

Flames of Fire Biography

Flames of Fire was formed in spring of 2021, but the story goes back to 1987.

In their hometown, Jönköping, **Christian Liljegren** and **Mats-Åke Andersson** met for the first time outside a burger chain called **O'Briens**.

Christian was then 16 years old and fronted the band **Venture** and Mats-Åke was 21, guitarist and composer in legendary local band called **Zaragon**.

Zaragon was active between 1984-1988 style-wise strongly influenced by **Rainbow**, **MSG**, **Iron Maiden** early **Europe**. They were close to a record deal but bad decisions and a bad management made nothing happen. Zaragon did some fine recordings with **Ragne & Styrbjörn Wahlqvist** from **Heavy Load**.

That meeting in 1987 had a great impact on both. It was the passion, fire and energy for the music, that really connected these hard rock & heavy metal lovers. Both watched the concerts in 1986-1987 with **Europe** and **Madison** – two bands they both loved, as well as **Yngwie Malmsteen's Rising Force**, **Michael Schenker**, **Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow**, **Iron Maiden & Alcatrazz**.

The meeting developed into a friendship that lasts until this day, even though the years went by, and a lot happened along the way.

Flames of Fire's self titled debut album from 2022 got very good feedback for their classic hardrock, and in 2023 the band is back with their second album "*Our Blessed Hope*".

Christian Liljegren and Mats Åke Andersson states that they love artists and bands like **Dio**, **Iron Maiden**, **Stryper**, **Rainbow**, **Sweet**, **Queen**, **Petra**, **2nd Chapter of Acts**, **Kayak**, **Kansas**, **Uriah Heep** and **Yngwie Malmsteen's Rising Force**, to name a few. Of course, you hear these influences on this album.

Sound and production are made by **Jani Stefanovic** from **Solution .45**, **The Waymaker**, ex. **Divinefire**.

The debut album sounded great and for the second studio album, "*Our Blessed Hope*", Jani had an important role as producer and graphic designer. He made the whole production for the album, close together with Christian Liljegren, who recorded all the vocals in **Melodic Passion Studios** in Eskilstuna, Sweden.

The sound has developed into a heavier, organic, more diverse classic hardrock and heavy metal sound, compared to the debut album.

Of course, the amazing twin guitars are still there, from Jani Stefanovic and guitarist **Stephen Carlson**. Stephen worked close with Christian on his solo album "*Melodic Passion*", as Stephen also is a good co-writer.

Per Schelander plays the bass, in the style of **Phil Lynott** and **Steve Harris**. He is also involved in **House of Shakira**, **Astrakhan**, ex. **Royal Hunt**, and **Pain of Salvation**. Per has worked with Christian on the "*Melodic Passion*"-album as well.

For this album, they had a killer team. And on top of that, to take things to the next level, the band was complete with **Alfred Fridhagen** on drums. Alfred has worked with Christian Liljegren and Jani Stefanovic in **The Waymaker** and **Golden Resurrection**.

Both Jani Stefanovic and Stephen Carlson are both very talented guitarist but also different styles, as Jani has a more modern approach, while Stephen is more into classic hard rock style from 1970-1980's with Christian Liljegren voice in the style **Ronnie James Dio**, **Bruce Dickinson**, **David Byron** and **Joey Tempest**, Flames of Fire make the sound unique and powerful with lots of passion and spirit in the music and lyrics.

Christian Liljegren, (vocalist and co-founder of Flames of Fire, vocalist for Narnia - one of the leading Christian Metal bands today) says:

- We live in a strange world with lots of turbulence right now and it is hard for us to navigate. I am just honest no one have ever blown my heart away like Jesus Christ since 1985. I will never hide it as you hear my strong Christian belief in all my lyrics and bands I have represented since late 1980's. Jesus Christ is a person that has been controversial since he walked on earth 2000 years ago and still is. Some believe He is God and some don't and Flames of Fire shares hope for the world with a heavenly dimension.

The distribution is handled worldwide by **Sound Pollution**, a close partner to Melodic Passion Records, the record label behind Flames of Fire, and partners in Japan, North and South America.

The metal circle is complete to reach out to the people with great heavy metal!

Line-up:

Christian Liljegren – Vocals
Mats-Åke Andersson – Guitars, composer
Jani Stefanovic – Guitars, keyboards & producer
Stephen Carlson – Guitars
Per Schelander – Bass
Alfred Fridhagen – Drums

Links:

Artist / EPK: <https://melodicpassion.com/artists/flames-of-fire/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/flamesoffireofficial>

Pre-order album: <https://melodicpassion.com/produkt/flames-of-fire-our-blessed-hope-cd-limited-first-pressing/>

Merchandise: <https://melodic-passion.myspreadshop.se/>