

= Ian Gillan =

Ian Gillan ( born 19 August 1945 ) is an English singer and songwriter . He originally found commercial success as the lead singer and lyricist for Deep Purple .

Initially influenced by Elvis Presley , Gillan started and fronted several local bands in the mid @-@ sixties , and eventually joined Episode Six when their original singer left . He first found widespread commercial success after joining Deep Purple in 1969 . After an almost non @-@ stop workload , during which time he recorded six albums in four years , and problematic relationships with other band members , particularly guitarist Ritchie Blackmore , Gillan resigned from the band in June 1973 , having given a lengthy notice period to their managers .

After a short time away from the music business , he resumed his music career with solo bands the Ian Gillan Band and Gillan , before a year @-@ long stint as the vocalist for Black Sabbath . He rejoined a reformed Deep Purple in 1984 , but was fired in 1989 . He rejoined the band for a second time in 1992 for their twenty @-@ fifth anniversary , and following the recruitment of guitarist Steve Morse in 1994 , has helped transform the group into a regular touring outfit , which he has fronted ever since .

In addition to his main work ? performing with Deep Purple and other bands during the 1970s and 1980s ? he sang the role of Jesus in the original recording of Andrew Lloyd Webber 's rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar , performed in the charity supergroup Rock Aid Armenia , and engaged in a number of business investments and ventures , including a hotel , a motorcycle manufacturer , and music recording facilities at Kingsway Studios . More recently , he has performed solo concerts concurrently with his latter career in Deep Purple , and his work and affinity with Armenia , combined with his continued friendship with Tony Iommi since his brief time in Black Sabbath , has led him to form the supergroup WhoCares with Iommi . His solo career outside of Deep Purple was given a comprehensive overview with the Gillan 's Inn box set in 2006 .

= = Early life = =

Gillan was born on 19 August 1945 at Chiswick Maternity Hospital . His father , Bill , was a storekeeper at a factory in London , who came from Govan , Glasgow and left school at 13 , while his mother , Audrey , came from a family where she was the eldest of four children , who all enjoyed music and singing , and whose father ( Gillan 's grandfather ) had been an opera singer and amateur pianist . His sister , Pauline , was born in 1948 . One of Gillan 's earliest musical memories was of his mother playing " Blue Rondo a la Turk " on the piano .

He grew up moving between council flats before settling in a three @-@ bedroom semi @-@ detached on a council estate in Cranford , Hounslow , he was fond of animals in his early life , and enjoyed reading the comic strips of Dan Dare . His parents separated after Audrey discovered Bill had had an affair that started while he was stationed in the army during World War II . He began attending Hounslow College and stayed there through his early teenage years . He was influenced by Elvis Presley by hearing his records at home and at the local youth club . He switched to go to Acton County Grammar School ( now Acton High School ) to take his O Levels , where he was in the same class as Pete Townshend , but became distracted from studies after leaving the local cinema having watched a Presley film , deciding that he wanted to be a rock 'n'roll singer . He subsequently took a job manufacturing ice machines in Hounslow .

= = Career = =

= = = Early years = = =

Gillan 's first attempt at a band was called Garth Rockett and the Moonshiners , and consisted of himself on vocals and drums , alongside guitarist Chris Aylmer , who later went on to work with Bruce Dickinson . The band covered songs such as Tommy Roe 's Sweet Little Sheila and the

Shadows ' Apache . He discovered he couldn 't sing and play drums at the same time , so settled on the role of lead vocalist , performing regularly at St Dunstan 's Hall , the local youth club . He soon switched to another local band who also played at Dunstan 's Hall , Ronnie and the Hightones , who renamed themselves as the Javelins after he joined . The band played covers of Sonny Boy Williamson , Chuck Berry , Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard , and were early customers of then @-@ local music shop owner Jim Marshall . The Javelins disbanded in March 1964 , with guitarist Gordon Fairminer leaving to join what eventually became the Sweet .

After the Javelins , Gillan joined a soul band , Wainwright 's Gentlemen , which included another future Sweet member , drummer Mick Tucker . The band recorded a number of tracks including a cover of The Hollies hit " Ain 't That Just Like Me " . Although the band played several local popular music venues , they did not find success , so in April 1965 , he decided to join Hatch End based Episode Six .

= = = Episode Six = = =

Gillan had been contacted by Episode Six 's manager Gloria Bristow , who worked for Helmut Gordon , original manager of The Detours , later to become the Who . He replaced original lead singer Andy Ross , who left to get married , and joined keyboardist and singer Sheila Carter , guitarists Graham Carter and Tony Lander , bassist Roger Glover and drummer Harvey Shields . Gillan considers Episode Six to be his first truly professional band , and in their early days were sponsored and championed by Tony Blackburn , who occasionally accompanied Gillan on stage . Later , as well as performing concerts in the UK , Episode Six also toured Germany and Beirut . , and had regular appearances on the BBC Light Programme . During his time with Episode Six , Gillan began writing songs together with Glover , forming an ultimately long lasting partnership . After a strained tour of Beirut , Shields left the band and was replaced first by John Kerrison , then by Mick Underwood . Underwood had previously played in The Outlaws with Ritchie Blackmore , and it was via him that Ian was put in touch with to form Deep Purple in 1968 . Gillan originally declined the position of lead singer in the band , though by 1969 , after having released nine singles , none of which charted in the UK , and finding their style of music too restrictive for him , he decided to leave Episode Six .

= = = Deep Purple , 1969 ? 73 = = =

By spring 1969 , Deep Purple had had a top 5 US hit with " Hush " , but the band , particularly Ritchie Blackmore , Jon Lord and Ian Paice , decided their future lay in hard rock , rather than the psychedelic pop sound of the early band . On 4 June 1969 , Blackmore , Lord and Paice went to see Episode Six perform at the Ivy Lodge Club in Woodford , and subsequently offered Gillan the job as new lead singer , asking him if he also knew any good bassists . Since Glover was by this point a reasonably experienced songwriter , having penned several Episode Six B sides , he was also recruited . They were both accepted into the band on 16 June 1969 , replacing singer Rod Evans and bassist Nic Simper respectively . The old line up of Deep Purple continued to do several concerts until the end of the month , whereupon Evans and Simper were both fired by managers Tony Edwards and John Colletta after their last show on 4 July .

Gillan made his first onstage appearance with Deep Purple at the Speakeasy in London 's West End on 10 July . As the band had only been rehearsing for a few weeks , they relied on older instrumentals such as " Wring That Neck " and " Mandrake Root " to fill in a set . Unsure of what to do , Gillan found a pair of congas onstage , and decided to play them during these instrumental sections . The congas would subsequently become a trademark of his live performances with the band .

Deep Purple Mk.II continued rehearsing at Hanwell Community Centre . One of Gillan 's first notable contributions to the band during these rehearsals was the vocal melody and lyrics to " Child in Time " . At Hanwell , the band wrote what would eventually become most of In Rock during 1969 , though were interrupted in September to perform Lord 's Concerto for Group and Orchestra , a one

off performance in September at the Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra . Gillan , along with Blackmore , was initially unhappy at having to perform the concerto , and wrote the lyrics to the second movement on the afternoon of the performance on a napkin in an Italian restaurant .

In 1970 , Gillan received a call from Tim Rice , asking him to perform the part of Jesus on the original 1970 album recording of Jesus Christ Superstar , having been impressed with his performance on " Child in Time " . After rehearsing a few times with Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber , he recorded his entire vocal contributions in three hours . He was subsequently offered the lead role in the 1973 film adaptation . Gillan demanded to not only be paid £ 250 @, @ 000 for his role in the movie , but also insisted , without the consent of his manager , that the entire band be paid because filming would conflict with a scheduled tour . The producers declined , instead casting Ted Neeley in the Jesus role , and Gillan continued on in the band .

After 1971 , particularly after the release of Fireball , Gillan started to become disillusioned with the workload of the band , who had not had any holiday since their initial rehearsals at Hanwell . He started drinking , and relationships between him and the rest of the band became strained , particularly with Blackmore . On 6 November 1971 , he collapsed with hepatitis while waiting to board a plane in Chicago , cancelling the remainder of a US tour .

By December 1972 , having recorded Machine Head , Made in Japan and the yet to be released Who Do We Think We Are with Deep Purple , Gillan finally decided the workload had driven him to exhaustion . Unlike some band members , he was unhappy about Made in Japan , and disliked live albums in general . He tended to go into the studio after the rest of the band had recorded and finished the backing tracks , particularly for Who Do We Think We Are , to lay down his vocals separately . He had been continually at loggerheads with Blackmore , disagreeing about music regularly , which culminated in Gillan writing " Smooth Dancer " about him . While on tour in Dayton , Ohio , he sat down and wrote a resignation letter to the band 's managers , stating he intended to leave the band , effective from 30 June 1973 . He was replaced by David Coverdale .

== = Post @-@ Purple == =

After his departure from Deep Purple , Gillan retired from performing to pursue various unsuccessful business ventures . These included a £ 300 @, @ 000 investment in a hotel near Oxford . A second was the Mantis Motor Cycles project , which suffered from the collapse of the British motorcycle industry in the mid @-@ 1970s , culminating in Gillan being forced to file for liquidation . A more successful opportunity , however , came with his investment in Kingsway Studios in 1974 , This led to a live performance at the Butterfly Ball on 16 October 1975 , replacing Ronnie James Dio at the last minute . Encouraged by his reception there , he decided to resume his musical career .

== = Ian Gillan Band == =

In 1975 , Gillan formed the Ian Gillan Band with guitarist Ray Fenwick , keyboardist Mike Moran , quickly replaced with Mickey Lee Soule and then Colin Towns on keyboards , Mark Nauseef on drums and John Gustafson on bass . Their first album , Child in Time was released in July 1976 , followed by Clear Air Turbulence in April 1977 and Scarabus in October . The sound of the band had a distinct jazz @-@ rock aspect which , although interesting to Gillan , proved unpopular , particularly since punk rock was in vogue at that time .

== = Gillan == =

Gillan then formed a new band , simply called Gillan , retaining Towns ( who would co @-@ write most of the material ) , and adding guitarist Steve Byrd , bassist John McCoy and drummer Pete Barnacle . Byrd and Barnacle were quickly replaced by Bernie Torme and by former Episode Six bandmate Mick Underwood , after Gillan saw Torme playing with his punk trio . This band had a

more high powered hard rock sound , and the release of Mr. Universe in October 1979 saw Ian Gillan back in the UK charts , although the independent record company the album came out on ? Acrobat Records ? folded soon after the album was released , prompting a contract with Richard Branson 's Virgin Records .

In Christmas 1979 , Gillan was visited by Blackmore , who offered him the position of lead vocalist in Rainbow . Gillan declined due to the smaller workload the band had compared to his own . However , the pair did jam together for three nights at Marquee Club ? the first time the two men had shared a stage since 1973 .

Gillan continued , releasing Glory Road in 1980 , which contained the hit single " Trouble " , and resulted in the band making the first of several appearances on Top of the Pops . He considered the album to be his best work since Machine Head nearly a decade earlier . Following subsequent album Future Shock , Torme was fired after missing an appearance on Top of the Pops , and was replaced by Janick Gers . Gers appeared on the band 's next two albums , Double Trouble and Magic .

In 1982 Ian Gillan announced the band would fold , as he needed to rest his damaged vocal cords . The tone and style of his singing changed considerably when he eventually returned . His voice had a more nasal tone and this can be heard on albums he has made from 1983 to the present day . His use of multi @-@ tracked backing vocals also became highly prominent . The rest of the band Gillan , particularly McCoy and Towns , were not happy at the sudden disbanding of the group so soon after the success of Magic , and sued Gillan for royalties .

= = = Black Sabbath = = =

In 1983 , manager Don Arden invited Gillan to join Tony Iommi , Geezer Butler and Bill Ward , all founding members of Black Sabbath , to form a supergroup . Although the band had reservations , on 6 April 1983 , it was formally announced that Gillan had replaced Ronnie James Dio in Black Sabbath . The group recorded the album Born Again at the Manor Studios in Oxfordshire . Citing health problems , Ward decided not to accompany the others during the subsequent tour , and was replaced by Bev Bevan .

As a member of Black Sabbath , Gillan was required to learn their old repertoire , but had difficulty remembering the words . He eventually came up with a solution of writing the lyrics out on a perspex folder , and balancing it on a wedge monitor , turning the pages with his feet . Unfortunately , the dry ice on stage made it impossible to read the words , resulting the audience witnessing glimpses of him peering over the microphone to sing a few lines , then disappearing below the dry ice to read the next set . As well as material from Born Again , and older Sabbath numbers , the band regularly played Deep Purple 's " Smoke on the Water " as an encore .

Gillan was largely dissatisfied with his brief stint in Sabbath , notably the final mix of Born Again ( though he liked the songs and their original mixes ) , and its cover , which featured a demonic @-@ looking baby . He was quoted in Kerrang ! in 1984 as saying , " I looked at the cover and puked . " In an interview supporting Deep Purple 's reformation in 1984 , he stated of Born Again , " They had sent me a box of records . And , when I saw the cover , and heard the mix , I smashed every single one of them to pieces . " Born Again also received mostly negative reviews from the critics upon its release but was appreciated by several fans and other musicians who covered some songs from the album .

= = = Reunion of Deep Purple , 1984 ? 89 and 1992 ? present = = =

After the disappointment of Black Sabbath , Gillan joined a reunited Deep Purple in April 1984 , announcing their comeback on Tommy Vance 's radio show . The reformed band rehearsed in Stowe , Vermont , and recorded the album Perfect Strangers , followed by a world tour . Another studio album with this formation , The House of Blue Light followed in 1987 , but Gillan was concerned with the final results , stating " There 's something missing in the overall album . I can 't feel the spirit of the band . "

This was followed by the live album *Nobody's Perfect* in 1988 . The live album also featured a studio re-recording of the 1968 hit " Hush " with Gillan on vocals , to commemorate Deep Purple 's 20th anniversary . ( The original 1968 release had been sung by Rod Evans ) . Gillan later remarked that the album was " the embodiment of all the things wrong with Purple . "

In contrast to his experiences with Deep Purple in the 1970s , Gillan felt frustrated that the band were no longer working enough . To fulfil his contract with Virgin , he formed a side project with Glover , writing and recording songs which didn't fit Purple 's established hard rock style , which resulted in the album *Accidentally on Purpose* . By 1989 , tensions between Gillan and Blackmore had resurfaced , due to the former 's greater enthusiasm for touring and differences over the music ? the song " Mitzi Dupree " on *The House of Blue Light* is the original demo as Blackmore refused to re-record it . This culminated in Blackmore calling a rehearsal session without Gillan . After an acrimonious argument , Glover told Gillan , " Ian , you 've gone too far this time , " and he was fired , to be replaced by former Rainbow vocalist Joe Lynn Turner for one Deep Purple studio album .

Gillan , meanwhile formed a new version of Garth Rockett and the Moonshiners with keyboardist Mark Buckle , bassist Keith Mulholland , drummer Louis Rosenthal and guitarists Harry Shaw and Steve Morris . The band toured regularly through 1989 , and recorded the album *Naked Thunder* . Gillan later expressed dissatisfaction with the album , calling it " rather hum-drum " . During this time , Gillan also made an appearance on a re-recording of " Smoke on the Water " with Rock Aid Armenia , consisting of himself , Bryan Adams , Tony Iommi , David Gilmour , Roger Taylor , Brian May , Bruce Dickinson and Paul Rodgers as a charity record for aid relief in Armenia following the then recent earthquake . He continued to tour with his solo band , albeit with several line up changes throughout Europe , the US and Russia .

At the urging of Glover , Lord and Paice , who wanted him in the fold for the band 's 25th anniversary tour , Gillan rejoined Deep Purple in 1992 to record the album *The Battle Rages On* . Gillan was unhappy with working on the album , as it had already been partially completed with Joe Lynn Turner , and he was only required to write replacement lyrics and vocal melodies , which , unsurprisingly , drew criticism from Blackmore . Part way through the tour for this album , Ritchie Blackmore left the band for good in November 1993 .

Gillan was especially enthusiastic about carrying on after Blackmore 's departure , and after a brief stint with Joe Satriani , Deep Purple recruited Dixie Dregs / Kansas guitarist Steve Morse . He was keen to make changes to the live set immediately , adding the then seldom played " Maybe I 'm a Leo " ( named after Gillan 's birth sign ) and " When a Blind Man Cries " ? the latter becoming a mainstay in the band 's setlist ever since . He said that their first album with Morse , *Purpendicular* , " was a such important record for Deep Purple that without that [ other records ] couldn't have been possible . " . Although the band has found more success touring than with producing records , Gillan remains the band 's singer to this day .

Gillan pays particular interest to the lyrics in Deep Purple , and considers it his prime composing role within the band . Discussing the importance of lyrics , he said " Words have to sound good . They have to sound like an instrument , they have to have the right percussive value . " He described the words of 2003 's *Bananas* as " politics mostly . " Since 2005 's *Rapture of the Deep* , Deep Purple has been touring continually . Gillan is particularly motivated to keeping the band touring , as he feels that regular live performance is required to keep his voice in shape , and enjoys the band 's improvisational skills , feeling that it keeps the performance " fresh " for fans .

" I haven't ever had any ambition in my life . I just drift from day to day with a stupid grin on my face . "

== Later Solo Activity ==

Though Gillan has kept touring with Deep Purple regularly since 1994 , he has found time to commit to other projects .

On 31 March 2006 Gillan appeared at the Tommy Vance tribute concert in London . He was accompanied by Roger Glover , Steve Morris , Dean Howard , Michael Lee Jackson , Harry James , Sim Jones and Richard Cottle .

In April 2006 Gillan released a CD / multimedia project to document his 44 @-@ year career called Gillan 's Inn . Tony Iommi , Jeff Healey , Joe Satriani , Dean Howard , as well as current and former members of Deep Purple such as Jon Lord , Roger Glover , Ian Paice , Don Airey and Steve Morse are featured on this 2006 CD and DVD . The project , produced by Nick Blagona , includes a re @-@ recorded selection of his Deep Purple , Black Sabbath and solo tracks . At the same time as Gillan 's Inn , Gillan announced that his solo albums with the Ian Gillan Band and Gillan from the 1970s and 1980s would be re @-@ issued late in 2006 and early 2007 through Demon Records .

Ian Gillan sang on two songs off the Jon Lord & Hoochie Coochie Men studio album , Danger . White Men Dancing , released in late 2007 .

On 2 April 2007 Gillan released a DVD Highway Star - A Journey in Rock . The DVD has 6 hours of footage including documentaries and music clips . This was followed in February 2008 by a double live album on Edel Records , Live in Anaheim that features Gillan and Deep Purple classic songs and several rarities . A companion DVD was released in May 2008 .

On 3 May 2008 Ian Gillan performed at the Jeff Healey memorial concert in Toronto , Canada . He had previously played live with Healey in Toronto in February 2005 .

He released a studio album entitled One Eye to Morocco in March 2009 .

In recent years Ian Gillan has been performing occasionally with orchestras in Europe singing mainly Deep Purple hits ( 2007 : Greece , 2008 : Italy , 2009 : Germany , Poland ) . During his visit in Poland , in August 2009 , Ian Gillan was presented with the plaque at the Gdansk Walk of Fame .

= = = WhoCares = = =

Gillan has expressed particular fondness for Armenia and has maintained popularity there since Rock Aid Armenia in 1989 , which has led to him forming the supergroup WhoCares as a side @-@ project to Deep Purple .

In May 1990 Gillan visited Armenia and played four concerts at the Karen Demirchyan Complex .

On 2 October 2009 , in honour of the 20th anniversary of Rock Aid Armenia , Gillan together with Tony Iommi , Geoff Downes , and the project organiser Jon Dee were received by the Prime Minister of Armenia who awarded them with the republic 's Orders of Honour .

On 26 and 27 March 2010 , in Yerevan , Gillan performed with State Philharmonic Orchestra of Armenia . At a press conference in Yerevan on 27 March , Gillan said he considers Armenia his spiritual motherland .

In 2010 , Ian Gillan met Tony Iommi , Nicko McBrain and Jon Lord , Mikko Lindström from HIM and Jason Newsted at a studio in London to finish recording a song called " Out of my Mind " , which was released 6 May 2011 . This is for the benefit of the music school to be built in Gyumri , Armenia ? a project Ian Gillan has been working on with others since his 1990 solo concerts in Yerevan .

On the flight back from Armenia in 2011 , after each receiving the Armenian Presidential medal of Honour , Gillan and Iommi decided to form the side project WhoCares for ad hoc recordings ( and possible performances ) dedicated to raising money for specific causes .

On 20 September 2013 Ian Gillan participated in the opening of the Octet Music School in Gyumri . The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America named Ian Gillan as its 2014 " Friend of the Armenians " and presented him the award at the 112th Diocesan Assembly in New York City .

= = = Non @-@ musical Side projects = = =

In 2010 Ian Gillan hosted a documentary about great Polish composer and pianist Fryderyk Chopin in Poland directed by Jerzy Szkamruk . Chopin 's Story is about the rise of artistic genius of the composer and documents his Polish years . The film has won several international awards , including the Best Documentary award at Tourfilm International Festival in Florianopolis , Brazil . It will be aired on Polish channel Discovery Historia on 21 June 2011 . A worldwide DVD release is also in the works .

= = Personal life = =

Gillan was in a relationship with Zoe Dean from 1969 to 1978 . They had known each other since his time in Episode Six .

In 1984 , Gillan married his girlfriend Bron , to whom he had dedicated " Keep It Warm " from Black Sabbath 's 1983 album Born Again . They have twice since renewed their marriage vows . Gillan has two children and three grandchildren , all of whom were brought up in Scotland . Gillan moved to southern Portugal in the late 2000s .

Gillan is a passionate football fan , supporting Queens Park Rangers . He is also a big fan of cricket . He is also known for his intolerance of aggressive crowd security personnel at concerts . On 15 August 1998 , he was charged with assault after striking a security guard on the head with a microphone .

His surname is sometimes misspelled as " Gillian " . Gillan himself made light of this in the lyrics to " MTV " , a track from Deep Purple 's 2005 album Rapture of the Deep , when he sang about " Mr. Grover ' n ' Mr Gillian " .

= = = Professional relationship with Blackmore = = =

Gillan was room @-@ mates with Ritchie Blackmore in the 1970s , but left the band in 1973 amid tensions with Blackmore and overall exhaustion . In a 2006 interview , Gillan said of Blackmore 's final 1993 departure from Deep Purple , " he turned into a really weird guy , and the day he walked out of the tour was the day the clouds disappeared and the day the sunshine came out and we haven 't looked back since . " He added that " there are certain personal issues that I have with Ritchie , which means that I will never speak to him again . Nothing I 'm going to discuss publicly , but deeply personal stuff . "

In March 2009 , Gillan claimed that prior to the 1993 reunion of the band , Blackmore had requested \$ 250 @,@ 000 be deposited in his bank account in order for him to continue with the reunion . The other members of the band did not receive anything . This claim was subsequently denied by Blackmore 's solicitor in a statement released soon after .

In August 2014 , he was quoted in Rolling Stone magazine as saying : " I don 't have an issue with Ritchie , nor does anyone . I 've been in touch with Ritchie recently and everything 's cool , so there 's no bitter , personal problem . We 're too old for that and everything 's in the past . " He did however add that if Deep Purple was chosen as one of the inductees of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame , it would be out of the question to have Blackmore play with the band again due to it being " disrespectful " to the current lineup of the band .

= = Selected discography = =

Prominent releases .