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Disturbed have announced an indefinite hiatus following one of the most turbulent years of their career, bringing a sudden pause to a band that once defined American metal's modern resurgence. The news was confirmed this week by guitarist Dan Donegan, who told fans that after "twenty-five years of intensity, we all need to breathe for a bit." While the break is being framed as temporary, the announcement follows months of public controversy that have left the future of the Chicago four-piece uncertain. Tension around the band escalated in mid-2025 when frontman David Draiman faced mounting backlash over politically charged social media posts and onstage comments during the Take Back Your Life tour. What began as spirited defences of free speech quickly spiralled into online conflict, alienating sections of Disturbed's fanbase and drawing criticism from the wider music community. At several North American shows, fans walked out during Draiman's monologues between songs, moments that had once been rallying cries but increasingly felt like rants. Promoters and festival organisers quietly distanced themselves from the band, and by August, the usually sold-out Disturbed arena machine was showing cracks. In an uncharacteristically reflective post last month, Draiman wrote, "Sometimes you've got to shut the world out before you lose the part of yourself that still believes in the music." That sentiment now reads like a precursor to this week's announcement. Dan Donegan's statement framed the decision as mutual and overdue, "We've been doing this non-stop since 1996. We've been brothers, we've been family, and sometimes family needs time apart to stay that way. There's no breakup. There's no drama. There's just life." The band's official channels echoed the message but stopped short of promising a return, saying only that the members "will reconnect when the time feels right." For a group that built its brand on unrelenting strength and defiance, the words "indefinite hiatus" mark a rare moment of vulnerability. Disturbed first broke through in 2000 with The Sickness, led by the now-iconic single Down With the Sickness. The album catapulted them from Chicago's club circuit to global stardom and remains one of the defining releases of the nu-metal era. Follow-up records Believe (2002), Ten Thousand Fists (2005), and Indestructible (2008) cemented their reputation for heavy riffs and rally-cry choruses. By the time Asylum arrived in 2010, Disturbed had achieved something few metal bands of their generation managed – consistent commercial success across a decade without compromising their sound. A previous hiatus between 2011 and 2015 saw the members explore side projects before reuniting for Immortalized, featuring their haunting cover of Simon & Garfunkel's The Sound of Silence, which reintroduced them to a broader audience and reignited their chart dominance. Their latest album, Divisive (2022), hinted at both the musical polish and the internal strain that has now surfaced. Its title now feels prophetic. While the break may only be temporary, Donegan's tone suggests the band's internal chemistry needs more than a few months to reset. Bassist John Moyer and drummer Mike Wengren are reportedly pursuing production and soundtrack work, while Draiman has hinted at a solo acoustic project. Whether Disturbed return to the studio in a few years or drift into legacy-act territory will depend on how their personal and public reputations recover from a bruising year. But if history has proven anything, it's that Disturbed have always found a way to re-emerge – louder, sharper, and unapologetically themselves. For now, the silence may be the band's most powerful statement. Stay updated with your free Noise11.com daily music news email alert. Subscribe to Noise11 Music News here Be the first to see NOISE11.com's newest interviews and special features on YouTube. See things first—Subscribe to Noise11 on YouTube Visit Noise11.com Follow Noise11.com on social media: Bluesky Instagram Facebook – Comment on the news of the day X (Twitter) Tagged as: American metal, band hiatus, Dan Donegan, David Draiman, Disturbed, Divisive, metal, music news, rock, The Sickness In a new interview with Nic and Big J of the Boise, Idaho radio station 100.3 The X Rocks, DISTURBED frontman David Draiman was asked about the "throwback" vibe of the band's new single, "I Will Not Break", which was released earlier this month. David said (as transcribed by BLABBERMOUTH.NET): "It wasn't intentional, that much I'll tell you. It came at the end of our recording session. It's one of the last songs we did. We were really on a roll. And I remember I had said to Danny [Dan Donegan, DISTURBED guitarist] and Drew [Fulk] and Mike [Wengren, DISTURBED drummer] — Drew's our producer — 'give me a beat that's a good old-fashioned, old-school head bob, something I can really lock in my polysyncopation on. Give me something old school.' And they did, and, boom, this came out. And it immediately spoke to us. It was a hell of a lot of fun to write and record the songs. Very empowering, very healing for me. It's a contrast to some of the darkness I was going through last cycle, and being able to celebrate coming out the other end." Draiman went on to say that there is plenty of new music on the way from DISTURBED. "We've got a lot of amazing new material we're gonna be releasing piece by piece over the course of the next year or two, culminating with the release of an actual record," he explained. "But we're gonna take our time with it. "These songs are — the problem we had in studio is that so many of them were so strong and so compelling that we had no shortage of single contenders," he continued. "In fact, we had too many. So we wanna try and give every baby its necessary growth period to be able to grow into a nice big adult song. "So it's nice, being able to feel that anticipation and the excitement of it. I can't wait," Draiman added. "There's definitely a lot of the meat-and-potatoes DISTURBED in the collection, but there's a couple surprises too, and I think people are going to be pleasantly surprised when they actually get to hear everything." "I Will Not Break" came out last Friday (February 21) via DISTURBED's own label, Mother Culture Records. The track marks DISTURBED's first new music since its acclaimed 2022 album "Divisive". "I Will Not Break" was helmed by producer Drew Fulk, also known as WZRD BLD (MOTIONLESS IN WHITE, LIL PEEP, HIGHLY SUSPECT),who previously worked with DISTURBED on "Divisive". Last week, Donegan spoke to Ryan McCredden of the I-Rock 93.5 radio station about the musical inspiration for "I Will Not Break". He said: "[That song] came late in the recording process. We were out in L.A. this past September, October and November, just getting the ball rolling. There was no really gameplan of a timeframe or deadline in any way. We had some time off the road with only a handful of shows last fall, so we said, 'Let's get back in the room and get things going again and see how the creative process goes.' And everything was going great. We wrote a bunch of material, tracked it all, and then 'I Will Not Break' kind of came late in the session. I just felt like I still had a lot left in me. And I was supposed to be tracking guitars for something else that day, and I just told my producer I felt really creative. I wanted to kind of go with this kind of old-school — I wanted to give something to David that was gonna hopefully trigger kind of that old-school delivery out of David. So we just kind of worked on this heavy groove, this beat, and I just started improvising over it, and as soon as the riff came around, we kind of all just looked at each other, like, 'That's the one. That's the one.' And then I just continued down that road and put together a rough structure. David wasn't there at the moment, at the time, so we just kind of worked out the music and put together a rough structure. And when I'd seen him next, I kind of went over it with him and he connected with it. And he kind of gave us those elements that we were looking for — the still melodic, but still quick, rapid-fire syncopation at times and just that kind of delivery we were hoping to pull out of him. And we thought it would be a great lead-off track to share with the fans." When McCredden noted that "I Will Not Break" sounds like something DISTURBED could have recorded 25 years ago, possibly inspired by the fact that the band is preparing to embark on a 34-date North American tour celebrating the 25th anniversary of their 2000 debut album "The Sickness", Donegan concurred. "I was going through the archives and going through a lot of stuff here, my memorabilia, gearing up for this 25th-anniversary tour, and I came across some old demo tapes," he said. "I had actually cassette tapes, if people don't remember what those are. Back in the day, in the late '90s, when we got David in the band, we would just set up a little cassette player in the back of the room and hit 'record' and record us — crappy version, but record our practices so we could hear us just improvising ideas. And so I was kind of in that headspace 'cause I was listening to these old riffs and these old deliveries of us just kind of improvising, like I said, and it just had me in that headspace. Actually, one of the song ideas was a riff I pulled from 1998 off the demo and I kind of slid it back into the mix. I have a history of doing that. I have a way of sneaking in old ideas and seeing if it triggers anybody, if they remember it and pick up on it, if it's been that long ago. But I try to get back into that headspace. And so, even though the riff for 'I Will Not Break' is brand new, I was kind of in the spirit of that old-school DISTURBED, and that's what we were hoping to do — trigger [David] in that that kind of way." According to DISTURBED, "I Will Not Break" is "a necessary song, about becoming stronger than the forces that constantly try to tear you down." The track includes the stirring lyrics "I've had enough of feeling terrified, now I'm deciding that I won't be hiding from anyone," which encourages listeners to push back in the face of adversity. "Divisive" was recorded in Nashville, Tennessee. According to Billboard, "Divisive" sold 26,000 equivalent album units in its first week of release, with 22,000 units via album sales. On the all-format Billboard 200 chart, "Divisive" debuted at No. 13. DISTURBED has had five No. 1s on the all-genre chart, beginning with "Believe" in 2002. "The Sickness 25th Anniversary Tour" will kick off in Nampa, Idaho on February 25. Produced by Live Nation, each night will feature two sets of music, opening with DISTURBED playing the five times platinum "The Sickness" in full, followed by a full set of greatest hits. The first half of the tour will feature support from special guests THREE DAYS GRACE, featuring the return of original singer Adam Gontier, and opener SEVENDUST, and the second half will feature special guests DAUGHTRY with opener NOTHING MORE. Since "The Sickness" was released in 2000, the album was certified five times platinum by the RIAA, spent a total of 106 weeks on the US Billboard 200 chart, and Revolver named it one of "Top 25 Debut Hard Rock Albums." Billboard said of the title track upon release: "'Down With The Sickness' is, of course, the quintessential DISTURBED song, harnessing all the band's seethe and its now-famous tribal beat and guitar chug into three and a half minutes of alt-metal mayhem. It's menacing, it's rhythmic, it's rebellious." DISTURBED recently announced the 25th-anniversary edition release of "The Sickness". To commemorate the anniversary, the band will reissue the five-times-platinum-certified LP on March 7, exactly 25 years to the date of their original release. "The Sickness" 25th-anniversary edition is available to pre-order on all formats. The deluxe box set will be available via the band's web site and digitally on March 7, and via all retailers in North American on March 21. Page 2 Original Article: blabbermouth.net DISTURBED garnered its 19th No. 1 on the Active Rock radio chart with "Don't Tell Me", the band's latest single, which features a guest appearance by Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame inductee and HEART co-founder Ann Wilson. The song is DISTURBED's fourth No. 1 off the band's acclaimed album "Divisive", out now via Reprise Records. This is the second time DISTURBED has earned four No. 1s on a single record, having previously accomplished the same feat on 2015's "Immortalized". Only nine rock albums since 1992 have been able to secure four No. 1 songs on the Mediabase Rock charts and two of them have been DISTURBED's. TheMatt Mahurin-directed music video for "Don't Tell Me" can be seen below. The song marks the first time DISTURBED has included a guest feature on an LP. DISTURBED vocalist David Draiman commented: "I have tremendous respect for Ann. In my humble opinion, she's the greatest female rock voice of all time. I think she's untouchable. I feel like we were very gifted to have her be a part of this." Wilson added: "I was honored when I got the call from David Draiman. DISTURBED did a version of 'The Sound Of Silence' that my husband and I both really dug. And so when the opportunity came to sing a duet with him on a song that meant so much to David emotionally, I jumped at the chance. And then the video turned out great, which is yet another cherry on top. Hopefully we'll find a time to perform 'Don't Tell Me' live together at some point. If they call, I'm there." Last November, DISTURBED shared behind-the-scenes photos from the set of the "Don't Tell Me" video shoot in California and captioned them: "On set for our video shoot for our next single 'Don't Tell Me' featuring @annwilson from @heartofficial". Regarding how the collaboration with Wilson came about, DISTURBED drummer Mike Wengren told Terrie Carr of WDHA-FM 105.5 FM: "That was always supposed to be the 'power ballad,' per se. And as we were tracking it in the studio, David just threw out the idea, 'Hey, let's do a duet on this song.' We've tossed around the idea before, but there wasn't ever either the right material or the right time. So in this particular case, we kind of said, 'Well, who you've got in mind?' And he didn't even have a list; he just had one person, and that was Ann. It was a no-brainer. 'Hey, let's hit up Ann. Let's see if she'd be into it.' And she was on board right away; we didn't have to convince her." Mike continued: "[David and Ann] sort of struck up a bit of a friendship, a little bit of a rapport. When [DISTURBED cover version of] 'The Sound Of Silence' came out years back and had its success, she was one of many artists and celebrities that took it up themselves to go on Twitter and praise the song and praise our version of it, which we couldn't have been more honored. Iconic, legendary Ann Wilson thinks that we did a great job with a SIMON & GARFUNKEL cover. That's pretty incredible, a pretty great honor. So when we reached out to her, she was more than willing to jump on board. And she came in and she killed it… And she's super cool and down to earth too, and just incredibly talented. It's such an honor to have her be on our record. And to me, the blending of her voice and David's voice, they really, really work so well together. I'm so proud of David and just so honored to have her a part of our record." In September 2022, DISTURBED guitarist Dan Donegan, whose divorce inspired "Don't Tell Me", told Meltdown of Detroit's WRIF radio station about the band's collaboration with Wilson: "Early in our career, we wanted to really establish ourselves without having any guests. We didn't really talk about it much, but just [felt], 'This is the band.' Not that we were ever against it, but this far along in our career… We're always pushing ourselves, trying to do stuff that's different musically. And there's so much talent out there and so many people we would love to do collaborations with now or later in our career. "Ann Wilson had mentioned before — she tweeted about us before," he continued. "A few years back, somebody asked her in an interview or whatever if there's anything new out there, or newer, musically that she's heard that she's fan of, and she mentioned she really loved our version of 'The Sound Of Silence'. And that kind of opened the door to a social media friendship between her and David a bit. And then when we wrote this song, it just seemed like it would lend itself to Ann's voice and then trying to see that merge between her and David's voices together. She jumped on the opportunity. Immediately she responded, and we were, like, 'Holy shit. She just said yes to this.'" Asked by Meltdown if "Don't Tell Me" is a more mellow track than the standard DISTURBED fare, Dan said: "I can't give it away, but their voices, it's like Fergie and Jesus — a little 'Step Brothers' [2008 movie] quote there… It was a pretty magical moment to be in the room and to hear the two of them harmonize together. "We tracked David's vocals in Nashville, and we wanted to make it easy and convenient for her, 'cause we were, like, she said yes, she's gonna do it," Donegan continued. "Let's make it as easy as possible on her.' We flew out to California to meet with her. We went into a studio out there for just a couple of hours, and she sang against David's tracks. And he was there kind of going over the harmonies with her and stuff too. So it was kind of a really magical moment to see the two of them working on those harmonies together. It was pretty impressive. And she's such a pro, and she's so damn good. She's a legend. So it was pretty exciting. And it's not like she sits there and jumps on people's albums either, so we take that as a badge of honor to think that there's not many times where somebody as big a legend as she is that she would jump on any album. She doesn't have to, and she chose to be on this one. And she loves the track. And it just came together great." Released in November 2022, "Divisive" was recorded earlier that year with producer Drew Fulk (MOTIONLESS IN WHITE, LIL PEEP, HIGHLY SUSPECT) in Nashville, Tennessee. According to Billboard, "Divisive" sold 26,000 equivalent album units in its first week of release, with 22,000 units via album sales. On the all-format Billboard 200 chart, "Divisive" debuted at No. 13. DISTURBED has had five No. 1s on the all-genre chart, beginning with "Believe" in 2002. Page 3 More than 400 leaders from the entertainment industry — including KISS bassist/vocalist Gene Simmons, DISTURBED singer David Draiman and Ozzy Osbourne's wife/manager Sharon Osbourne — have signed an open letter released by the non-profit entertainment industry organization Creative Community For Peace in support of the European Broadcasting Union's (EBU) public commitment to include Israel in the 2024 Eurovision Song Contest. The letter comes in response to others who have demanded that Israel be disinvited from the contest. In December, Iceland's Association Of Composers And Lyricists published a statement saying Israel's military action in Gaza made its participation incompatible with an event "characterized by joy and optimism". In Finland, a petition signed by more than 1,400 music industry professionals accused their national broadcaster Yle of double standards, saying it was among the first to demand the ban on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The Creative Community For Peace letter highlights Eurovision's unique ability to unify people from diverse backgrounds and music's capacity to effect positive change in the world. The letter states that the annual event, with more viewers than the Super Bowl, is a celebration of unity and should not be used as a tool for politics. Simmons said: "Music unites people from all backgrounds. It's the one language that everyone can understand. It's a beautiful thing and a great way to bring people together. Those advocating to exclude an Israeli singer from Eurovision don't move the needle towards peace, but only further divide the world." The statement is the first of its kind — a call from the entertainment industry unequivocally voicing support for Israel's inclusion in Eurovision. "We have been shocked and disappointed to see some members of the entertainment community calling for Israel to be banished from the Contest for responding to the greatest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust," the letter reads. "Under the cover of thousands of rockets fired indiscriminately into civilian populations, Hamas murdered and kidnapped innocent men, women, and children," it continues. On Eurovision's impact, the letter states, "We believe that unifying events such as singing competitions are crucial to help bridge our cultural divides and unite people of all backgrounds through their shared love of music." The letter concludes: "Those who are calling for Israel's exclusion are subverting the spirit of the Contest and turning it from a celebration of unity into a tool of politics." CCFP's chairman David Renzer and executive director Ari Ingel said: "We join entertainment industry leaders in rejecting the vilification of Israel on the global music stage. After thousands of innocent Israelis were killed, over 360 of them at a music festival as they danced in celebration of life, to see some respond in this fashion is shameful. We hope Eurovision stands firm in the face of this misguided, discriminatory boycott attempt. We want the world to know that the entertainment industry supports the Contest and all this year's amazing participants, including Israel's." Simmons was born as Chaim Witz in August 1949, at Rambam Hospital in Haifa, Israel, to Jewish immigrants from Hungary. He was the son of Holocaust survivor Flora Klien and a father, Feri Witz, who soon abandoned his family, leaving them penniless prior to emigrating to America in search of a better life. Draiman, the son of Israelis and the grandson of Holocaust survivors, spends much of his time on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, sharing pro-Israel articles and posts and has often used his fame to speak out against anti-Semitism. DISTURBED's song "Never Again", from 2010's "Asylum" album, was written about the Holocaust and calls out people who deny it. Both of Draiman's maternal grandparents were survivors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, while many others on his mother's side were wiped out by the Nazis. Sharon Osbourne once described herself as "half a Jew", with the Jewish half coming from her father, the renowned music promoter and manager Don Arden who had represented ELO, THE SMALL FACES and BLACK SABBATH. "We were brought up in basically a Jewish household," Sharon told The Jewish Chronicle. "My family, my father's family, my aunt, my cousins, are all Jewish. And observant Jews who practice and love their religion. So Judaism is the only religion I have, and the only one with which I feel comfortable." Read the rest of this entry » Page 4 Original Article: Blabbermouth.net DISTURBED kicked off the 2024 leg of its "Take Back Your Life" tour last night (Friday, January 19) at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, Illinois. The band's 21-song setlist included the live debut of the "Divisive" album track "Don't Tell Me" featuring a guest appearance by Moriah Formica of the opening band PLUSH. Fan-filmed video of the performance can be seen below. Earlier this month, DISTURBED released the Matt Mahurin-directed music video for "Don't Tell Me". The song, an epic emotionally charged duet with HEART's Ann Wilson, marked the first time the band had included a guest feature on an LP. Back in 2017, Formica was a contender on season 13 of "The Voice". Her blind audition performance of "Crazy On You" by HEART got the attention of all four judges, ultimately earning her a coveted spot on Team Miley Cyrus. "I chose to play HEART because it is classic rock," Formica said at the time. "One of the reasons why I decided to go on to 'The Voice' is because of the lack of true rock singers. Ann Wilson is one of my favorite vocalists." Regarding how the collaboration with Wilson came about, DISTURBED drummer Mike Wengren told Terrie Carr of WDHA-FM 105.5 FM: "That was always supposed to be the 'power ballad,' per se. And as we were tracking it in the studio, David [Draiman, DISTURBED singer] just threw out the idea, 'Hey, let's do a duet on this song.' We've tossed around the idea before, but there wasn't ever either the right material or the right time. So in this particular case, we kind of said, 'Well, who you've got in mind?' And he didn't even have a list; he just had one person, and that was Ann. It was a no-brainer. 'Hey, let's hit up Ann. Let's see if she'd be into it.' And she was on board right away; we didn't have to convince her." Mike continued: "[David and Ann] sort of struck up a bit of a friendship, a little bit of a rapport. When [DISTURBED cover version of] 'The Sound Of Silence' came out years back and had its success, she was one of many artists and celebrities that took it up themselves to go on Twitter and praise the song and praise our version of it, which we couldn't have been more honored. Iconic, legendary Ann Wilson thinks that we did a great job with a SIMON & GARFUNKEL cover. That's pretty incredible, a pretty great honor. So when we reached out to her, she was more than willing to jump on board. And she came in and she killed it… And she's super cool and down to earth too, and just incredibly talented. It's such an honor to have her be on our record. And to me, the blending of her voice and David's voice, they really, really work so well together. I'm so proud of David and just so honored to have her a part of our record." In September 2022, DISTURBED guitarist Dan Donegan, whose divorce inspired "Don't Tell Me", told Meltdown of Detroit's WRIF radio station about the band's collaboration with Wilson: "Early in our career, we wanted to really establish ourselves without having any guests. We didn't really talk about it much, but just [felt], 'This is the band.' Not that we were ever against it, but this far along in our career… We're always pushing ourselves, trying to do stuff that's different musically. And there's so much talent out there and so many people we would love to do collaborations with now or later in our career. "Ann Wilson had mentioned before — she tweeted about us before," he continued. "A few years back, somebody asked her in an interview or whatever if there's anything new out there, or newer, musically that she's heard that she's fan of, and she mentioned she really loved our version of 'The Sound Of Silence'. And that kind of opened the door to a social media friendship between her and David a bit. And then when we wrote this song, it just seemed like it would lend itself to Ann's voice and then trying to see that merge between her and David's voices together. She jumped on the opportunity. Immediately she responded, and we were, like, 'Holy shit. She just said yes to this.'" Asked by Meltdown if "Don't Tell Me" is a more mellow track than the standard DISTURBED fare, Dan said: "I can't give it away, but their voices, it's like Fergie and Jesus — a little 'Step Brothers' [2008 movie] quote there… It was a pretty magical moment to be in the room and to hear the two of them harmonize together. 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In 2002, before the release of second album Believe, he was describing the acoustic song Darkness to Metal Hammer when he threatened to "kill anyone who terms it a ballad". "Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!" Today's David Draiman erupts with laughter, eyes crinkling at the sides. "Oh my god, the things we say when we're young. That's putting on such a front! Oy David, what did you do? I listen to some of the stuff I said back in the day, and it makes me cringe. But back then, no one was accepting of ballads. I was obviously way too cocky for my own good, and was so defensive. Maybe that's what people picked up on, and they took it the wrong way." We have been talking about the reputation Disturbed have garnered since they broke into metal's consciousness with the distinctive monkey noises and punchy hooks of 2000's debut The Sickness. Whether it was his "cocky" remarks, the angry, unfiltered nature of his lyrics that were at odds with some of metal's establishment – though totally in keeping with nu metal's posturing – or his famous chin piercings, he became caricatured in the press and sidelined by old-school genre fans for years to come. And yet, Disturbed defied the haters to become one of the biggest metal bands in the world. In the States, they've had five consecutive albums debut at Number One – an achievement bettered only by Metallica and normie rockers the Dave Matthews Band. They regularly pull arena crowds. In 2016, following the release of post-hiatus record Immortalized, they were the most-played band on rock radio in the US and Canada. Ironically, one particular ballad had a hand in that – their stirring cover of Simon & Garfunkel's The Sound Of Silence. It's been certified Double Platinum, and catapulted them onto mega-sized talk show Conan. That's not only a metal band getting household exposure, but one whose previous defining song contained the lyric, 'I don't need this shit, you stupid sadistic abusive fucking whore. Would you like to see how it feels, mommy?' Not only have they built a sizeable fanbase, they've gone mainstream. "I did have major concerns going in," David confesses. "I remember playing the track for a bunch of my colleagues and friends prior to it coming out, very secretively, and really being unsure. They were like, 'Don't be, this is magic. You've got lightning in a bottle here.' I can come off as pretty confident most of the time, but truth be told, I'm my own severe, horrific critic. I can be objective about other people's music, but when it comes to our own, I'm paranoid as fuck." Today, we are talking in the gardens of West Hollywood's Sunset Marquis hotel, infamous for tales of rock'n'roll excess. These days, it radiates the knowing, polished air of wealth. David is at home here, relaxed, glass of chilled water in hand, periodically wiping his forehead to absorb the moisture created by a 30ºC sun blasting through the canopy of trees. While Disturbed – completed by guitarist Dan Donegan, bassist John Moyer and drummer Mike Wengren – have long been on an upward trajectory, there's a definite sense that The Sound Of Silence has changed their lives. Professionally, it's meant straying from their comfort zone. Ten minutes before the Conan appearance, filmed with a 24-piece orchestra, David could be found pacing his dressing room, sweating, ravaged by illness and emotionally riddled with nerves. "The other guys were fooling around, and here I am pacing like a maniac, trying to warm up and praying, praying, praying," he remembers. "Because I was trashed vocally that day. I had no idea how it was going to sound. I tried to shut everybody and everything out, and focus on how I felt about the song and where it was taking me, and not worry about the camera. I can play in front of 100,000 people, no issue. That red light comes on on a TV camera, I get nervous. Stomach clenches up, it's a whole different thing. Getting over the level of intimidation was tough." It's also meant adjusting to a new, unprecedented amount of fame. At the time of writing, the performance has had more than 80million views on YouTube, while the official music video is pushing 405million. That's more than the entire population of the US, and six times the population of the UK. "Because my face was so front and centre in that video, the recognition factor is amplified. Everywhere I go now. It's a significant difference. I used to be able to just be another bald guy, and now it doesn't happen that way," he says matter-of-factly. "I don't have a problem with it, because everyone's always so very, very respectful. It comes with the territory, and I'm absolutely beyond overwhelmed." Personally, it's a success David's been able to share with his mother and father, proud pillars of their religious community who he's in LA to visit. "It's surreal to have my parents talking one of my songs up to the neighbours!" he smiles. Were they afraid to chat about your music before, given the language of some of your songs? "Well, it was impossible not to talk about it at a certain point," he reasons. "I'm their oldest son, they only have two of them, so the question will always come up, and it's just as easy as doing a Google search; it's impossible to hide. And don't get me wrong, they've been proud, but this is something they can be unreservedly proud about. They can play it for the people in the community and be like, 'Oh, that's my son!' Not like, 'Ah… that's my son…'" How does that feel? "I'm great with it." Twinkle appearing in his eye, he flashes the mischievous smile of Disturbed's mascot, The Guy. "I was great with it before, because there's something to be said about being the black sheep. The rebellious entity within the family, or the one that strayed off the path. I kind of enjoy being that guy." (Image credit: Travis Shinn) But being the black sheep is isolating when it's not on your own terms. Despite Disturbed's accomplishments, David is regularly ridiculed online. While he admits he's done some "dumb things" and has no problem with being called out for legitimate missteps ("There's nothing wrong with objectivity, and I would never want someone to be unnecessarily positively biased either"), he's still scrutinised more than most in heavy music. The exposure prompted him to leave Twitter three years ago. So why are people still hating on him today? "Who knows?" he says. "I truly don't understand it. I think people develop a perception of you. I'm the first guy to admit that in my younger days, instead of speaking softly and carrying a big stick, I ended up doing the opposite of that. Which sometimes comes from excitement or youth or… sometimes confidence can 'become' arrogance, and certainly be perceived as that. And people have no idea how much self-doubt there is involved with it, and how much questioning you do." At the risk of slicing open a hornet's nest, we bring up David's last Metal Hammer feature in 2015. We said there was an air of humility to his words, but suggested it may well be fake humility, affected for the sake of appearance. When the magazine came out, his publicist called to tell us he was upset. Read the rest of this entry » Page 6 Original Article by: billboard.com The guitarist balances family, fun and the metal band's fifth straight No. 1. Aug. 22 Donegan gets to his suburban Chicago home at 4:30 a.m. after partying at House of Blues: "White Russians plus shots of Fireball and Jager," says the 47-year-old of what was downed in honor of Disturbed's first show and album (Immortalized, released Aug. 21 on Reprise) in four years. He crashes for two hours, then wakes to take son Jason, 8, to his football game. Oh, and Donegan is the coach: "I kept my sunglasses on." Aug. 23 Donegan heads to Best Buy to cop Disturbed's new record. "It seems silly, but it's tradition," he says. He also scores a fresh Madden title for Xbox: Four of Jason's friends are on their way over to the house for a sleepover. They end up being more interested in the Bulls-themed basketball court outside. Aug. 24 Burgers fortify the Donegan clan for a day of pigskin practice — wife Nicole coaches cheer, and daughter Maya, 11, is on the squad. A huge Disturbed banner flaps menacingly above the field. "Visiting teams are freaked out by that," he says. The band is a sponsor. Aug. 25 Summer is ending, so it's ice cream all around. "Being a dad is the greatest thing in my life," says Donegan, but work is calling. He takes a meeting about a 2016 tour with hopes of going back to Japan. Aug. 26 He gets Maya on a school bus by 6:45 a.m. It's not easy. "She has to pick her outfit, fix her hair… do girl things," he says with a groan. A reporter comes over to profile him in his element, which includes eating fried pickle spears at a local bar. Aug. 27 Stock woes inspire an emergency meeting with his finance man, who talks him down. By phone, he and singer David Draiman review the music video treatment for "The Light," to be shot in Florida by Culley Bunker. Aug. 28 Disturbed gets word that Immortalized will be its fifth straight LP to debut at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, putting the band in elite company: "It's just us, Metallica and Dave Matthews," says Donegan. "To take time off, then find out the fans are as rabid as ever, is overwhelming." He and Nicole celebrate with a rare meal alone: sandwiches at their favorite deli. Disturbed is pleased to announce The Sickness 25th Anniversary Tour! Two sets, one show – The Sickness in its entirety & the greatest hits. Special guests include Three Days Grace & Sevendust + Daughtry & Nothing More on select dates. Get first access to tickets on Tuesday, October 15th at 10am local by signing up now at Disturbed.live or HERE by 7amET on Monday, October 14th. The general on-sale begins Friday, October 18 at 10am local HERE. VIP packages will be available to purchase during the pre-sale and at the general on-sale, which includes three options to choose from, and are broken down below. United Kingdom & European dates to be announced soon. THE SICKNESS 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR VIP EXPERIENCE PACKAGES VIP 1 "VOICES" MEET & GREET EXPERIENCE • EITHER one general admission ticket to the floor OR one premium reserved seat in the best available sections with a fantastic view of the stage* • Official meet & greet with the members of Disturbed • One professional photo with Disturbed band members** • Access to a dedicated fan zone with a tour merchandise stand, concessions stand with bar, and Disturbed memorabilia display including select items available for purchase • One signed VIP-exclusive Disturbed merchandise gift item • One commemorative VIP laminate & lanyard • On-site benefits including priority check-in, dedicated road crew, and a VIP lane into the venue *Seated and/or standing ticket availability varies by venue. Once selected, ticket type cannot be changed. **One per transaction. VIP 2 "DOWN WITH THE SICKNESS" EARLY ENTRY GA PACKAGE • One general admission ticket with early entry to the floor • Access to a dedicated fan zone with a tour merchandise stand, concessions stand with bar, and Disturbed memorabilia display including select items available for purchase • One VIP-exclusive Disturbed merchandise gift item • One commemorative VIP laminate & lanyard • On-site benefits including priority check-in, dedicated road crew, and a VIP lane into the venue VIP 3 "STUPIFY" SUPERFAN PACKAGE • One premium reserved seat in the best available sections with a great view of the stage • Access to a dedicated fan zone with a tour merchandise stand, concessions stand with bar, and Disturbed memorabilia display including select items available for purchase • One VIP-exclusive Disturbed merchandise gift item • One commemorative VIP laminate & lanyard • On-site benefits including priority check-in, dedicated road crew, and a VIP lane into the venue Recent News . SITE BY FADE . Please make sure to confirm your subscription. Thu 6 November 2025 10:34, UK David Draiman has revealed that fatigue is the reason behind Disturbed's upcoming break from touring.Following the conclusion of their European tour, which included UK dates at The O2 in London, the OVO Hydro in Glasgow, Manchester's AO Arena, and the Utilita Arena in Birmingham, Draiman confirmed plans for a hiatus.He took to X to share with fans: "Headed home!!! Thanks so much to EVERYONE that made #TheSickness25 a tour to truly remember! Crew, Management, Agent, Promoters, and ESPECIALLY my brothers in Disturbed."The singer continued, Not sure when we will be headed back out. We all need a nice long break. Hope to see you when we do."Now, in an update, he has revealed that it is tiredness which is the reason why Disturbed are pausing their touring activities rather than any internal conflict.On November 5th, the singer told fans on X: "For the Record: 1. Taking a break because we're TIRED, PERIOD. 2. Any spin by the media is just that…spin. We're all doing great, and are on great terms. 3. The European tour was the biggest of our career. We played to packed arenas every night. Let's do it again sometime."Notably, their tour was disrupted when the local mayor cancelled their performance at the Forest National in Brussels, Belgium, on October 15th for security reasons relating to Draiman's vocal support of Israel.Charles Spapens, the Forest Mayor, told the Brussels Times, "My responsibility and priority are the safety of residents, neighbors, demonstrators, spectators and staff at Forest National. Given the police's negative advice and the venue's unique location, it was my duty to make this decision."Additionally, a group of pro-Palestine protestors gathered outside their concert at the OVO Hydro in Glasgow to stage a counter-concert before Disturbed's headline show at the arena. THE NEW SINGLE"I WILL NOT BREAK"OUT NOW