

# Comparison of the Music Progression between Colplay and Metallica over Time

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## Abstract

This article aims to compare the popularity of Coldplay vs Metallica

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## 1. Introduction

This is a short statistical summary of a comparison between Metallica and Coldplay as part of Spotify's undertaking to explore the musical progression and longevity of some of the most famous bands over time.

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*Email address:* (Amy Visser)

### **Contributions:**

*The data utilised in this report has been kindly provided by Spotify.*

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## 2. Findings

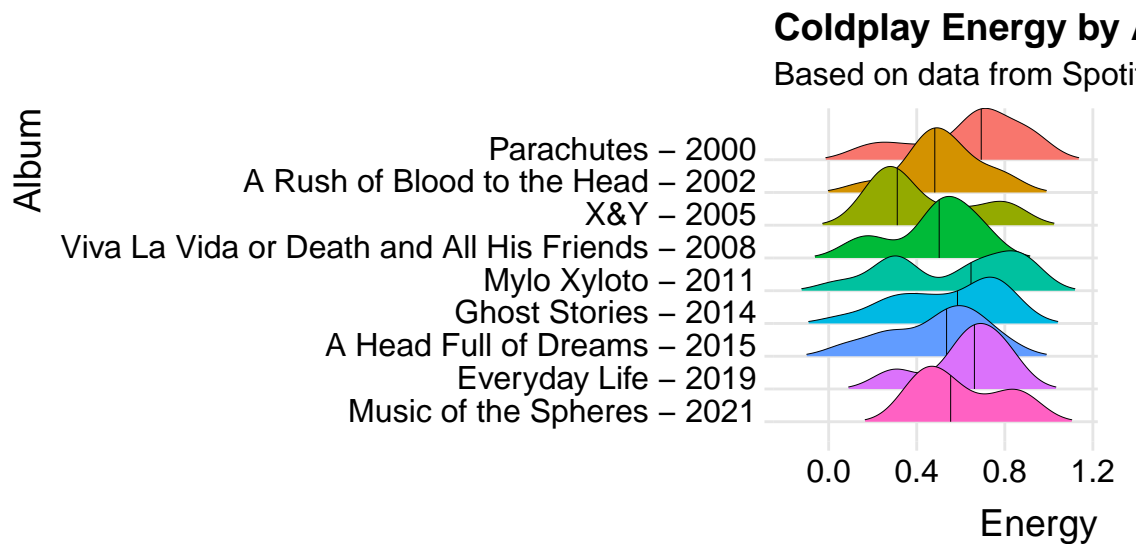


Figure 2.1: Coldplay Energy by Album

We can see in [2.1](#) that Coldplay has a varied level of energy in all of their albums. They have a good mix of energetic and soothing songs on all albums. It appears as though the average energy of their most recent album is less than previous albums.

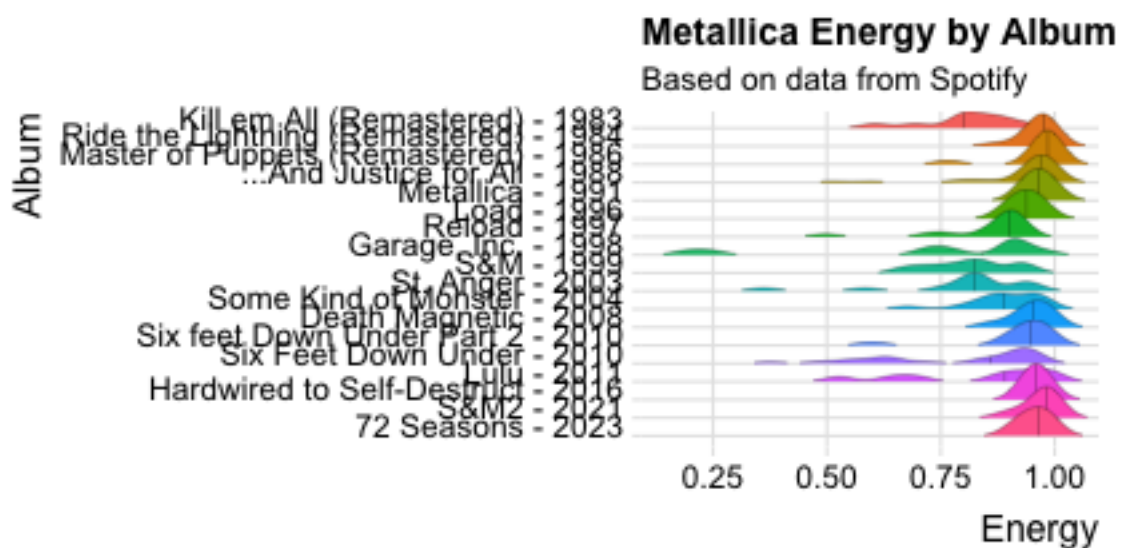


Figure 2.2: Metallica Energy by Album

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We see in 2.2 that Metallica albums are very high energy, with only a few spurts of low energy songs in their albums from time to time.

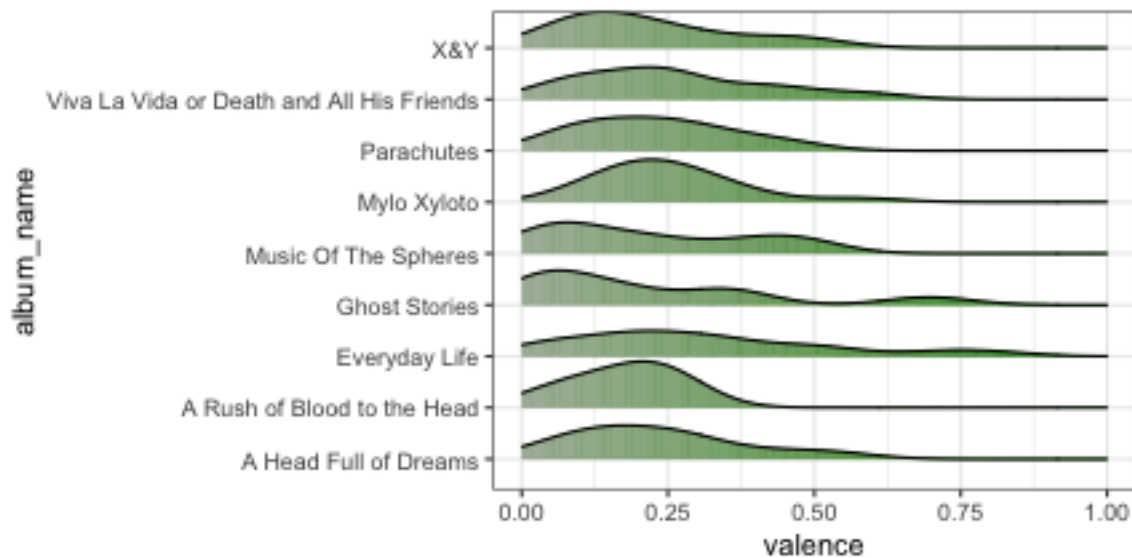


Figure 2.3: Colplay Valence by Album

Valence, defined by Spotify, is: “A measure from 0.0 to 1.0 describing the musical positiveness conveyed by a track. Tracks with high valence sound more positive (e.g. happy, cheerful, euphoric), while tracks with low valence sound more negative (e.g. sad, depressed, angry).” 2.3 shows that Coldplay has a lot of negative-sounding songs, though there are elements of positivity throughout their albums. 2.4 shows that Metallica has big concentrations around 0.25 and 0.5, indicating negativity in their albums as well. Having had a listen to their music in the past and looking at the energy scores above, we can assume these albums contain pretty angry-sounding songs.

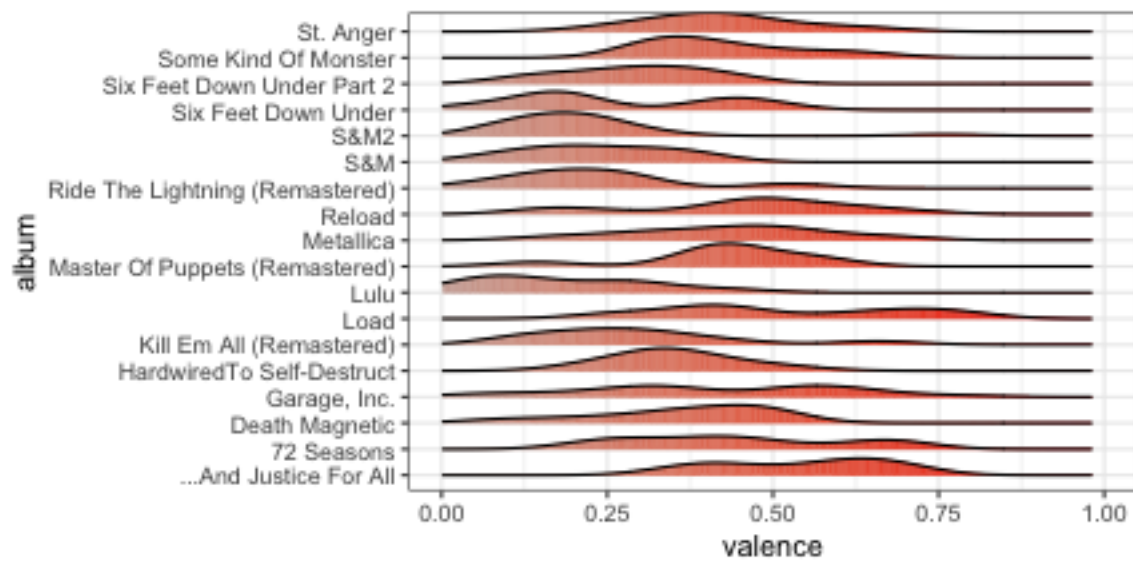


Figure 2.4: Metallica Valence by Album

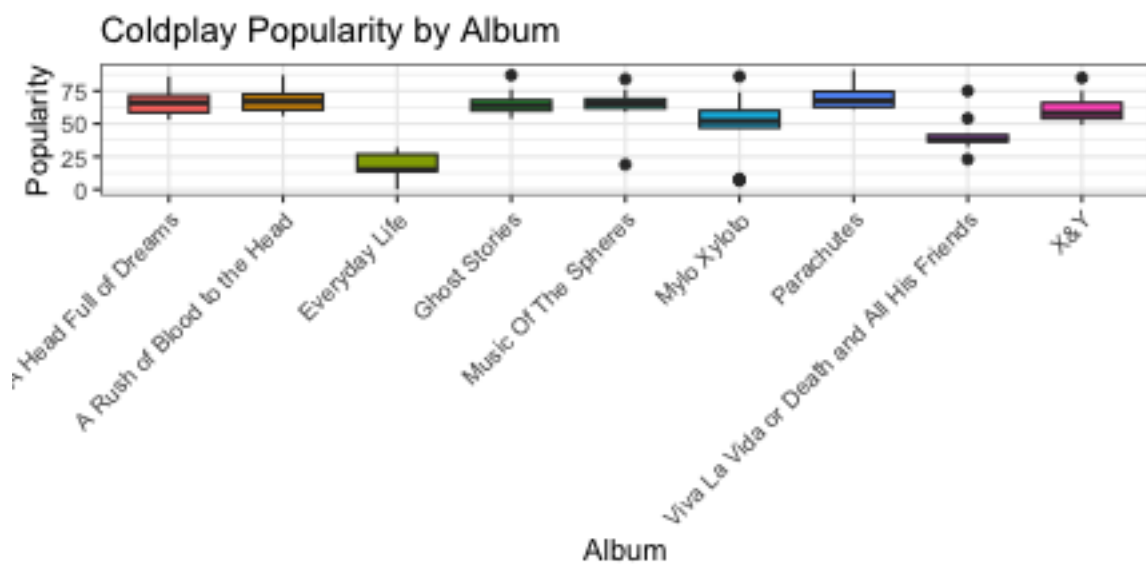


Figure 2.5: Colplay Popularity by Album

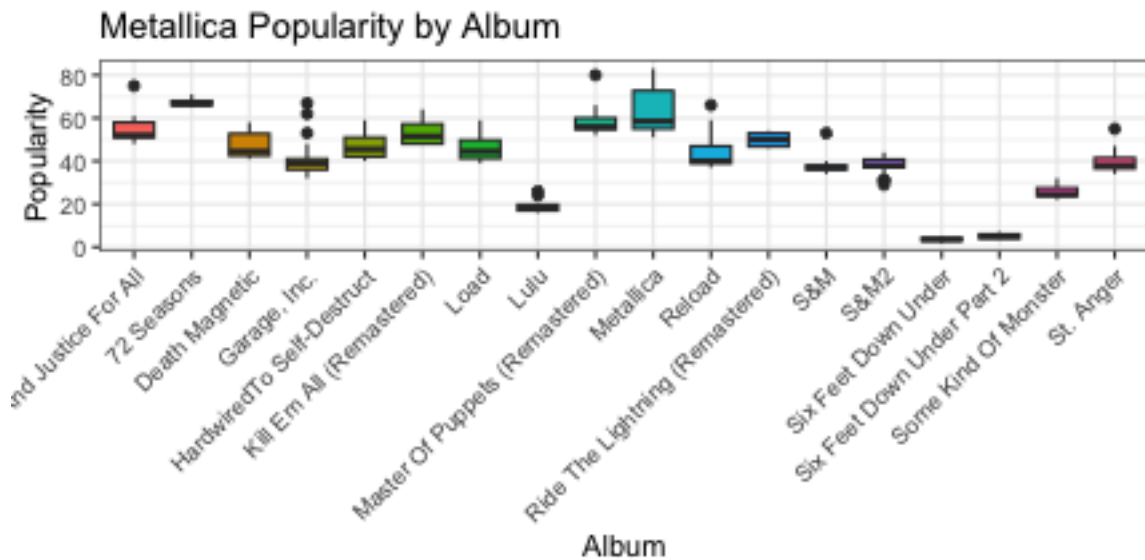


Figure 2.6: Metallica Popularity by Album

As seen in 2.5 and 2.6, It appears as though Metallica’s popularity varies much more across their albums than Coldplay’s. ‘Six Feet Down Under’ and ‘Six Feet Down Under Part 2’ were extremely unpopular, both sitting with scores below 10. However, they have some albums with extremely popular hits as well, some ranging over 80. For Coldplay, their albums consistently range between 50 and 75, bar a few unpopular exceptions such as the album ‘Everyday Life’. These graphs are plotted in order of album release. We can see that Metallica has somewhat decreased in their popularity over time, while Coldplay seems consistently popular.

### 3. Conclusion

It is obvious that Metallica has been around longer and produced more music than Coldplay. However, it is interesting to see both bands’ progression in energy throughout their albums as well as the development of valence in their albums throughout their careers. It is clear from 2.5 and 2.6 that they are both very popular bands to this day.