



MICHAEL SCHENKER GROUP

**New 'Be Aware Of Scorpions' studio album out
November 26th 2001 on SPV through Koch**

Michael Schenker - Guitar
Chris Logan - Vocals
Reverend Jones - Bass
Jeff Martin - Drums / Vocals

Michael Schenker returns with a brand new MSG album, 'Be Aware Of Scorpions', chock full of classic hard rock anthems, recorded with a brand new MSG band line-up, set for release on November 24th on SPV thru Koch.

'Be Aware Of Scorpions' features Schenker's trademark huge, fluid guitar licks, Logan's gloriously powerful wide ranging vocal chords and an incredibly tight rhythm section, courtesy of Rev. Jones on bass and Michael's old U.F.O. mucker Jeff Martin on drums.

Chris Logan is a young previously unknown extremely talented vocalist; "Chris was recommended to me by Mike Varney, who has a reputation of having a sure instinct for talented young musicians. I think we will hear a lot about Chris in the near future" says Michael. Logan wrote the vast majority of the lyrics on 'Be Aware Of Scorpions' and is also credited with writing the melodies on a lot of songs on the album.

Schenker recruited his ex-U.F.O. colleague Jeff Martin, who in turn brought in the Rev. and the new MSG line-up was complete. 'Be Aware Of Scorpions' was recorded as a band with all the musicians' input and displays a magical chemistry of minds, ideas, inspiration and melodies.

The thirteen new tracks on the album were produced by Michael Schenker and Ralph Patlan, and engineered and mixed by Ralph Patlan at the Michael Schenker Records Recording Studio in Phoenix, Arizona.

And the album title? "We were doing a photo session for the new release in my garden in Phoenix, where there are always a lot of creatures crawling about, like snakes, little lizards, beetles and so on. The photographer said, half seriously, half in jest; 'Be aware of scorpions'. I liked that immediately, maybe especially because of the ambiguity." For the record, brothers Michael and Rudolph Schenker (founder of the Scorpions), get on extremely well.

Sting in the tail - Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466 or 8769 6713.
19th Oct. 2001.

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Playing the guitar, writing songs, producing albums, going on tour – for Michael Schenker, music is more than a job or simply a way of earning your living, it's the ultimate focus of his life. Not a day goes by without Schenker picking up one of his beloved guitars, preferably a white Gibson Flying V, and letting his apparently inexhaustible creativity run wild. Schenker: "I play the guitar every day, and I record most of my ideas on a small recording machine so I can develop the best of them into proper songs later. That's how I've always created my numbers, everything is spontaneous and natural. My compositions are always authentic, they're an accurate reflection of what I happen to be feeling at the moment."

Yet Schenker leaves no doubt that the albums that his band MSG has produced live off the chemistry between the musicians involved, and so his current offering *Be Aware Of Scorpions* is the result of a constant giving and taking of ideas, inspirations, and emotions, based on Schenker's fantastic guitar work. In Chris Logan, MSG have found a young, previously unknown vocalist whose talent is impossible to ignore. "Chris was recommended to me by Mike Varney, who has a reputation of having a sure instinct for talented young musicians. I think we will hear a lot about Chris in future." He enlisted the services of his old U.F.O. crony Jeff Martin to play the drums, and Martin in turn suggested bassist Rev Jones. The thirteen new tracks were produced by Schenker in collaboration with engineer Ralph Patlan at the Schenker Records Recording Studios in Phoenix.

Next to the gripping song material, *Be Aware Of Scorpions* once again mainly lives off Schenker's impressive talent as an instrumentalist. No other string artist has a similar measure of perfection in his fluent style, with its wealth of different nuances, moulded by classical cross-references and at the same time by rock music in its most original form. The opener 'No Turning Back' has the potential of becoming a true MSG classic and is likely to feature as a constant component of the group's live performance in future. Catchy numbers like 'Because I Can' or 'Blinded By Technology' are typical MSG and yet in an intelligent way new and exciting, contemporary and classical at the same time. *Be Aware Of Scorpions* is loosened up by balladesque compositions (like 'On Your Way'), on which Schenker not only plays his Flying V but also uses acoustic guitars.

And the album title? "We were doing a photo session for the new release in my garden in Phoenix, where there are always a lot of creatures crawling about due to the immediate vicinity of the steppe, I mean snakes, little lizards, beetles and so on. The photographer said, half seriously, half in jest: Be aware of scorpions. I liked that immediately, maybe especially because of the ambiguity." Needless to say, the relationship between the Schenker brothers Michael and Rudolf (Scorpions) is more than merely relaxed and the album title is not meant to hint at any kind of animosity between the two. As we all know, journalists have a tendency to hear the grass grow ...

HISTORY

Michael Schenker was born on January 10, 1955, in Sarstedt near Hanover. At the tender age of fifteen he joined his brother Rudolf's band, Scorpions, with whom he produced his 1972 debut album *Lonesome Crow*. Once the British rock act U.F.O. had discovered Schenker's amazing talent during a joint tour with the Scorpions, they invited the exceptional guitar whiz-kid to team up with them after the tour had finished. His first recording with U.F.O. became an international masterpiece: *Phenomenon* (1974), featuring the classics 'Doctor Doctor' and 'Rock Bottom', is still considered one of the most important releases in the history of rock music.

Schenker stayed with U.F.O. for eight years, releasing further impressive rock albums like *Force It* (1975) and *No Heavy Pettin'* (1976) – recordings that made UFO international stars and set new standards in rock music. The two subsequent studio albums *Lights Out* (1977) and *Obsession* (1978) are still among the most significant releases of the genre. A year after the arrival of *Obsession*, the band decided to record a live album, *Stranger In The Night*, which is justly

considered one of the most successful live cuts ever. At the same time, the record marked the end of the legendary line-up that had caused a stir for well over a decade.

Michael Schenker left U.F.O. and temporarily teamed up with his former band Scorpions again to record the fabulous *Lovedrive* with them. He then returned to the public eye with the debut album by his own Michael Schenker Group, featuring musicians like Simon Phillips, Gary Barden and keyboarder Don Airey. On subsequent albums like *MSG II* (1981), *One Night At Budokan* (1982), *Assault Attack* (1983) and *Built To Destroy*, he continued to present talented band members, like the two former Rainbow musicians Graham Bonnett and Cozy Powell (R.I.P.), as well as Ted McKenny and Chris Glenn, two former members of the Alex Harvey Band.

In the mid-Eighties, Schenker formed the McAuley Schenker Group together with former Grand Prix vocalist Robin McAuley, its abbreviated name remaining MSG. The musical direction leaned increasingly towards the American mainstream, which didn't seem to affect the band's great success. Albums like *Perfect Timing* (1987), *Save Yourself* (1989) and *MSG* (1992) met with unanimously positive reviews world-wide. MSG continued to tour all over the world, playing with renowned acts like Iron Maiden, Def Leppard, Bon Jovi, and Scorpions. During a creative hiatus, Schenker got involved with Contraband (featuring Bobby Blotzer of Ratt and Tracii Guns of L.A. Guns) and contributed numerous licks to their album.

1992 marked the end of the McAuley Schenker Group with *Unplugged Live*, and Schenker returned to the U.F.O. fold. Their commercially extremely successful US comeback tour convinced the experts, as did the first joint release in fifteen years, called *Walk On Water*. The album arrived at the Japanese stores in 1995, while Europe had to wait another two years, in fact until a few weeks after the release of *Thank You*, Schenker's first acoustic solo recording. Following the US tour with U.F.O., he reactivated MSG and produced *Written In The Sand* with a new line-up. Autumn 1997 saw the start of an extensive European tour with U.F.O. and a celebrated G3 tour alongside Uli Jon Roth and Joe Satriani, presenting his album *The Michael Schenker Story – Live* at the same time.

In summer 1998, Schenker ensconced himself in a recording studio near San Francisco with producer legend Mike Varney to work on his next offering *The Unforgiven*, an album that was the basis for the subsequent tour, during which *The Unforgiven World Tour – Live* was also recorded. With *Adventures Of The Imagination*, he allowed his band a break to realize his long-standing ambition to record an instrumental rock album, and the subsequent success encouraged him to follow with another, similar offering called *Dreams And Expressions*. *Be Aware Of Scorpions* was recorded by a new MSG line-up, which can also be seen live during the impending European tour. Be aware of MSG ...

TRACKS:

No Turning Back * My Time`s Up * Fallen The Love * Because I Can * How Will You Get Back * Blinded By Technology * Age Of Ice * Standin` On The Road * Sea Of Memory * On Your Way * Reflection Of Your Heart * Roll It Over * Eyes Of A Child