

= Mercyful Fate =

Mercyful Fate is a Danish heavy metal band from Copenhagen , formed in 1981 by vocalist King Diamond and guitarist Hank Shermann . Influenced by progressive rock and hard rock , with lyrics dealing with Satan and the occult , Mercyful Fate were part of the first wave of black metal in the early to mid @-@ 1980s . Many of the bands from this movement went on to influence later black metal musicians in the 1990s , particularly in Norway . Since the band 's inception in 1981 , Mercyful Fate have released seven studio albums , two extended plays and four compilations .

After several line @-@ up changes and self @-@ made demos , Mercyful Fate released their self @-@ titled EP in 1982 , with the line @-@ up of King Diamond ( vocals ) , Hank Shermann ( guitar ) , Michael Denner ( guitar ) , Timi Hansen ( bass ) and Kim Ruzz ( drums ) . With this line @-@ up the group recorded their first two studio albums ( 1983 's Melissa and 1984 's Don 't Break the Oath ) , until 1985 when the band broke up due to musical differences . In 1993 , four out of the five members of Mercyful Fate reunited to record the album In the Shadows , which was released the same year . During the 1990s , the band released four more studio albums and went through several line @-@ up changes . Since 1999 , Mercyful Fate have been on hiatus , but have reunited on occasion during the 2000s .

= = History = =

= = = Formation and first releases ( 1981 ? 1985 ) = = =

Mercyful Fate was originally formed in Copenhagen , Denmark , in 1981 , following the dissolution of the band Brats . Brats had been a punk / metal band , featuring future Mercyful Fate members , vocalist King Diamond , and guitarists Hank Shermann and Michael Denner . After two studio albums and several line @-@ up changes ( including the addition of Diamond and the departure of Denner ) , Diamond and Shermann began writing new material that was much heavier than any of Brats ' previous work . The band 's record label CBS was not pleased with the material , and demanded they stop singing in English and become more commercial . As a result , Diamond and Shermann quit the group and went on to form Mercyful Fate . After several line @-@ up changes and semi @-@ professional demo tapes , Mercyful Fate released their self @-@ titled EP in 1982 . This line @-@ up , consisting of King Diamond , Hank Shermann , bassist Timi Hansen , drummer Kim Ruzz and guitarist Michael Denner , would go on to record the group 's first two studio albums .

In July , 1983 , Mercyful Fate recorded their debut album at Easy Sound Recording , in Copenhagen , Denmark . Entitled Melissa , the album was produced by Henrik Lund and released on October 30 , 1983 on Roadrunner Records . After a number of concerts around Denmark , Mercyful Fate entered the studio in May 1984 to record their second studio album Don 't Break the Oath , which was released on September 7 , 1984 . During the album 's supporting tour , the band played the US for two months and made festival appearances in Germany . Despite winning a cult following around the world , Mercyful Fate broke up in April , 1985 , due to musical differences . Guitarist Hank Shermann wanted the band to move to a more commercial sound , to which King Diamond refused and announced his departure from Mercyful Fate , which led to the band breaking @-@ up .

= = = After disbanding ( 1985 ? 1992 ) = = =

After Mercyful Fate broke up in 1985 , King Diamond , along with Michael Denner and Timi Hansen , formed the eponymous King Diamond band . Both Denner and Hansen stayed with the group until 1987 's Abigail , after which both left King Diamond . They were replaced by Mike Moon and Hal Patino , respectively , and King Diamond continued releasing albums even after Mercyful Fate had reformed . After leaving King Diamond , Michael Denner opened up a recordshop in Copenhagen , until 1988 , when he formed the band Lavina ( which would later become Zoser Mez ) , along with

former bandmate Hank Shermann . Hank Shermann had formed the hard rock band Fate in 1985 , after having left Mercyful Fate . With Fate , Shermann released two albums : 1985 's Fate and 1986 's A Matter of Attitude . After leaving the band , Shermann joined @-@ up with Michael Denner to form Lavina .

During the time Mercyful Fate were disbanded , Roadrunner Records released three Mercyful Fate compilation albums . The Beginning was released on June 24 , 1987 , and featured material from the band 's 1982 self @-@ titled EP , as well as rare live and studio recordings . On May 12 , 1992 , Return of the Vampire was released , which was another compilation of rare studio recordings . On October 6 , 1992 , Roadrunner released A Dangerous Meeting ; a split @-@ release featuring material from both Mercyful Fate and King Diamond .

= = = Reunion ( 1992 ? 1999 ) = = =

In 1993 , King Diamond , Hank Shermann , Michael Denner and Timi Hansen reunited to reform Mercyful Fate ( drummer Kim Ruzz was replaced by Morten Nielsen ) . The result was the album In the Shadows , which was released on June 22 , 1993 , through Metal Blade Records . The album also featured a guest appearance by Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich ( a fellow Dane ) , on the track " Return of the Vampire " . For the album 's supporting tour , Morten Nielsen was replaced by King Diamond drummer Snowy Shaw , due to a knee injury Nielsen had sustained . Bassist Timi Hansen was also replaced by Sharlee D 'Angelo , as Hansen did not want to take part in touring . On June 27 , 1994 , the band released The Bell Witch , an EP of live tracks , as well as studio recordings from In the Shadows .

On September 25 , 1994 , Mercyful Fate released the album Time , which was recorded and mixed at the Dallas Sound Lab during May ? August 1994 . After the album 's release drummer Snowy Shaw was replaced by Bjarne T. Holm for the Time Tour . Holm had originally been asked to join Mercyful Fate back in 1981 , but had declined due to prior commitments . The band spent January through February 1996 recording and mixing the album Into the Unknown , which was released on August 20 , 1996 . After the album 's release , guitarist Michael Denner left the band and was replaced by Mike Wead . In October 1997 , Mercyful Fate began recording the album Dead Again at the Nomad Recording Studio in Carrollton , Texas . Dead Again was released on June 9 , 1998 . In February 1999 , Mercyful Fate began recording the album 9 , which was released on May 15 , 1999 .

= = = Recent activity ( 1999 ? present ) = = =

After the supporting tour for 9 , Mercyful Fate was put on hiatus . King Diamond focused on his eponymous band , along with guitarist Mike Wead , who joined the group during the European House of God tour . Hank Shermann and Bjarne T. Holm reunited with Michael Denner to form Force of Evil , while Sharlee D 'Angelo joined the band Arch Enemy . When asked about the current state of the band in 2008 , Diamond stated that Mercyful Fate is currently " hibernating " , and that " it 's definitely not finished , at least in my book . " In August 2008 , King Diamond was asked by Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich if Mercyful Fate would be willing to participate in Activision 's Guitar Hero : Metallica video game . Ulrich requested the original masters for two of the band 's songs , so they could be used in the game . Unable to locate them , Diamond suggested to Activision the band re @-@ record the songs , and as a result , King Diamond , Hank Shermann , Michael Denner , Timi Hansen and Bjarne T. Holm reunited to re @-@ record the songs " Evil " and " Curse of the Pharaohs " . King Diamond was also made into a playable character in the game .

On December 7 , 2011 , King Diamond , Hank Shermann , Michael Denner and Timi Hansen reunited onstage at Metallica 's 30th Anniversary concert , at the Fillmore in San Francisco , California , where they , alongside Metallica , performed Metallica 's " Mercyful Fate " medley from Garage Inc .

= = Style and legacy = =

Mercyful Fate were a part of the first wave of black metal , along with other groups , such as Venom , Bathory and Hellhammer . Many of these groups helped establish the style upon which future black metal artists would later build . Unlike the other first wave bands , typical elements of Mercyful Fate 's style are influences from progressive rock , epic 1970s hard rock and traditional heavy metal . As many of the band 's songs featured lyrics about Satanism and the occult and King Diamond was among the first black metal musicians to use the now famous corpse paint , Mercyful Fate was a pioneer in developing black metal , although their musical style was not as much an influence as that of other first wave bands .

Various musicians have cited Mercyful Fate as an influence . Kerry King , the guitarist for the thrash metal band Slayer , has stated , that he and Jeff Hanneman were big fans of Mercyful Fate when Slayer recorded the album Hell Awaits , so much so that the album was very influenced by Mercyful Fate . Fellow thrash metal band Metallica recorded a medley of Mercyful Fate songs on their 1998 Garage Inc. cover album . Since then , the band has performed the song various times live with several members of Mercyful Fate .

= = Members = =

= = = Timeline = = =

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Melissa ( 1983 )

Don 't Break the Oath ( 1984 )

In the Shadows ( 1993 )

Time ( 1994 )

Into the Unknown ( 1996 )

Dead Again ( 1998 )

9 ( 1999 )