

# METALLICA

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Metallica is an American heavy metal band from Los Angeles, California. The band's fast tempos, instrumentals, and aggressive musicianship placed them as one of the founding "big four" of thrash metal alongside Slayer, Megadeth, and Anthrax.

Metallica formed in 1981 when James Hetfield responded to an advertisement that drummer Lars Ulrich had posted in a local newspaper.

The current line-up features founders Hetfield (vocals, rhythm guitar) and Ulrich (drums), longtime lead guitarist Kirk Hammett and bassist Robert Trujillo since 2003.

Previous members of the band are lead guitarist Dave Mustaine, who went on to found Megadeth, and bassists Ron McGovney (demos only), Cliff Burton (the first three records, died in 1986), and Jason Newsted.

The band also had a long collaboration with producer Bob Rock, who produced all of its albums from 1990 to 2003 and served as a temporary bassist between the departure of Newsted and the hiring of Trujillo.

Metallica has released ten studio albums, four live albums, five extended plays, 25 music videos, and 37 singles.

The band has won nine Grammy Awards, and has had five consecutive albums debut at number one on the Billboard 200, making Metallica the first band to do so. The band's eponymous 1991 album has sold over 16 million copies in the United States, making it the best-selling album of the SoundScan era.

Metallica ranks as one of the most commercially successful bands of all time, having sold over 110 million records worldwide. Metallica has also been listed and ranked as one of the greatest bands of all time by many magazines, including Rolling Stone, which ranked them 61st on its list of The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

As of December 2012, Metallica is the fourth best-selling music artist since the SoundScan era began tracking sales on May 25, 1991, selling a total of 53,642,000 albums in the United States alone.

Metallica was formed in Los Angeles, California, in late 1981 when the Danish-born drummer Lars Ulrich placed an advertisement in a Los Angeles newspaper—The Recycler—which read "Drummer looking for other metal musicians to jam with Tygers of Pan Tang, Diamond Head and Iron Maiden". Guitarists James Hetfield and Hugh Tanner of Leather Charm answered the advertisement. Although he had not formed a band, Ulrich asked Metal Blade Records founder Brian Slagel if he could record a song for the label's upcoming compilation album Metal Massacre. Slagel accepted, and Ulrich recruited Hetfield to sing and play rhythm guitar. The band was officially formed in October 1981, five months after Ulrich and Hetfield first met.

Ulrich talked to his friend Ron Quintana, who was brainstorming names for a fanzine. Quintana had proposed the names MetalMania and Metallica. Ulrich used *Metallica* for the name of his band.

A second advertisement was placed in The Recycler for a position as lead guitarist. Dave Mustaine answered, and after seeing his expensive guitar equipment, Ulrich and Hetfield recruited him.

In early 1982, Metallica recorded its first original song "Hit the Lights" for the Metal Massacre I compilation. Hetfield played bass on the song and Lloyd Grant was credited with a guitar solo.[Released on June 14, 1982], early pressings of Metal Massacre I listed the band incorrectly as "Mettallica". Although angered by the error, Metallica managed to create enough "buzz" with the song and the band played its first live performance on March 14, 1982 at Radio City in Anaheim, California, with newly recruited bassist Ron McGovney.

Metallica recorded its first demo, Power Metal, a name inspired by Quintana's early business cards in early 1982. The term "thrash metal" was first referred to by Kerrang!'s journalist Malcolm Dome while making a reference to the Anthrax's song "Metal Thrashing Mad" in Kerrang!'s issue 62, page 8, published on February 23, 1984.

Prior to this, James Hetfield referred to their sound as "power metal". In the fall of 1982, Ulrich and Hetfield attended a show at the West Hollywood nightclub Whisky a Go Go which featured bassist Cliff Burton in a band called Trauma. The two were "blown away" by Burton's use of a wah-wah pedal and asked him to join Metallica. Hetfield and Mustaine wanted McGovney out as they thought that he "didn't contribute anything, he just followed." Although Burton initially declined the offer, by the end of the year he accepted on the condition the band move to El Cerrito in the San Francisco Bay Area. Metallica's first live performance with Burton was at the nightclub *The Stone* in March 1983, and the first recording to feature Burton was the Megaforce demo (1983).[8]

Metallica was ready to record its debut album, but when Metal Blade was unable to cover the cost, the band began looking for other options. Concert promoter Johnny "Z" Zazula, who had heard the demo *No Life 'til Leather* (1982), offered to broker a record deal with Metallica and New York City-based record labels. After receiving no interest from various record labels, Zazula borrowed the money to cover the record's recording budget and signed Metallica to his own label, Megaforce Records.

# AWARDS

## Grammy Awards:[179]

1990: Best Metal Performance – "One"

1991: Best Metal Performance – "Stone Cold Crazy"

1992: Best Metal Performance – Metallica

1999: Best Metal Performance – "Better than You"

2000: Best Hard Rock Performance – "Whiskey in the Jar"

2001: Best Rock Instrumental Performance – "The Call of Ktulu" with Michael Kamen and the San Francisco Symphony

2004: Best Metal Performance – "St. Anger"

2009: Best Metal Performance – "My Apocalypse"

## MTV Video Music Awards:

1992: Best Metal Video – "Enter Sandman"

1996: Best Metal Video – "Until It Sleeps"

## American Music Awards:

1996: Favorite Artist: Heavy Metal/Hard Rock: Metallica – Load

1996: Favorite Metal/Hard Rock Song – "Until It Sleeps"

## Billboard Music Awards:

1997: Billboard Rock and Roll Artist of the Year – Metallica (RIAA Diamond Award)

1999: Catalogue Artist of the Year – Metallica

1999: Catalogue Album of the Year – Metallica

## Kerrang! Awards:

2003: Hall of Fame – Metallica

2003: Best International Band – Metallica

2004: Best Band on the Planet – Metallica

2008: Inspiration Award Winner – Metallica

2009: Best Album – Death Magnetic

# DISCOGRAPHY

- Kill 'Em All (1983)
- Ride the Lightning (1984)
- Master of Puppets (1986)
- ...And Justice for All (1988)
- Metallica (1991)
- Load (1996)
- Reload (1997)
- St. Anger (2003)
- Death Magnetic (2008)
- Beyond Magnetic (2012)

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