

Foreigner to get recognition in Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

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Associated Press

NEW YORK — This month, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame will rectify a wrong that many rock fans will celebrate with their fighters in the air — the band Foreigner will finally be welcomed in.

The English-American rockers — with hits like "Cold as Ice," "Hot Blooded" and "Waiting for a Girl Like You" — topped the charts in the 1970s and '80s but never made it into the hall — much less a ballot — until last year, despite being eligible for more than 20 years.

"It's just been a long wait and I know that we've done enough in our career to warrant induction," says Al Greenwood, keyboardist and a founding member. "I'm not bitter about it. I mean, we're finally getting in and that's great."

Foreigner, led by singer Lou Gramm and guitarist Mick Jones, recorded nine Top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 and six Top 10 albums on the Billboard 200, including "4," which spent 10 weeks in the top spot in 1981.

Foreigner were nominated for three Grammys and their songs have been heard on everything "Miami Vice" and "The Simpsons" to "Arrested Development" and "Stranger Things." Tone-Loc sampled "Hot Blooded" to create "Funky Cold Medina."

"We weren't the best looking

band in the world. We weren't the most dress-conscious band in the world. But Mick and Lou came up with some very, very strong songs and that's what's kept it going," bassist Rick Wills says. "Sixteen top 30 hits isn't too shabby."

The belated embrace by rock's establishment has a bittersweet taste, since original bassist Ed Gagliardi and multi-instrumentalist Ian McDonald have died and Jones has been sidelined by Parkinson's disease. The band will be inducted Oct. 19 in Cleveland.

The opening of the door for Foreigner coincided with a change in hall leadership in 2023 that led to key legacy acts getting invites, like Chet and Peter Frampton. Foreigner were among the top vote getters when the fans voted, nabbing almost 528,000 votes or 12.54%.

They'll join Mary J. Blige, A Tribe Called Quest, Kool & the Gang, Ozzy Osbourne, Dave Matthews Band, the late Jimmy Buffett, MC5, Dionne Warwick, Alexis Korner, the late John Mayall and Big Mama Thornton in the class of '24.

"I think a lot of the talent that is in this class has been waiting on the outside as well as Foreigner," says Greenwood. "I'm just so thankful that I'm in this class with such incredible talent."

The band got a public push from Jones' son-in-law Mark



TAYLOR JEWELL, INVISION

From left, Thom Gimbel, Michael Bluestein, Mick Jones, Kelly Hansen, Jeff Pilson and Bruce Watson of Foreigner pose for a portrait Jan. 20, 2017 during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Ronson, who recruited musical friends such as Paul McCartney, Dave Grohl, Slash, Jack Black and the Red Hot Chili Peppers' Chad Smith.

Foreigner in their heyday offered varied songs — the ballad "I Want to Know What Love Is" is very different from "Urgent" — but many have endured to become the backbone of classic rock playlists. A new line-up — dubbed Foreigner 2.0 — attract tens of thousands a night on tour.

Jones started the American-British band in 1976 in New York City, selecting each of its members, the first being Greenwood, who he'd never met. The keyboardist was invited to jam with Jones in a storage area of the band's manager's office.

But Greenwood soon grew disillusioned by the lack of progress over two weeks and decided to tell Jones he was going back to his own band.

"I'm about to go up to Mick and

Mick comes in and says, 'I've got this song!' And he starts playing 'Feels Like the First Time' on guitar. And I go, 'Wow, I think we got something here,'" he says laughing. "Thankfully, I did not leave."

The fledgling band's four-song demo — which included a raw version of "Feels Like the First Time" — was turned down by all the major record labels until music legend John Kalodner convinced Atlantic Records to reconsider.

Four hit albums in five years — "Foreigner," "Double Vision," "Head Games" and "4" — cemented the band's place in classic rock history but not in the Rock Hall. Members watched bands that used to open for Foreigner go in while they waited.

"I don't think any of us quite believed it because we thought, well, it was never going to happen," says Wills, who spent 12 years in Foreigner and then went into Bad Company.

Wills joined in 1979 after having worked with Frampton and Roxy Music. He was in New York and called Gramm because he heard Foreigner was looking for a new bassist. He was invited to their open auditions the next day. After Wills showed his chops on songs like "Double Vision" and "Hot Blooded," drummer Dennis Elliott announced he wanted Willis in the band. There were some 70 bassists still waiting to audition.

Control

From A1

A fully developed hurricane releases heat energy that is the equivalent of a 10-megaton nuclear bomb every 20 minutes — more than all the energy used at a given time by humanity, according to National Hurricane Center tropical analysis chief Chris Landsea.

And scientists are now finding many ways climate change is making hurricanes worse, with warmer oceans that add energy and more water in the warming atmosphere to fall as rain, said Chris Field, director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the En-

vironment.

"The amount of energy a hurricane generates is insane," said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach. It's the height of human arrogance to think people have the power to change them, he said.

But that hasn't stopped people from trying, or at least thinking about trying.

Jim Fleming of Colby College has studied historical efforts to control the weather and thinks humans have nowhere near the practical technology to get there.

He described an attempt in 1947 in which General Electric partnered with the U.S. military to drop dry ice from Air Force jets into the path of a hurricane in an

attempt to weaken it. It didn't work.

"The typical science goes like understanding, prediction and then possibly control," Fleming said, noting that the atmosphere is far more powerful and complex than most proposals to control it. "It goes back into Greek mythology to think you can control the powers of the heavens, but also it's a failed idea."

In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, the federal government briefly tried Project STORMFURY. The idea was to seed a hurricane to replace its eyewall with a larger one that would make the storm bigger in size but weaker in intensity. Tests were inconclusive and researchers realized if they made the

storm larger, people who wouldn't have been hurt by the storm would now be in danger, which is an ethical and liability problem, the project director once said.

For decades, the National Hurricane Center and its parent agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, have been asked about nuclear-bombing a hurricane. But the bombs aren't powerful enough, and it would add the problem of radioactive fallout, Corbosiero said.

Bringing cooling icebergs or seeding or adding water-absorbing substances are also ideas that just don't work, NOAA scientists said.

Failed historical attempts to

control hurricanes differ somewhat from some scientists' futuristic ideas to combat climate change and extreme weather. That's because instead of targeting individual weather events, modern geoengineers would operate on a larger scale — thinking about how to reverse the broad-scale damage humans have already done to the global climate by emitting greenhouse gases.

Scientists in the field say one of the most promising ideas they see based on computer models is solar geoengineering. The method would involve lofting aerosol particles into the upper atmosphere to bounce a tiny bit of sunlight back into space, cooling the planet slightly.

Helene

From A1

The Lookout Shoals Lake area was the most heavily impacted area in Catawba County, Catawba County Communications and Marketing Director Amy McCauley said.

Approximately 50 other homes across Catawba County have major structural damage due to the storm.

McCauley said the county received 2,152 emergency calls Sept. 26 and 27 as Helene came through the area.

One death in Catawba County was attributed to the storm. A 4-year-old was killed in a car crash on Sept. 26 during heavy rains prior to Hurricane Helene officially reaching Catawba County, McCauley said.

One road in Catawba County remains closed.

According to DriveNC.gov, a bridge along Finger Bridge Road sustained significant damage during the storm and will have to either be replaced or repaired before the road is reopened.

The rest area on Interstate 40 in Claremont was closed Monday due to lack of power and water, according to DriveNC.gov.

More than 27,000 were left without power in Catawba County during the storm, McCauley said. As of Monday, there were 15 customers without power in Catawba County, according to PowerOutage.us.

Alexander County reported 13 homes with structural damage following Hurricane Helene, Alexander County Public Information Officer Gary Herman said on Monday.

One of the homes was a

total loss. The most heavily impacted areas of Alexander County were in the western and northern sections, Herman said.

As of Monday, two roads remain closed in Alexander County. Black Oak Ridge Road is closed due to a damaged culvert. Friendly Church Road is closed due to downed trees and powerlines, Herman said.

Roughly 60% of Alexander County residents were without power at one point. Herman said 11,300 people was the peak number of residents without power due to the storm.

As of 11:30 a.m. on Monday, only one person remained without power in the county, according to PowerOutage.us.

No deaths or injuries were reported relating to the storm. Alexander County 911 Communications dispatched 580 calls

for assistance. The county received 190 emergency calls and 1,559 other calls throughout Sept. 26-27, Herman said.

Caldwell County

Caldwell County still is assessing damage to homes, according to Caldwell County Public Information Officer Paige Counts.

As of Monday morning, county inspectors had not visited some of the hardest-hit areas in Wilson Creek, Mortimer, Edgemont, Globe and Collettsville.

Counts said the county received 3,539 calls for service from the time a state of emergency was declared on Wednesday at noon through Friday. More than 1,800 of those were 911 calls.

Counts said the county communications center

typically answers 90 to 100 calls per day.

The donations center at 2145 Norwood St. in Lenoir is no longer accepting donations as of Monday afternoon, Counts said, because the center is full.

No fatalities have been reported in Caldwell County.

Over 600 customers were still without power in the county Monday afternoon, according to PowerOutage.us.

Six roads in Caldwell County remain closed due to Hurricane Helene, according to DriveNC.gov.

Brown Mountain Beach Road and Waterfalls Road are not expected to reopen until January 2025, according to DriveNC.gov.

Iredell County

Two families were displaced in Fredell County due to Hurricane Helene, Iredell

County Manager Beth Milton said.

A total of seven homes

were damaged due to the

storm.

None of the homes

were a total loss, Milton

said.

Milton said the Central

Fire region was the most

impacted in the county

due to flooded roads and

bridges.

The Central Fire

region is southeast of Love

Valley.

No deaths or injuries were

reported.

The Iredell County

Emergency

Communications

Center received a total

of 2,511 calls.

That number

includes non-emergency

calls and routine transfers,

Milton said.

Approximately 3,500

homes in Iredell County

were left without power,

Milton said.

As of Monday,

there were only six Iredell

County customers without

power, according to PowerOutage.us.

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