

Depeche Mode

English electronic music band formed March 1980 in Basildon, Essex, and named after a popular French fashion magazine. The group's original line-up consisted of Dave Gahan (lead vocals, occasional songwriter since 2005), Martin Gore (keyboards, guitar, vocals, chief songwriter after 1981), Andy Fletcher (keyboards), and Vince Clarke (keyboards, chief songwriter from 1980 until 1981). Depeche Mode released their debut record in 1981, "Speak & Spell," bringing the band onto the British new wave scene. Clarke left the band after the release of the album, leaving the band as a trio to record "A Broken Frame," released the following year. Gore took over lead songwriting duties and, later in 1982, Alan Wilder (keyboards, drums, occasional songwriter) officially joined the band to fill Clarke's spot, establishing a line up that would continue for the next thirteen years.

The band's last albums of the 1980s, "Black Celebration," and "Music for the Masses," established them as a dominant force on the mainstream electronic music scene. A highlight of this era was the band's concert at the Pasadena Rose Bowl, where they drew a crowd in excess of 60,000 people. In the new decade, Depeche Mode released "Violator," a mainstream success. The subsequent album, "Songs of Faith and Devotion," and the supporting "Devotional Tour," exacerbated tensions within the band to the point where Alan Wilder quit in 1995, leading to intense media and fan speculation that the band would split. Now a trio once again, the band released "Ultra," in 1997, recorded at the height of Gahan's near-fatal drug abuse, Gore's alcoholism and seizures and Fletcher's depression. The release of "Exciter," confirmed Depeche Mode's willingness to remain together, the subsequent, and very successful, "Exciter Tour," being their first tour in support of an original album in eight years since the "Devotional Tour," although the band had toured in 1998 to support "The Singles 86–98," compilation album.

Depeche Mode have had fifty songs in the UK Singles Chart and thirteen top 10 albums in the UK charts, two of which debuted at No. 1. Depeche Mode have to this day sold over 100 million records worldwide, making them one of the most commercially successful electronic bands and one of the world's best-selling music artists. Q magazine calls Depeche Mode "the most popular electronic band the world has ever known," and included the band in the list of the "50 Bands That Changed the World!" Depeche Mode also rank number 98 on VH1's "100 Greatest Artists Of All Time."

Current lineup:
Martin L. Gore: keyboards, guitar, vocals
Dave Gahan: lead vocals
Andrew Fletcher: keyboards

Former members:
Vince Clarke (1980-81): keyboards, backing vocals
Alan Wilder (1982-95): keyboards, drums, backing vocals

Members: Alan Wilder, Andrew Fletcher, Dave Gahan, Martin L. Gore, Vincent John Martin



Data provided by Discogs: <https://www.discogs.com/artist/2725-Depeche-Mode>