

DRAGON FORCE



DragonForce is an English Grammy-nominated [power metal](#) band from [London](#). They are known for fast guitar solos, fantasy-based lyrics, and electronic sounds in their music to add to their retro video game influenced sound.

DragonForce was formed in 1999 by singer [ZP Theart](#), bassist [Steve Scott](#), guitarists [Sam Totman](#) and [Herman Li](#), drummer Didier Almouzni, and keyboardist Steve Williams. Initially the band intended to call themselves "DragonHeart", but they didn't want to be confused with the Brazilian metal band Dragonheart. The band underwent various lineup changes before settling with the six current members.

Herman Li



Position

Lead/Rhythm Guitars & Backing Vocals

Biography

Herman Li is the guitarist behind those over the top hyper guitar fretwork, and part of the recording production core of all DragonForce records.

Born in Hong Kong, Herman is a self-taught musician, learning mostly from listening to his favourite music and watching videos.

After having played in a number of underground rock and metal bands in London, Herman decided the only way for him to move forward, is to form a band instead of joining one. In the summer of 1999, Herman found a number of musicians in the UK to kick start a new band now known worldwide as DRAGONFORCE.

In between intensive world tours with DragonForce, Herman found time to write a monthly guitar column in UK's Total Guitar magazine. He has also given many guitar clinics around the world, showcasing his own approach to the instrument to help inspire guitarists around the globe. As well as evolving as a player, Herman likes to understand his instrument as much as possible. He is heavily involved in electric guitar development, working on new ideas to improve the instrument as much as possible.



Herman won the 'Best Shredder' award at the annual Metal Hammer Golden Gods Awards 2005. Together with Sam Totman, Herman recently won four categories in Guitar World's Readers Poll 2007 for 'Best New Talent' (winning by 70%), 'Best Metal', 'Best Riff' and 'Best Shredders'. They also won 'Best Guitar Solo' with Through the Fire and Flames in Total Guitar's readers' poll 2007 and numerous polls in other printed and online press around the world. Herman and guitar partner Sam Totman have been playing together for years, the dual is currently making a huge impact in today's modern rock and metal scene.

Year 2007 started nicely with Herman receiving an invitation to perform as special guest with guitar legend Steve Vai at the Ibanez Jem/RG model 20th Anniversary show in Hollywood, California. As well as playing on Steve Vai's set, Herman shared the stage on the evening all star jam with guitar heroes such as Joe Satriani, Paul Gilbert, Tony MacAlpine and Andy Timmons.

Outside of music, Herman's interests includes technology, martial arts and when not touring, enjoys training in Brazillian Jiu Jitsu five days a week. He also speaks three languages fluently.

Musical Influences

- All styles of music. Rock, metal new and old
- Video games music; favourites are from late 80's, early 90's arcade and PC Engine games.

Signature Stage Moves

Guitar lifting whammy bar slam
Playing with his tongue!

Current Main Live and Studio Equipment

Guitars:

- Ibanez E-Gen - Herman Li Signature Model
- DiMarzio® HLM Pickups - Herman Li Model
- D'Addario Strings

Amplifications, Rig Setup & Misc:

Rocktron Prophecy II
Rocktron All Access
Rocktron MIDI Mate
Rocktron Patch Mate
Source Audio Hot Hand
MIDIjet Pro Wireless Midi System
Mesa Boogie Stereo 2:Fifty
Peavey JSX 4x12 Straight Speaker Cabinets
DigiTech Whammy 2
Dunlop Cry Baby DCR-2SR
Ibanez Weeping Demon
Rocktron Xpression
Rocktron Intelliflex XL
Korg DTR-2000
Drink Holders
Shampoo & Conditioner in seperate bottles



ZP Theart



Position

Lead Vocals & Backing Vocals

Biography

Without being able to say when exactly he started singing "Since I can remember I guess..." this curly haired frontman has been doing styles ranging from Blues, Thrash & Rock to Metal. Take this experience, plus an extremely high vocal range, combine it with an endless amount of energy, and you end up with: ZP Theart, the man upfront centre rocking the masses, flanked by a fierce instrumental attack and backed by a groinchurning rhythm section that is DRAGONFORCE! When there's time to spare, you'll occasionally catch him messing around on the old 6-string acoustic, but he mostly devotes his time to writing lyrics and melodies. ZP has further built his experience being part of various projects on and off stage, as well as in the studio.

Musical Influences

Bon Jovi, Iron Maiden, Helloween, Judas Priest, Metallica, Megadeth, Skid Row, Tesla, 80's hard rock, soft rock, glam rock etc. Anything providing it's got nice melodies and it's played on real instruments!

Signature Stage Moves

F___ing Swearing!

Main Live Equipment

A bottle of Jack
Electro-Voice Rev Wireless Microphones
Shure In-Ear Monitors

Sam Totman



Position

Lead/Rhythm Guitars & Backing Vocals

Biography

With three metal albums of different styles under his sleeves before DragonForce, Sam is an experienced professional...or is he? Yes, but more from the drinking, partying side of metal!

Born in England but moved to New Zealand at an early age, Sam started playing the classical guitar at the age of 9 with formal musical training. A great guitar player with plenty of feelings in both rhythm and leads, complement his remarkable ability in writing extremely catchy songs; a perfect combination! The combination of Sam & Herman, two very different guitar players joining forces in

Musical Influences

Catchiest bands on the planet only!
Late 80's, early 90's video games music!

Signature Stage Moves

360degree tornado jump
Hands free booze drinking

Main Live Equipment

Guitars: Ibanez STM1 – Sam Totman:Signature Model



Frédéric Leclercq



Position

Bass Guitar & Backing Vocals

Biography

Frédéric Leclercq is best described as the 'multi' man; multi-instrumentalist (guitarist, bassist, keyboardist, vocalist), multi-styles (death metal, heavy metal, speed metal, thrash metal, rock, classical, glam, black metal), multi-languages (speaks French, English, German and some dirty words in almost every language), and of course multi-bands! Currently singer, guitarist and main man in his band Maladaptive, he also plays session for various bands and used to play keyboard then guitar in the French band Heavenly, not to mention his appearances here and there on various records in the music scene.

Now, Fred adds another great band on his list: DragonForce. This talented, passionate young French man has known Herman from the 'force for over 5 years and was asked to help out on bass for their North America and Japan shows.

Fred displayed so much skills and professionalism on the shows in North America and Japan that he was asked to become DragonForce's permanent bassist. Fred accepted without hesitation.

Signature Stage Moves

Black metal whisky sculling

Musical Influences

Late 80's video games music, rock, metal and porn!

Main Live Equipment

ESP Forest-STD Bass



Vadim Pruzhanov



PositionKeyboards & Backing Vocals

Biography

Born in Ukraine than later moved to London England, Vadim is the 23 years old keyboard wizard of DragonForce.

With an early start on the piano at the young age of 8, Vadim studied at a music school since the beginning. Bored, he quit three years later and carried on as a self-taught player instead. It is at that time Vadim discovered rock music and decided to pursue it as a career. He got a small keyboard (Yamaha PSS-51) and started to create his own music at the age of 12 and carried on since. Apart from playing the keyboard, Vadim is also a capable guitar player who likes to spend time burning some solos on his Ibanez guitar.

Musical Influences

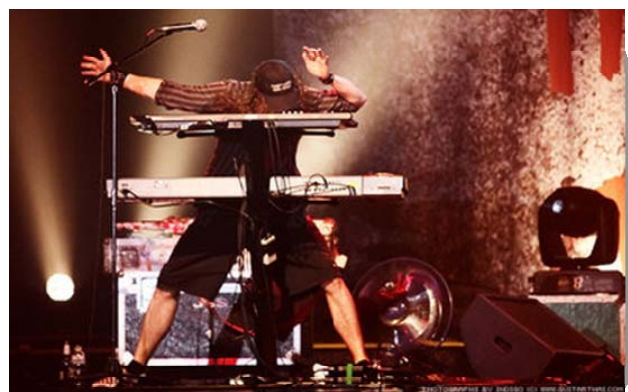
Yngwie Malmsteen, Strapping Young Lad, Steve Vai, Pantera, Judas Priest, Symphony X, Dream Theater.

Signature Stage Moves

Getting derranged!

Main Live Equipment

Korg Triton Extreme



Dave Mackintosh



Position

Drums & Backing Vocals

Biography

Dave "Compact Dynamo" Mackintosh began playing at the tender age of eight, and discovered twin kick drums by twelve. Since then, he knew his musical direction, "Metal"! While performing and recording with plenty of unsigned acts throughout the years, he has gained valuable experience not only in his musicianship, but also in showmanship. his thirst for metal has grown ever more extreme. Only now, after two full length albums with black metal outfit Bal-Sagoth, is Dave able to cope with the extreme speed and intensity of DragonForce!

Musical Influences

Neil Peart, Mike Portnoy, Tommy Aldridge, Charlie Benante, Ingo Schwichtenberg, Nicko McBrain, Jonny Maudling, Vinnie Paul.

Main Equipment

Paiste Cymbals

1 x 16" power crash (signature)

2 x 18" power crashes (signature)

4 x octaban, left side

4 x octaban, right side

1 x 20" gong drum

Double tier, Tama power tower rack, with Tama road pro

