Heavy metal

**Heavy metal** (or simply **metal**) is a genre of [rock music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_music)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-4) that developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, largely in the United Kingdom and the United States.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-5) With roots in [blues rock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blues_rock), [psychedelic rock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychedelic_rock), and [acid rock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acid_rock),[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-fast-6) heavy metal bands developed a thick, massive sound, characterized by [distortion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distortion_(music)), extended [guitar solos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guitar_solo), emphatic beats, and loudness. The lyrics and performances are sometimes associated with [aggression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aggression) and [machismo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machismo).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-fast-6)

In 1968, three of the genre's most famous pioneers, [Led Zeppelin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Led_Zeppelin), [Black Sabbath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sabbath) and [Deep Purple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_Purple), were founded.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-Larson2004a-7) Though they came to attract wide audiences, they were often derided by critics. Several American bands modified heavy metal into more accessible forms during the 1970s: the raw, sleazy sound and [shock rock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shock_rock) of [Alice Cooper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Cooper) and [Kiss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiss_(band)); the blues-rooted rock of [Aerosmith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aerosmith); and the flashy guitar leads and wild party rock of [Van Halen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_Halen).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-8) During the mid-1970s, [Judas Priest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judas_Priest) helped spur the genre's evolution by discarding much of its [blues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blues) influence,[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-Walser_1993,_p._6-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music" \l "cite_note-10) while [Motörhead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motörhead) introduced a [punk rock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punk_rock) sensibility and an increasing emphasis on speed. Beginning in the late 1970s, bands in the [new wave of British heavy metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_wave_of_British_heavy_metal) such as [Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden) and [Saxon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saxon_(band)) followed in a similar vein. By the end of the decade, heavy metal fans became known as "[metalheads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_subculture)" or "[headbangers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Headbanging)".

During the 1980s, [glam metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glam_metal) became popular with groups such as [Bon Jovi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bon_Jovi) and [Mötley Crüe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mötley_Crüe). [Underground scenes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Underground_music) produced an array of more aggressive styles: [thrash metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thrash_metal) broke into the mainstream with bands such as [Metallica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metallica), [Slayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slayer), [Megadeth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megadeth), and [Anthrax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthrax_(American_band)), while other [extreme subgenres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extreme_metal) such as [death metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_metal) and [black metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_metal) remain [subcultural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subculture) phenomena. Since the mid-1990s, popular styles have expanded the definition of the genre. These include [groove metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groove_metal) and [nu metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nu_metal), the latter of which often incorporates elements of [grunge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grunge) and [hip hop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hip_hop_music).

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