

FM (British band)

FM (referred to as FMUK in North America) are a British rock band. They have released nine studio albums to date. Three of those, *Indiscreet*, *Tough It Out* and 2015's *Heroes and Villains* reached the UK Albums Chart, whilst five of the band's singles made inroads into the UK Singles Chart.

Career

FM was formed in the summer of 1984 in London. Comprising the ex-Samson pair of bassist Merv Goldsworthy and drummer Pete Jupp, the Overland brothers – vocalist/guitarist Steve and lead guitarist Chris Overland (both formerly of *Wildlife*) and keyboardist Philip Manchester (also known as Didge Digital), the band initially wrote six songs which by December 1984 had helped them secure a recording contract with the CBS/Portrait label. That same month the band set off on tour in Germany with Meat Loaf.

The first UK public appearance of FM (not to be confused with the Canadian band of the same name) was on Valentine's Day in 1985 at London's legendary Marquee Club. The debut album, *Indiscreet* followed and their debut single "Frozen Heart" was heard in many venues during 1986. FM hit the road in Europe supporting Tina Turner, Foreigner, Gary Moore, Status Quo and Magnum, also opening for REO Speedwagon at London's Hammersmith Odeon. At the year's end they accepted a spot with Bon Jovi on the UK leg of their *Slippery When Wet* Tour.

When CBS folded the Portrait label, FM switched to Epic. The Overland brothers went to the United States to write with Desmond Child, returning with the hard rock anthem "Bad Luck". Queensrÿche and Dokken producer Neil Kernon was engaged to oversee 1989's *Tough It Out*.

To promote *Tough It Out*, the band set out on a 42 date UK tour that saw them returning to the Hammersmith Odeon. Soon afterwards, Chris Overland decided to leave FM, his final performance taking place at the Town & Country Club. In his place, FM recruited Andy Barnett, a guitarist who had already been in a prototype line-up of the group, and had a co-writing credit for the *Indiscreet* song, "That Girl," which was later covered by Iron Maiden as a B-Side. His debut with the group was 1991's *Takin' It To The Streets*.

FM moved to another record label, Music For Nations, and Didge Digital left in late 1991. A cover version of Marvin Gaye's "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" was not a hit, but was followed by their next album, *Aphrodisiac*. They undertook a string of acoustic concerts in the winter of 1992.

With Europe and the Far East markets opening up for FM, a full-time keyboard appointment was made with Jem Davis (former Tobruk and UFO), joining the band. The arrangement was short-lived. After the release of *Dead Man's Shoes* in 1995, the band split up.

At Nottingham's Rock City venue on 27 October 2007 however, FM played together again in public for the first time in twelve years, headlining the sold-out Firefest festival. The reaction the band received to this one-off appearance led to the swift decision to make the reunion permanent. Guitarist Andy Barnett could not commit to long-term plans however and the band were disappointed to accept his resignation. At Steve Overland's suggestion Jim Kirkpatrick was recruited and he made his live debut with FM at a low-key show at Winstanley College (Wigan, UK) on 19 March 2009, followed by a more public appearance when FM headlined Firefest for a second time on October 2009. To coincide with this festival appearance FM released the new single "Wildside" as

part of an EP containing new recordings and live tracks. For the first time new recruit Jim Kirkpatrick was featured on record. The single was a taster of forthcoming new album, Metropolis.

Metropolis, FM's first new album since *Dead Man's Shoes* in 1995, was showcased at a sell-out launch party at The Roadhouse, Covent Garden, London in February 2010 and was released on 31 May 2010. Produced by the band, Metropolis met with critical acclaim and the two singles from the album - "Hollow" (released 17 May 2010) and "Bring Back Yesterday" (released 7 September 2010) each spent a month on the playlist at BBC Radio 2 and were playlisted on many other radio stations.

FM toured all over the UK in support of the album throughout 2010. Their live schedule included a set on the main stage at Download Festival as a late replacement for Ratt in June 2010 and a set on the main stage at Hard Rock Hell IV at Prestatyn in December. December also saw the return of an FM tradition with a 'Christmas Party' show at Islington Academy London.

FM started 2011 with a show at London's Hammersmith Apollo on 22 January with Thin Lizzy. The rest of the year saw the band return to many overseas strongholds of years gone by including headline shows in the Netherlands and Spain (their first ever live concert in that country); a show with D-A-D in Portugal; dates with Journey and Foreigner in Germany, Dublin and Belfast and appearances at major festivals such as Graspop in Belgium and Sweden Rock. They were also invited back to play at Download Festival again.

In January 2012 FM headlined the Sunday night Rock Stage at the Great British Rock & Blues Festival in Skegness and during March they staged three special concerts in Glasgow, Manchester and London to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the release of their debut album *Indiscreet*. These shows saw FM play *Indiscreet* live in its entirety for the first time ever as part of a full show and were commemorated by the release of the live in concert DVD *Indiscreet 25 Live* on 1 April 2013, filmed at the Manchester and London shows. In mid-August 2012 FM performed as Special Guests of Thin Lizzy at shows in Carlisle and *Belsonic 2012* in Belfast and followed this with the Special Guest slot on Thin Lizzy's UK tour in November/December 2012 alongside The Treatment. The nine-track mini-album *Only Foolin'* EP was released 26 November 2012 featuring a mix of new studio recordings and live tracks recorded at FM's "*Indiscreet 25Live*" shows earlier in the year.

In November 2012 FM announced their forthcoming seventh studio album would be released March 2013 with the title *Rockville* by launching a PledgeMusic campaign. Via PledgeMusic fans could pre-order the album along with pledging for other items such as a two-CD package to include *Rockville II* (a second CD of nine new tracks and a new recording of the song "High", originally released by Steve Overland and Pete Jupp under the SO! banner on the album *Brass Monkey*), Steve Overland's microphone, various items autographed by the band and VIP concert access.

FM held a press launch for *Rockville* at London O2 Academy 2 Islington on 6 March 2013 which was also attended by Pledgers via the band's PledgeMusic campaign. Following a playback of the album in full the band played a half-hour set of some of their crowd-pleasing anthems before a playback of *Rockville II*.

Rockville was released 11 March 2013 and debuted on the Official UK Rock Chart at #6, followed on 25 March by the release of *Rockville II* which had earned an official release of its own due to the amount of interest generated by its inclusion in FM's PledgeMusic campaign. On 15 March 2013 FM began a UK tour in support of *Rockville*. Special Guests for the first four dates on the tour were Vega

and Serpentine whilst It Bites and Vega were Special Guests for the second half of the tour.[6] The tour was followed on 6 April 2013 by a set at the inaugural HRH AOR festival which was held at Rotherham's Magna Science Adventure Centre on a bill which included Tesla, Danny Vaughn and past touring-mates Romeo's Daughter.

In June 2013 FM played at HiRock, a two-day festival held in Germany at Freilichtbühne Loreley and the Max Aicher Arena in Inzell. Other artists performing at HiRock included Toto, Rick Springfield, Whitesnake, Journey and Black Star Riders. Due to adverse weather conditions and extensive flooding in the surrounding area the second day of the festival at Inzell did not take place. On 27 July 2013 the band were Special Guests at Planet Rock's Steelhouse Festival in Wales followed the next day by a headline show at The River Rooms in Stourbridge with Toby Jepson performing an acoustic set as Special Guest. During June and July 2013 the band's single "Story Of My Life" from Rockville spent several weeks on the BBC Radio 2 playlist. In December Toby Jepson returned as Special Guest for FM's final headline appearance of the year at a sold-out The Box in Crewe and the band ended the year with a set on the main stage at Planet Rock's Planet Rockstock festival. Their single "Better Late Than Never" was added to the BBC Radio 2 playlist on 26 December 2013.

On the afternoon of Saturday 8 February 2014 FM headlined the 'Reds' stage at the Giants Of Rock festival in Minehead, also appearing were Elliott Randall, Molly Hatchet and Big Country. A large part of the original Friday line-up for this festival was cancelled, resulting in stage times throughout the rest of the weekend being re-scheduled.

During 2014 - in addition to writing and recording for their next release - FM toured across the UK with Foreigner and Europe during March / April 2014, with further European dates alongside Foreigner and a series of headline shows in the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Portugal taking them into May. To coincide with this tour FM released a new eleven-track EP entitled Futurama on 31 March 2014. Futurama includes four new studio tracks, six new live recordings and an extended mix.[

The second half of 2014 featured FM's 30th Anniversary celebrations. They headlined Cambridge Rock Festival on Saturday 9 August 2014 with Bernie Marsden joining FM onstage during the encore for a rendition of "Here I Go Again". Bernie Marsden joined FM again for the encore at The River Rooms in Stourbridge during their 30th Anniversary Tour in November. The tour also took in shows at Southampton, Cardiff, Bingley, Southend and Homfirth with special guests including Toby Jepson, Hand Of Dimes and Three Lions. A late cancellation by Vandenberg's Moonkings and a call from the Planet Rock festival organisers resulted in FM rounding off 2014 with a surprise appearance on the main stage at Planet Rockstock on Sunday 7 December.

FM released their ninth studio album Heroes and Villains via Frontiers Records on 20 April 2015 (UK / Europe) and 21 April 2015 (USA) and embarked on a UK tour in May] with Special Guests Romeo's Daughter and No Hot Ashes. The track "Shape I'm In" from the new album was added to the BBC Radio 2 playlist from Saturday 4 April 2015. Festival appearances in 2015 included Nantwich Jazz, Frontiers Rock Festival in Italy (FM's first-ever performance in Italy), Rock The Ring in Switzerland, Graspop Metal Meeting in Belgium, Netherlands festival Bospop, Team Rock's inaugural Ramblin' Man Fair in Maidstone, Steelhouse Festival in Wales and two festivals in Sweden at Skogsröjet in Rejmyre and Helgeåfestivalen in Knislinge. In November 2015 FM continued their European Tour with more UK dates followed by a co-headline run of shows in mainland Europe with Electric Boys.

Their last show of the year was headlining Planet Rockstock, the band's third appearance at the festival in three years.

FM's Heroes and Villains tour continues through 2016 with dates across the UK in January (Special Guests Romeo's Daughter, The King Lot, Bernie Marsden and No Hot Ashes). Scheduled festival appearances include The Great British Rock & Blues Festival (22 January), Rockweekend AOR in Sweden (20 February), Nantwich Jazz, Blues & Music Festival (26 March) and Sweden's Väsby Rock Festival (23 July). The band will also be Special Guests on Heart's "She Devils" UK tour in the summer of 2016, performing at London's Royal Albert Hall, Manchester O2 Apollo, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and Birmingham Symphony Hall.

Members

Current members

- Merv Goldsworthy - bass, backing vocals (1984-1995, 2007–present)
- Pete Jupp - drums, backing vocals (1984-1995, 2007–present)
- Steve Overland - lead vocals, rhythm guitar (1984-1995, 2007–present)
- Jem Davis - keyboards (1993-1995, 2007–present)
- Jim Kirkpatrick - lead guitar, backing vocals (2008–present)

Former members

- Didge Digital - keyboards (1984-1991)
- Chris Overland - lead guitar, backing vocals (1984-1990)
- Andy Barnett - lead guitar, backing vocals (1990-1995, 2007-2008)
- Tony Mittman - keyboards (1991-1993)