil to Ian's soaring vocals. While a member of Gillan he wrote and played on four top ten albums and many hit singles, including Gillan's biggest selling singles, 'New Orleans' and 'Trouble'.

After his stint with Gillan, Bernie joined Ozzy Osbourne on the Diary Of A Madman tour in the US, standing in for the legendary guitarist Randy Rhoads who had been tragically killed in an air crash just days beforehand. Madison Square Garden was among the gigs that Bernie played with Ozzy: A young Zakk Wylde who was present in the audience has been quoted in interviews as saying 'Bernie rocked'.

Bernie's first solo album 'Turn Out The Lights' was released in the UK, Europe and Japan in 1982 shortly after his return from Ozzy's US tour. He continued playing gigs in the UK and Europe through the remainder of 82 and 83, when his second solo album 'Electric Gypsies' was released, the album's title being drawn from the name of his three-piece touring band.

Bernie also found time during this period to tour Europe and record with legendary keyboard player Vincent Crane (ex-The Crazy World of Arthur Brown) as a member of psychedelic doom rockers Atomic Rooster.

In the mid 80's Bernie worked with ex-Girl and LA Guns front man Phil Lewis in

Tormé. The band released four albums, including the cult classic 'Back to Babylon' which, like the 'Electric Gypsies' album, made waves in Japan. Following Phil Lewis's departure, Bernie teamed up with Twisted Sister's Dee Snider and Iron Maiden's drummer Clive Burr to form Desperado, writing with Snider and recording the album 'Ace'. Bernie then recorded three albums with Guy McCoy Torme (GMT) featuring bassist man mountain John McCoy (also ex Gillan), and drummer Robin Guy. Bernie. During this period Bernie also worked with German band 'Silver', playing lead guitar on three albums.

In 2013 Bernie started playing solo gigs again returning, once more, to his favoured format of the three piece line-up. 2014 saw the release of the critically acclaimed 'Flowers & Dirt' double album and a UK tour, followed by 'Blackheart' in 2015 and a further successful UK tour.

Bernie Torme has recorded over 24 albums in his career to date as a solo artist or band member.

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