

## SKILLET

by Tamela Meredith Partridge  
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In a secular world of ever-changing beliefs, Christian alternative rock group, Skillet, remain sacredly anchored in God's constant guidance, love and acceptance.

"The one thing I have learned is that God has always been in control of my life and career," lead singer John L. Cooper said during a recent phone interview. "I just think that when we do well, it is because of Him. And when

things don't quite happen for us, it is because of Him. Even though this seems pretty simple, it is really quite a complex lesson I continue to learn every day."



Skillet and special tour guests, American Made and Stereo DeluXX, are scheduled to perform at The Door on Thursday, May 4, at 9 p.m

Ticket information is available by calling Russell Hobbs at 214-742-3667.

Skillet, originally formed in '96 as a all-male trio, has evolved into a four-member band consisting of Cooper, wife and keyboard player Korey Cooper, guitarist Kevin Haaland and drummer Lori Peters.

"We are a pop group living in an electronica-rock band's body," Cooper said. "We've tried pure pop or pure rock arrangements when writing new songs, but it never sounds right. For awhile it was frustrating, but now we realize that it all has to do with the plans God has for us. When we step out from ourselves and let God open the doors in our work, it always makes the most sense and brings out the best surprises."

Extensive touring over the past four years has garnered the innovative band four Dove award nominations, several No. 1 rock singles, a devoted fan base of self-proclaimed "panheads," and three albums.

"People think of our first album, **"Skillet,"** as our harvest record, because it was so raw," Cooper said. "Our second album, **"Hey You, I Love Your Soul,"** was when we went into the whole electronic thing. Our current album, **"Invincible,"** shows a bit of evolution with it's darker industrial side of things."

The Memphis-based band's eclectic blend of bold techno-sounds, driving rhythms and intense lyrics often inspire audiences with passionate moments of spiritual awakening and graphic submissions to God.

"I usually talk on stage about living for Jesus with everything in your life," Cooper said. "For those who are not Christians, that would mean realizing the full intensity of giving your life to Jesus. For those who are already Christians, it would mean getting to know more of Him, going a bit deeper and understanding He has much more for us to do. Whether people are Christians or not, these are the things we want people leaving our shows with."

Skillet's unique band name has all the elements of a blue-ribbon recipe.

"We had a history of all coming from different bands when we first got together," Cooper said. "With that in mind, our name was derived from the concept of cooking - taking different ingredients, sticking them in a big skillet and trying to cook up something entirely new."

Current endeavors for the electro-industrial rock quartet include promoting February-released third album, **"Invincible,"** and its two chart-topping singles *"The Best Kept Secret"* and *"Rest."*

"The whole idea for the "Invincible" album reminds me of the bible verse, Galatians 2:20," Cooper said. "It says, 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives within me. The life I live in the body, I live by the faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.' Christians are dead descends, and because we are alive in Christ, you can't stop what we stand for. Even if it does come to death, what we are about is so much bigger than our own lives."

At the core of Skillet's music is a desire for the listener to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and live for God's glory.

"God is so supreme that it keeps a healthy fear in me of His power," Cooper said. "As part of the Kingdom, believers should be powerful in sharing His truth - and that comes through in our music. We should be strong and present in the world - wherever we can make a difference. Because we are not really going to be out of here, are we? Someday we will rule with God, so we might as well start living like it."