

= Thin Lizzy =

Thin Lizzy are a rock band formed in Dublin , Ireland in 1969 . Two of the founding members , drummer Brian Downey and bass guitarist and vocalist Phil Lynott , met while still in school . Lynott assumed the role of frontman and led them throughout their recording career of twelve studio albums . Thin Lizzy 's most successful songs , " Whiskey in the Jar " , " Jailbreak " and " The Boys Are Back in Town " , were all major international hits . After Lynott 's death in 1986 , various incarnations of the band have emerged over the years based initially around guitarists Scott Gorham and John Sykes , though Sykes left the band in 2009 . Gorham later continued with a new line @-@ up including Downey .

Lynott , Thin Lizzy 's de facto leader , was composer or co @-@ composer of almost all of the band 's songs , and the first black Irishman to achieve commercial success in the field of rock music . Thin Lizzy boasted some of the most critically acclaimed guitarists throughout their history , with Downey and Lynott as the rhythm section , on the drums and bass guitar . As well as being multiracial , the band drew their members not only from both sides of the Irish border but also from both the Catholic and Protestant communities during The Troubles . Their music reflects a wide range of influences , including blues , soul music , psychedelic rock , and traditional Irish folk music , but is generally classified as hard rock or sometimes heavy metal . Rolling Stone magazine describes the band as distinctly hard rock , " far apart from the braying mid @-@ 70s metal pack " .

AllMusic critic John Dougan has written that " As the band 's creative force , Lynott was a more insightful and intelligent writer than many of his ilk , preferring slice @-@ of @-@ life working @-@ class dramas of love and hate influenced by Bob Dylan , Van Morrison , Bruce Springsteen , and virtually all of the Irish literary tradition . " Van Morrison , Jeff Beck and Jimi Hendrix were major influences during the early days of the band , and later influences included the pioneering twin lead guitars found in Wishbone Ash and American artists Little Feat and Bob Seger .

In 2012 , Gorham and Downey decided against recording new material as Thin Lizzy so a new band , Black Star Riders , was formed to tour and produce new releases such as the All Hell Breaks Loose album . Thin Lizzy plan to reunite for occasional concerts .

= = History = =

= = = Pre @-@ history = = =

Two of the founding members of Thin Lizzy , bass guitarist and vocalist Phil Lynott and drummer Brian Downey , first met while at school in Dublin in the early 1960s . Lynott , born 20 August 1949 in West Bromwich , England to an Irish mother Philomena (1930 ?) and Guyanese father Cecil Parris (1925 ? 2010) , was brought up in Dublin from the age of three . Downey , born 27 January 1951 , is a Dublin native . Lynott joined a local band , The Black Eagles , as vocalist in 1963 , and Downey was recruited as their drummer in 1965 . In 1967 , Lynott was asked to join Skid Row by bass guitarist Brush Shiels , who brought teenage Belfast guitarist Gary Moore (4 April 1952 ? 6 February 2011) into the band early in 1968 . After a disappointing television appearance in June 1969 , Shiels fired Lynott , although they remained on good terms and Shiels subsequently taught Lynott to play bass guitar . Lynott then formed Orphanage with Downey on drums after Downey 's previous band , Sugar Shack , had split .

Guitarist Eric Bell , born in Belfast on 3 September 1947 , began his career playing in local bands such as The Deltones , Shades of Blue and The Bluebeats , and the last incarnation of Them to feature Van Morrison , between September and October 1966 . Bell later moved to Dublin and joined an Irish showband named The Dreams , but left in 1969 with a view to forming a rock band . An acquaintance of Bell 's , Belfast organist Eric Wrixon (29 June 1947 ? 13 July 2015) , also a former member of Them , had also moved to Dublin and joined the showband circuit , but had similar plans to progress towards rock music .

== = Early years (1969 ? 72) = = =

In December 1969 , Bell and Wrixon met by chance in a pub in Dublin and found that they shared similar ideas of forming a band , and decided to visit the Countdown Club where they saw Lynott and Downey perform with Orphanage . Lynott was not playing bass guitar at this time , but Bell was particularly impressed by Downey , and introduced himself to Lynott and Downey during a break . When Bell asked if they would consider forming a band together , Downey was initially sceptical , but both men were aware of Bell 's musical reputation . They agreed on condition that Lynott play bass guitar as well as sing , and that the band would perform some of Lynott 's compositions . Wrixon was also included as organist , making the initial line @-@ up a quartet .

The band 's name came from a character in The Dandy called Tin Lizzie , which they adjusted to Thin Lizzy as a playful reference to the local dialect , in which " thin " would be pronounced as " t 'in " . For some of their early gigs , the band were mistakenly promoted as " Tin Lizzy " or " Tin Lizzie " .

In July 1970 , the band released a single , " The Farmer " / " I Need You " , on EMI with the B @-@ side written by John D 'ardis , who owned Trend Studios where the single was recorded . The single sold just 283 copies and is now a collectors ' item . Wrixon left the band before the single 's release , meaning there was a greater share of income for the three remaining members . He moved to mainland Europe before returning to Belfast , rejoining his old band , Them . Wrixon died on 13 July 2015 .

By the end of the year , Thin Lizzy were signed to Decca Records and they travelled to London in January 1971 to record their debut album , Thin Lizzy . The album sold moderately well but did not chart in the UK despite airplay and support from influential DJs John Peel and Kid Jensen .

Around March 1971 , the band permanently relocated to London , before the release of the unsuccessful " New Day " EP in August . Despite poor sales , Decca agreed to finance the band 's second album Shades of a Blue Orphanage , released in March 1972 . Like the previous LP , the songs were filled with Lynott 's personal anecdotes and references to his life in Dublin and the people he knew there . Musically the style was Celtic , with little warning of the hard rock direction that the band were to take in the future . Again , the album did not chart in the UK .

In mid @-@ 1972 , Thin Lizzy were asked to record an album of Deep Purple covers , which was released under the title Funky Junction Play a Tribute to Deep Purple . No mention was made of Thin Lizzy on the record . Vocals and keyboards were handled by members of another band , Elmer Fudd , and a few instrumental tracks composed by the band were also included on the album . The album was released in January 1973 .

== = " Whiskey in the Jar " (1972 ? 74) = = =

In late 1972 , the band embarked upon a high @-@ profile tour of the UK with Slade , who were enjoying a string of hit singles at the time , and Suzi Quatro . Around the same time , Decca released Thin Lizzy 's version of a traditional Irish ballad , " Whiskey in the Jar " , as a single . The band was angry at the release , feeling that the song did not represent their sound or their image , but the single topped the Irish chart , and reached no . 6 in the UK in February 1973 , resulting in an appearance on Top of the Pops . It also charted in many countries across Europe . However , the follow @-@ up single , " Randolph 's Tango " , was a return to Lynott 's more obscure work , and it did not chart outside Ireland .

The band 's next album , Vagabonds of the Western World , was released in September 1973 to positive reviews , but again failed to chart . The accompanying single " The Rocker " also found little success outside Ireland , and the momentum gained from their hit single was lost .

Eric Bell suddenly left the band on New Year 's Eve 1973 after a gig at Queen 's University Belfast , due to increasing ill @-@ health and disillusionment with the music industry , and young ex @-@ Skid Row guitarist Gary Moore was recruited to help finish the tour . Moore stayed until April 1974 ; the band recording three songs with him in that time , including the version of " Still in Love with You " that was included on the fourth album Nightlife .

With the departure of Moore , Lynott decided to expand the line @-@ up with two guitarists , and recruited two temporary members to complete a tour of Germany in May 1974 . These were ex @-@ Atomic Rooster and Hard Stuff guitarist John Cann , and Berlin @-@ born Andy Gee , who had played with Peter Bardens and Ellis . Neither was considered as a permanent member , as Lynott and Cann did not get on well personally , and Gee was under contract to another record label . The tour was ended early , and with Thin Lizzy 's contract with Decca coming to an end , a disillusioned Downey quit the band and had to be begged to return .

Auditions were held for new members , and Lynott and Downey eventually settled on Glaswegian guitarist Brian Robertson who was only 18 years old at the time , and Californian Scott Gorham . The new line @-@ up gelled quickly , dropped most of the old songs when they played live , and secured a new record deal with Phonogram , but the resulting album Nightlife was a disappointment for the band due to its soft production and underdeveloped style . Robertson described Ron Nevison 's production as " pretty naff " and Gorham said the record was " ridiculously tame " . Like the previous three albums , it failed to chart .

= = = " The Boys Are Back in Town " (1975 ? 77) = = =

In early 1975 , Thin Lizzy toured the United States for the first time , in support of Bob Seger and Bachman ? Turner Overdrive . When BTO toured Europe later in the year to support their hit single " You Ain 't Seen Nothing Yet " , Thin Lizzy again accompanied them on what was a very high @-@ profile tour . They then recorded the Fighting album , which became the first Thin Lizzy album to chart in the UK , reaching no . 60 , although the singles still did not chart . Opening with Seger 's " Rosalie " , the album showed the first real evidence of the twin guitar sound that would lead the band towards their greatest successes , particularly with the dual harmonies of " Wild One " and both guitarists ' soloing on " Suicide " .

After a successful multi @-@ band tour in support of Status Quo , the band recorded the album Jailbreak , which proved to be their breakthrough record . Released on 26 March 1976 , it featured the worldwide hit " The Boys Are Back in Town " which reached no . 8 in the UK , and no . 12 in the US , their first charting record in that country . The twin guitar sound had been fully developed by this time and was in evidence throughout the album , particularly on the hit single , and other tracks such as " Emerald " and " Warriors " . The album also charted well on both sides of the Atlantic , and the follow @-@ up single , " Jailbreak " , also performed well . Thin Lizzy toured the US in support of various bands such as Aerosmith , Rush and REO Speedwagon , and they planned to tour there again in June 1976 , this time with Rainbow . However , Lynott fell ill with hepatitis and the tour was cancelled , which set them back a few months .

While Lynott was ill , he wrote most of the following album , Johnny the Fox . The album was recorded in August 1976 and the sessions began to reveal tensions between Lynott and Robertson ; for example , there was disagreement over the composition credits of the hit single " Don 't Believe a Word " . Lynott was still drawing on Celtic mythology and his own personal experiences for lyric ideas , which dominated Johnny the Fox and the other albums of Thin Lizzy 's successful mid @-@ 1970s period . The tour to support the album was very successful and there were further high @-@ profile TV appearances , such as the Rod Stewart BBC TV Special .

A further tour of the US was planned for December 1976 , but it had to be cancelled when , on 23 November , Brian Robertson suffered a hand injury when trying to protect fellow Glaswegian , singer and friend Frankie Miller in a fracas at the Speakeasy Club in London . Miller had been jamming onstage with the reggae band Gonzalez , but had been drunk , offending Gonzalez guitarist Gordon Hunte . Hunte attacked Miller with a bottle in the dressing room , and Robertson intervened , suffering artery and nerve damage to his hand . Robertson subsequently broke Hunte 's leg , broke the collarbone of another man , and headbutted another , before being hit on the head with a bottle , rendering him unconscious .

Robertson maintains that , contrary to reports at the time , he was not drunk and had only gone to the venue for a meal . Lynott was angry and replaced Robertson with Gary Moore for another tour of the States in January ? March 1977 , this time supporting Queen . The tour was a success and

Lynott asked Moore to stay on , but he returned to his previous band , Colosseum II . Robertson had not been sacked but was unsure of his position and made plans to start another band with Jimmy Bain of Rainbow . Before the American tour , Lynott had also invited Irish guitarist Jimi Slevin to " try out a few things " with Thin Lizzy , prompting speculation that the ex @-@ Skid Row member could replace Robertson .

Thin Lizzy flew to Canada in May 1977 as a trio to record Bad Reputation , with Gorham handling all the guitar parts . A month into the sessions Robertson joined them , in his own words , " as a session player " and in Lynott 's words , " as a guest " . Robertson added lead guitar tracks to three songs as well as rhythm guitar and keyboards , and was officially reinstated in July . The album was released in September and sold well , reaching no . 4 in the UK , after a successful single , " Dancing in the Moonlight (It 's Caught Me in Its Spotlight) " . Also in 1977 , Thin Lizzy headlined the Reading Festival .

= = = The return of Gary Moore (1978 ? 79) = = =

In 1978 , Lizzy released their first live album Live and Dangerous . There is some disagreement over just how much of the album is actually recorded live ? producer Tony Visconti claimed that the only parts that were not overdubbed were the drums and the audience . However Brian Robertson has disputed this , saying that he had refused Lynott 's request to re @-@ record a guitar solo , and that the only overdubs were backing vocals and some guitar parts by Gorham . He added , " It 's just not true . The only reason we said that it was recorded all over was obviously for tax reasons ... so everything that Visconti claims is bollocks . " Gorham concurs , stating that he attempted to re @-@ record a solo but could not recreate the live sound , adding , " I re @-@ did one rhythm track and a few backing vocals . But that 's it . " The album was a huge success , reaching no . 2 in the UK , and was ranked as the best live album of all time by Classic Rock Magazine in 2004 . But this success was overshadowed by the permanent departure of Robertson some time after a gig in Ibiza on 6 July 1978 , the disagreements with Lynott having developed to an impossible level . Robertson soon teamed up with Jimmy Bain to front their new band , Wild Horses .

Lynott replaced Robertson with Gary Moore again , and around this time the band loosely joined forces with Steve Jones and Paul Cook of the Sex Pistols , and also Chris Spedding and Jimmy Bain , to form The Greedy Bastards , who played a small number of gigs playing a varied selection of songs . In this way Lynott was able to align his band with the punk movement and avoid being tagged as a ' dinosaur ' as many other 1970s rock bands had been .

In August the band began another tour of the US , followed by a trip to Australia and New Zealand . Brian Downey did not accompany them , having contracted pneumonia and preferring to spend some time in Ireland . He was replaced for the tour by American drummer Mark Nauseef . On their return , Downey rejoined the band and at the beginning of 1979 they recorded Black Rose : A Rock Legend in Paris . The sessions were marked by the increasing drug habits of Lynott and Gorham , and the general presence of drugs around the band . This also showed in the subject matter on the album , in songs such as " Got to Give It Up " . Celtic influences remained , however , particularly in the album closer " Róisín Dubh " , a seven @-@ minute medley of traditional Irish songs given a twin guitar rock veneer . Two singles , " Waiting for an Alibi " and " Do Anything You Want To " , were successful , and the album reached no . 2 in the UK . A third , moderately successful single , " Sarah " was Lynott 's ode to his new @-@ born daughter .

However , on 4 July 1979 , Gary Moore abruptly left Thin Lizzy in the middle of another tour of the US . Years later , Moore said he had no regrets about walking out , " but maybe it was wrong the way I did it . I could 've done it differently , I suppose . But I just had to leave . " He subsequently pursued his solo career , releasing several successful albums . He had collaborated with Lynott and Downey on his 1978 album Back on the Streets and the hit single " Parisienne Walkways " before leaving Thin Lizzy , and in 1985 he and Lynott teamed up again on the UK no . 5 hit single " Out in the Fields " . Gary Moore died of a heart attack in Estepona , Spain on 6 February 2011 , aged 58 .

After Moore 's departure , Thin Lizzy continued the tour for a few nights as a trio before Lynott brought in Midge Ure to replace him on a temporary basis . Ure had prior plans to join Ultravox , but

had co @-@ written a song , " Get Out of Here " , with Lynott on Black Rose : A Rock Legend , and agreed to help Thin Lizzy complete their touring commitments . He also contributed guitar parts for The Continuing Saga of the Ageing Orphans , a compilation album of remixed and overdubbed versions of Eric Bell @-@ era tracks . On their return to the UK , the band were to headline the Reading Festival for the second time on 25 August 1979 , but had to cancel due to the disruption within the line @-@ up .

Before a tour of Japan beginning in September , Lynott decided to bring in another guitarist , Dave Flett , who had played with Manfred Mann 's Earth Band , to enable Ure to switch to playing keyboards where necessary . The tour was completed successfully , but the line @-@ up now contained two temporary members , and Lynott was spending a lot of time on projects outside Thin Lizzy , including composing and producing material for other bands , as well as putting together his first solo album , Solo in Soho . Lynott also reactivated The Greedy Bastards , who released a one @-@ off Christmas single , " A Merry Jingle " , in December 1979 as simply The Greedies . With the group now composed of Lynott , Gorham and Downey with Sex Pistols Jones and Cook , the single reached no . 28 in the UK .

= = = Later years and break @-@ up (1980 ? 83) = = =

While Lynott searched for a permanent guitarist , he and the other members of Thin Lizzy , past and present , worked on Solo in Soho which was released in April 1980 , and the next Thin Lizzy album , Chinatown . Lynott got married on 14 February , and his wife gave birth to a second daughter in July . Dave Flett had hoped to be made a permanent member of Thin Lizzy but Lynott chose Snowy White , who had played with Pink Floyd and Peter Green . Midge Ure was still acting as a temporary keyboard player at gigs during early 1980 , but was replaced by Darren Wharton in April , shortly after White joined the band . Wharton was only 17 at the time and was initially hired on a temporary basis . This new line @-@ up completed the Chinatown album between short tours , and two singles were released from it . The first , " Chinatown " , reached no . 21 in the UK , but the second , " Killer on the Loose " , reached the top 10 amid much adverse publicity due to the ongoing activities of serial killer Peter Sutcliffe , known as " The Yorkshire Ripper " .

Chinatown was finally released in October 1980 , and reached no . 7 in the UK , but by this time Thin Lizzy albums were not even reaching the top 100 in the US . After a successful tour of Japan and Australia , the band undertook what was to be their final tour of the US in late 1980 . At the beginning of 1981 , Lynott began work on his second solo album , using Thin Lizzy members among a large group of backing musicians . Around the same time , the band were recording material for the next Thin Lizzy album , and as before , the sessions seemed to merge to the extent that musicians were not always sure which album they were working on . Producer for the Thin Lizzy sessions , Chris Tsangarides , stated , " The feeling of confusion was in the air in that sometimes nobody knew if they were working on a Phil solo record or a Lizzy album . " Snowy White had previously felt that , as a member of Thin Lizzy , he should have been paid as a session player to appear on Lynott 's solo recordings .

In April 1981 , the band 's first ' greatest hits ' album was released , and The Adventures of Thin Lizzy reached no . 6 in the UK , although a stand @-@ alone single , " Trouble Boys " , only reached no . 53 , the band 's worst chart placing since 1975 . According to White and Wharton , Lynott was the only person who wanted to release it , and nobody else liked the song . " Trouble Boys " had even been pencilled in as the title for the new album , but the single 's chart failure resulted in the song being dropped from the album and the title changed to Renegade . One highlight for the band at this time was headlining the first @-@ ever Slane Castle concert on 16 August , with support from Kirsty McColl , Hazel O 'Connor and U2 .

Lynott 's second solo album , The Philip Lynott Album , was delayed until 1982 while Renegade was completed and released in November 1981 . Renegade was not successful , only reaching no . 38 in the UK and no . 157 in the US . A single , " Hollywood (Down on Your Luck) " , also flopped , although it did reach no . 24 on the US Mainstream Rock chart . Despite only two songs from the album being written solely by Lynott , and other members of the band contributing more to the

compositions , both Gorham and Wharton have since stated their dissatisfaction with some of the songs , such as " Angel of Death " , " Fats " and " Mexican Blood " . Wharton was omitted from the band photos on the back of the record sleeve , despite the fact that he was by this time a permanent member of the band . " It hurt me a great deal " , he said .

= = = Thunder and Lightning = = =

The beginning of 1982 was marred by both Downey and Gorham having to take breaks from the European tour to recover from personal problems . Downey was involved in a fight in a nightclub in Denmark in February , and Gorham was suffering from drug @-@ induced exhaustion . Downey missed five concerts , and was replaced by Mark Nauseef again for three of them , and by Mike Mesbur of support band The Lookalikes for the other two . In March , Gorham collapsed and returned home ; eight concerts were performed as a quartet and six others were postponed .

Later in the year , Lynott went on a solo tour and released his second solo album , which did not sell particularly well . Snowy White left the band in August 1982 , having tired of the disorganised schedules and Lynott 's drug problems , although by his own admission he was too restrained and quiet to fit in well with his more raucous bandmates . White went on to achieve top ten chart success in the UK with his single " Bird of Paradise " in 1983 . Long @-@ time co @-@ manager Chris O 'Donnell also left at this time , later stating , " A once @-@ brilliant band was turning to crap before my very eyes . "

Lynott wanted to find a replacement for White before starting to record the next album , which would turn out to be the band 's last . By September 1982 , he had settled on John Sykes who had been a member of Tygers of Pan Tang , and he co @-@ wrote the first single from the album , " Cold Sweat " , although the rest of the album had already been written . Thunder and Lightning was released in March 1983 , and was much more successful than its predecessor , reaching no . 4 in the UK . Sykes ' presence had rejuvenated the band musically , the composing credits were evenly shared , and the style had grown much heavier , veering towards heavy metal .

The tour to support the album was to be a farewell tour , although Lynott was not convinced that this would be the end of the band . Sykes wanted to continue , although Gorham had had enough . The tour was successful , and some concerts were recorded to compile a live album . Partway into the tour , many of Thin Lizzy 's past guitarists were invited onstage to contribute to some of the songs they had originally recorded , the only exception being Snowy White . The album was released in October 1983 as *Life* , which included an older performance of " Renegade " featuring White , and reached no . 29 in the UK . The tour continued while two more singles were released , the last of them , " The Sun Goes Down " , only reaching no . 52 in August . Lynott also undertook another solo tour , accompanied by Downey and Sykes , under the name of The Three Musketeers .

After a difficult leg of the tour in Japan , where some members of the band had difficulty obtaining heroin , Thin Lizzy played their final UK concert before their break @-@ up at the Reading Festival on 28 August 1983 , which was eventually released in 1992 as their BBC Radio One Live in Concert album . The last concert came in Nuremberg on 4 September , at the Monsters of Rock festival , after which the band members went their separate ways .

= = = Post @-@ Thin Lizzy projects and tributes (1985 ? 96) = = =

Before the end of 1983 , Phil Lynott formed a new band called Grand Slam , but they were never able to secure a contract with a record company and split by the beginning of 1985 . Sykes and Downey initially agreed to be a part of the band , but Sykes joined Whitesnake and Downey also changed his mind . Lynott began to focus more on his solo career and enjoyed a no . 5 hit single " Out in the Fields " with Gary Moore in May 1985 . The song , composed by Moore , was taken from his solo album *Run for Cover* featuring various contributions from Lynott . Lynott 's solo efforts did not fare so well , and his last single , " Nineteen " , only reached no . 76 in the UK .

Before his death , Lynott was planning a third solo album , and had spoken to Downey about a

possible reformation of Thin Lizzy around March 1986 , with Gorham and Sykes , and had booked studio time for January of that year . However , he died in hospital in Salisbury , Wiltshire , on 4 January 1986 , aged 36 , having suffered from internal abscesses , pneumonia and septicaemia , brought on by his drug dependency , which led to multiple organ failure .

On 17 May , Thin Lizzy reformed for the Self Aid concert , with a line @-@ up of Gary Moore , Downey , Gorham , Wharton and Bob Daisley on bass . Bob Geldof and Moore handled most lead vocals , though various singers got onstage for " Whiskey in the Jar " . A compilation album , Soldier of Fortune , was released in 1987 , and also that year , the " Vibe for Philo " tribute concert in Lynott 's memory was organised by Dublin DJ and promoter Smiley Bolger , which continues on an annual basis on the anniversary of Lynott 's death .

The remaining members of Thin Lizzy did not work together until the recording of the single " Dedication " in October 1990 , when a rough demo of Lynott 's was worked into a finished song to commemorate the fifth anniversary of his death . The song dated from the Grand Slam days and had been originally written with guitarist Laurence Archer . Modern recording techniques were used to replace the guitar and drum tracks with new work by Downey and Gorham . Gary Moore had agreed to participate as well , but ultimately did not do so . The song charted in the UK at no . 35 during early 1991 , and no . 2 in Ireland , and featured on another greatest hits compilation album , Dedication : The Very Best of Thin Lizzy , released in February of that year , which reached no . 8 in the UK album chart . However , a follow @-@ up reissue of " The Boys Are Back in Town " only reached no . 63 in the UK , although it peaked at no . 16 in Ireland .

Following this , numerous small reunion projects began to appear . In 1991 , a line @-@ up featuring Robertson and Downey performed with Bobby Tench on lead vocals , ex @-@ Grand Slam member Doish Nagle on guitar and Doug Brockie on bass . They toured Ireland briefly with a series of " An Evening of Thin Lizzy " concerts . In August 1994 , Downey , Bell , Robertson and Wharton held a tribute concert in Wolverhampton , together with tribute bands Limehouse Lizzy , Ain 't Lizzy and Bad Habitz . Another version of Thin Lizzy was formed later that year by John Sykes (now also performing lead vocals) with Downey , Gorham and Wharton , and with bass parts played by Marco Mendoza , who had played with Sykes in Blue Murder from 1991 ? 93 . The tour was advertised as a tribute to Phil Lynott . This line @-@ up also played at the Vibe for Philo gig on 4 January 1996 , with a number of other notable musicians including Eric Bell , Midge Ure , Henry Rollins , Therapy ? and Joe Elliott and Rick Savage from Def Leppard .

In 1994 , a collection of Thin Lizzy tracks from the BBC Radio 1 Peel Sessions was released , and yet another compilation album was brought out in 1996 , called Wild One : The Very Best Of Thin Lizzy . This was successful , although strangely it did not feature the title track , " Wild One " .

On 20 August 1996 , Rude Awakening bassist Robert Ryder held " A Celebration of the Life of Philip Lynott " at the Palace in Hollywood , California at the request of Lynott 's mother , Philomena , to commemorate both Phil Lynott 's birthday and the tenth year of his passing . Philomena Lynott , her partner Dennis Keeley , and Smiley Bolger (Ireland 's Vibe for Philo promoter) were flown to Los Angeles by Ryder to make a personal appearance at the show . It featured concert performances by Rude Awakening , Billy Sheehan , Rudy Sarzo , John Norum , Carmine Appice , Phantom Blue , Soma , producer Roy Z and his band the Tribe of Gypsies , Mark Ferrari , Oslo , Bang Tango , Stash , Iron Cross and Irish singer @-@ songwriter Mark Dignam .

= = = Thin Lizzy without Lynott (1996 ? present) = = =

= = = = 1996 ? 2010 = = = =

In 1996 John Sykes decided to reactivate Thin Lizzy , presenting the band as a tribute to Phil Lynott 's life and work . He decided to take on the role of lead vocals himself in the absence of Lynott , and persuaded Scott Gorham , Brian Downey and Darren Wharton to return to the fold . To complete the line @-@ up , Marco Mendoza continued in Lynott 's role as bass player . They received criticism for using the Thin Lizzy name without Lynott being present , but the band only played hits from Thin

Lizzy 's back catalogue , and did not compose any new material .

In 1997 , Tommy Aldridge filled in on drums when Brian Downey was unable to , and became a full member when Downey left shortly thereafter . This line @-@ up remained stable through to 2000 , when the group recorded a live album , One Night Only . The band went on to tour the US playing clubs in early 2001 , but Wharton had already left the band by the time of the tour . From 2000 to 2003 , Mendoza toured with Ted Nugent , and with Whitesnake in 2004 . Sykes released two solo albums in the gap in between 2002 ? 03 , while Gorham worked with his band 21 Guns .

Wharton later stated that Thin Lizzy would have been better suited to playing fewer concerts , in bigger venues . He also felt that after the experience of fronting his own band Dare , it was not satisfying enough to play keyboards behind Gorham and Sykes . Sykes said that all the previous Thin Lizzy members were welcome to play with Thin Lizzy at any time .

In 2004 , Thin Lizzy worked together again , with Sykes and Gorham bringing in ex @-@ Angel bassist Randy Gregg , and drummer Michael Lee , who had played with Robert Plant and The Cult among others . They toured in North America in both the winter and then the summer as special guests of Deep Purple . This line @-@ up proved temporary however , with Mendoza returning in 2005 , and Aldridge returning in 2007 . There were no plans for a new album though Thin Lizzy continued to tour . At the London Hammersmith Apollo concert of 13 December 2007 , the line @-@ up was Sykes , Gorham , Aldridge and Francesco DiCosmo on bass .

Sykes stated that Thin Lizzy was now " more of a tribute thing " and that it would be wrong to record new material under that name . He added that while the existing band members might record together , it would not be as Thin Lizzy . In 2007 , Gorham said that Lynott still received the biggest cheer of the night at concerts , and that the current Thin Lizzy was not active simply for money . " We 'd stop if we thought we were just going through the motions ... I think that has a lot to do with the songs ? if they were inferior , then maybe we would have got tired of it all . But they 're not and we haven 't , " he said . In January 2011 , Gorham maintained that Lynott would have approved of the continuation of the band : " He worked long hours and travelled thousands of miles to get it to a certain level . There 's no way he would have said ' No @-@ one should play those songs again . ' " .

It had been announced that Thin Lizzy , along with The Answer , were to support AC / DC at stadium shows in England , Ireland and Scotland at the end of June 2009 , but these appearances were cancelled after drummer Aldridge broke his collarbone in an accident . On 30 June , the band 's website announced that Sykes had left Thin Lizzy and all shows for the rest of 2009 were cancelled or postponed . Gorham stated that he would announce Thin Lizzy 's future plans shortly . In a statement , he said , " It 's been a very tough time of late for myself and the band , firstly with drummer Tommy Aldridge 's injury and now the subsequent decision for John and the rest of the group to go their separate ways . I can only apologise to everyone who has supported us over the years , but we will be back up to full speed soon . "

= = = = 2010 ? 17 : Ricky Warwick era and Black Star Riders = = = =

In September 2009 , Gorham began to assemble a new version of Thin Lizzy , and in May 2010 a new line @-@ up was announced . Joining Gorham was original drummer Brian Downey , long @-@ standing keyboardist Darren Wharton , Def Leppard guitarist Vivian Campbell , and singer Ricky Warwick from The Almighty , while Marco Mendoza returned to fill the bass guitar role . Ex @-@ Lizzy guitarist Brian Robertson was asked if he wanted to participate but had previous commitments to his own solo career .

In addition to a full UK and European tour beginning in January 2011 , the band initially announced a concert for 4 January at the O2 Arena in Dublin , which was in conflict with the 2011 " Vibe for Philo " . The tour itself started on 6 January at the Music Hall Aberdeen in the UK , with the band finishing the tour in The Olympia , Dublin on 17 February 2011 , having cancelled the O2 show .

It was announced in April 2011 that Vivian Campbell would have to leave Thin Lizzy to rejoin Def Leppard after one final gig on 28 May . He was replaced by Guns N ' Roses guitarist Richard Fortus . On 28 August , it was announced that Damon Johnson of Alice Cooper 's band would be replacing Fortus for Thin Lizzy 's tour of the US with Judas Priest . Fortus returned to tour with Guns N ' Roses

for the rest of the year , and Johnson has since replaced Fortus permanently .

In March 2011 , Gorham told Billboard.com that Thin Lizzy may record a new album in the future , saying , " That 's the No. 1 question we 're getting from people ? are we gonna record some new material ? The fans seem to trust this line @-@ up , and I don 't blame them . We 've kind of jumped this emotional hurdle together . Ricky 's writing some fucking killer lyrics , and with the kind of talent that 's in Thin Lizzy now I think we can pull off a really cool set of tunes . At least it 's something that we can think about now , where before it wasn 't on the table . " On 25 June 2012 , Thin Lizzy were in the studio recording new material , although it was not clear how many songs would be recorded or released .

On 10 October 2012 , Thin Lizzy announced that the new material would not be released under the Thin Lizzy name , but would be released under a different name in due course . According to Gorham , this was " out of respect to Phil Lynott and the legacy he created " , though he confirmed that the new material would feature the classic Thin Lizzy sound . Ricky Warwick announced that the group would cease regular touring as Thin Lizzy at the end of 2012 , but that this did not necessarily mean they would never play as Thin Lizzy again .

On 20 December 2012 , Gorham announced that the new material would be recorded under the name of Black Star Riders , and that Downey and Wharton had chosen not to participate in the new band project . Downey has decided to take a break from touring , and Wharton will be working on his own band Dare , and a film project . It was also announced that in March 2013 , the band would tour Australia under the Thin Lizzy name , with Downey and Wharton , as the opening act on a triple bill with Mötley Crüe and Kiss . Gorham stressed that Thin Lizzy would still perform together occasionally : " We 'll still go out as Thin Lizzy . There are still certain big festivals that we will do . Thin Lizzy is still on the horizon , we will still go out and do that but in the meantime we have Black Star Riders that we are going to concentrate on also . "

On 19 January 2016 , it was announced that the band will perform a " half dozen or so " dates in mid @-@ 2016 and early 2017 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the band 's formation and the 30th anniversary of Lynott 's death . Two festival dates were initially revealed : the first will be the Ramblin ' Man Fair in Maidstone , Kent on 23 July 2016 , with the other being the Rock Legends Cruise in Fort Lauderdale , Florida on 19 ? 23 January 2017 . The lineup for these shows was to be Gorham , Warwick , Johnson and Wharton with Motörhead drummer Mikkey Dee initially confirmed as standing in for Downey . Further dates were announced soon afterwards , at the Monsters of Rock shows in Germany on 17 and 18 June 2016 , in Barcelona on 17 July , and the Skogsrojet Festival in Sweden on 6 August .

On 19 April it was announced that Dee would not be participating after all , and that Judas Priest drummer Scott Travis would be taking Downey 's place for all shows except Sweden on 6 August , when Europe drummer Ian Haugland will play . Also , Aerosmith bass guitarist Tom Hamilton was confirmed as Thin Lizzy 's bassist for these shows .

= = Other Thin Lizzy releases and tributes = =

A boxed set of four CDs of Thin Lizzy material was released in December 2001 as Vagabonds , Kings , Warriors , Angels . It contained all of the band 's major hits , and included some rare songs , such as the first single " The Farmer " , and single B @-@ sides . In 2004 and 2006 , two further greatest hits compilations were released , with 2004 's double CD Greatest Hits climbing all the way to No. 3 in the UK album chart .

On 19 August 2005 , Gary Moore staged a concert at the Point Theatre , Dublin , promoted as " The Boy Is Back in Town " . The concert was staged to mark the unveiling of a bronze statue of Lynott on Dublin 's Harry Street in the city centre . The performance also featured Brian Downey , Eric Bell , Brian Robertson and Scott Gorham , and included many classic Lizzy songs , such as " Whiskey in the Jar " , " Still in Love With You " , " Cowboy Song " , " Emerald " and " The Boys Are Back in Town . " A DVD of the concert was released as One Night in Dublin : A Tribute to Phil Lynott .

On 8 September 2008 , a 15 @-@ track album UK Tour ' 75 was released featuring the band

performing at Derby College on 21 November 1975 . The album includes a 20 @-@ page booklet of previously @-@ unseen photos , liner notes written by Brian Downey and extra material of the band jamming during their soundcheck .

In March 2009 , VH1 Classic Records issued the band @-@ authorised Still Dangerous : Live At The Tower Theatre Philadelphia , 1977 , a live CD recorded on the Bad Reputation tour . It was produced by Gorham and Glyn Johns , and Johns also mixed the record . It reached No. 98 in the UK chart . Gorham has suggested there will be further archival releases in the future .

On 24 January 2011 , Universal Music issued remastered and expanded editions of Jailbreak , Johnny the Fox and Live and Dangerous . Jailbreak and Johnny the Fox are double CD editions with the second disc containing outtakes , BBC session recordings and newly remixed versions of two of that particular album 's tracks . Live and Dangerous also comes as a double CD set , with two bonus tracks which are both unused live recordings . Previous CD editions of Live and Dangerous were single discs .

Universal followed this with remasters of Bad Reputation , Black Rose and Chinatown , and in early 2012 , Nightlife and Fighting . Finally , Renegade and Thunder and Lightning were remastered and re @-@ released in 2013 .

= = Style and legacy = =

From 1974 , Thin Lizzy switched from using one lead guitarist to two . Though others had earlier used similar techniques , Thin Lizzy are widely recognised as one of the first hard rock bands to employ double lead guitar harmony sound ? a technique pioneered by Peter Green 's Fleetwood Mac and Wishbone Ash in the UK , whilst independently in the US by Lynyrd Skynyrd and The Allman Brothers Band . This style was later refined and popularised in the mid @-@ 1970s by bands like Thin Lizzy and Judas Priest , and later by the emerging new wave of British heavy metal groups such as Iron Maiden and Def Leppard . Iron Maiden covered the song " Massacre " from Thin Lizzy 's Johnny the Fox album , and released it on their 1988 single " Can I Play with Madness " . A cover of Cowboy Song appears on Sound of White Noise by Anthrax as the bonus track for the album 's Japanese release .

Thin Lizzy are also a major inspiration for modern heavy metal bands such as Metallica , Alice in Chains , Mastodon and Testament . Mastodon covered Thin Lizzy 's classic " Emerald " , which was included as a bonus track for the Japanese release of their album Remission . They have played the song live several times , including an acoustic version with Scott Gorham on guitar . Henry Rollins has expressed a fondness for Thin Lizzy , and the Rollins Band covered their song " Are You Ready ? " on their album Get Some Go Again (2000) . The 2005 release from The Great Divide included a cover of " Cowboy Song " in two parts . Megadeth covered Thin Lizzy 's " Cold Sweat " on their 2013 release , Super Collider .

= = Band members = =

= = Discography = =

Thin Lizzy (1971)
Shades of a Blue Orphanage (1972)
Vagabonds of the Western World (1973)
Nightlife (1974)
Fighting (1975)
Jailbreak (1976)
Johnny the Fox (1976)
Bad Reputation (1977)
Black Rose : A Rock Legend (1979)
Chinatown (1980)

Renegade (1981)

Thunder and Lightning (1983)