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GUITAR

5 SONGS

with bass lines!

BOB MARLEY

"One Love/People
Get Ready"

THE DOORS

"Hello, I Love You"

A DAY TO REMEMBER

"All I Want"

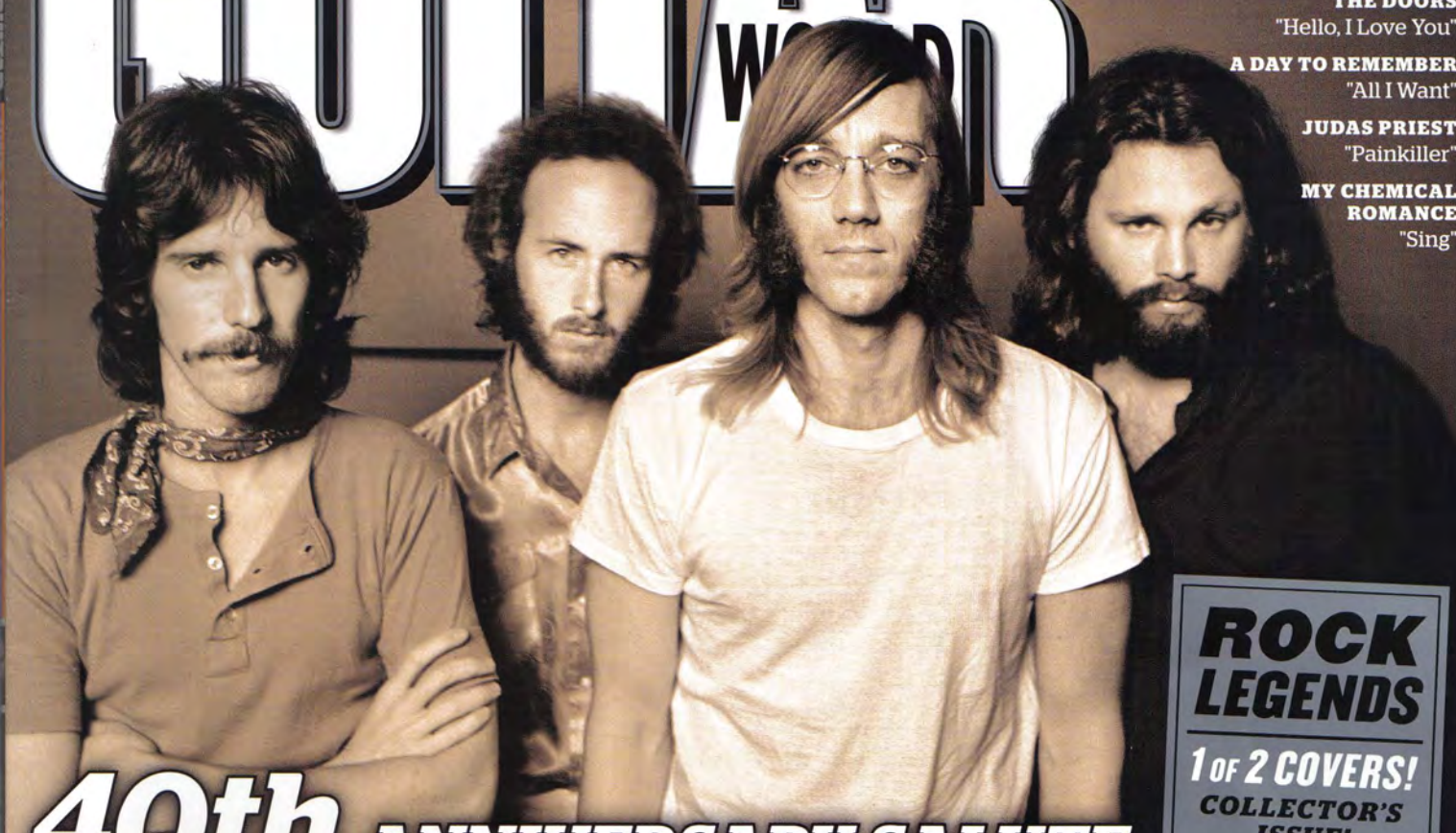
JUDAS PRIEST

"Painkiller"

MY CHEMICAL

ROMANCE

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(from left)
Hook, Churko
and Bathory

New Five Finger Death Punch Album Nears Completion

The heavy metallers are putting the finishing touches on their third album.

By JON WIEDERHORN Photo by FRED MORLEDGE

AFTER A YEAR on the road, most successful bands take a few months off before returning to work. Not Five Finger Death Punch. As soon as they finished touring with Godsmack in November 2010, lead guitarist Jason Hook and rhythm player Zoltan Bathory started working on the band's third album, the follow-up to 2009's Gold-certified *War Is the Answer*.

"When we were cleaning up the bus after the tour, Zoltan said, 'So, do you want to get together in a couple weeks and start working on stuff?'" Hook recalls. "And I was like, 'No, I'm ready to go now. Let's fuckin' rock.'"

The guitarists wrote more than 100 riffs by the end of the year, then spent an additional six weeks at drummer Jeremy Spencer's

home studio arranging them into nine songs that Hook says feature some of the band's heaviest staccato rhythms and most dynamic melodies. Ironically, the tunes were crafted in relative quiet. Hook and Bathory plugged into two-watt pocket amps while Spencer played a Roland V-Drums kit with the volume turned to three. Hook says, "Jeremy could hit his kit as hard as he wanted, and we could throw around ideas while he was playing without having to wear headphones."

In addition to the six bone crushers, Five Finger Death Punch penned two lighter songs reminiscent of their 2009 hit "Walk Away." The only track with a tentative title is "Coming Down," which Hook calls, "spooky and odd, with an acoustic passage."

In February, the band began tracking with producer Kevin Churko, who also recorded *War Is the Answer*. Hook has been using his Gibson Explorer and acoustics, a Taylor Baritone acoustic and an ESP George Lynch signature Kamikaze for leads. He runs everything through a Voodoo Amps Platinum Modified Marshall 1959SLP "Plexi" head, a Voodoo Amps DL Series 4x12 mono/stereo cab with Celestion Vintage 30s and G12T75s, and an EVH 5150 III amp head.

The band expects to finish recording by the end of April and deliver the album by the end of May. "We love being in the studio and we work really fast," Hook explains. "We're deadline oriented. We're all about getting shit done and making it good." □

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