

# The Dark Side of the Moon: 50th Anniversary [B2]

Nel marzo del 1973 uscì un disco che sarebbe rapidamente diventato uno degli album pop più famosi di tutti i tempi. Parliamo dei Pink Floyd, gruppo di progressive rock, con il loro celebre “The Dark Side of the Moon” che ha venduto l’incredibile cifra di 45 milioni di dischi.



---

Pink Floyd’s album “The Dark Side of the Moon”, fifty years old this month, is a cultural [landmark](#), one of the most famous records of all time. But how did an LP covering conflict, [greed](#), death, mental illness and the need for human empathy become a classic, iconic record, remaining on the US Billboard charts for 741 consecutive weeks and selling forty-five million copies?

## CONCEPT ALBUM

“The Dark Side of the Moon” is a real concept album, genuinely thematic, and not just a number of arbitrary songs. Roger Waters (bass guitar and vocals), wrote the lyrics: about the stresses and pressures of life, touching on wealth, armed conflict, [wasted](#) lives, mortality and madness — expressed as the dark side of the moon. The songs represent good and bad, or in Waters’ own

words: “All the good things life can offer are there for us to [grasp](#), but the influence of some dark force in our natures prevents us from [seizing](#) them.”

## **MANY REASONS FOR SUCCESS**

There are many reasons for the album’s success. The strength of the songwriting captured people’s imagination, and the lyrics were clear for both native and non-native English speakers. The [musicianship](#) was impeccable, especially after one year performing the songs in concert before making the record. The production, in Abbey Road Studios, was [state of the art](#), and hi-fi stereo was just becoming a mainstream consumer item — “The Dark Side of the Moon” became “one of the definitive test records that people could use on their hi-fi systems,” according to Nick Mason, the group’s drummer. People said that it was also a great record to have sex to or to listen to on stereo headphones while taking drugs!

## **THE ALBUM ERA**

The early 1970s were the beginning of the album era, and many record buyers were teenage boys. Waters felt that it was “the simplicity of the [album’s] ideas that [appeal](#) to a generation going through puberty and trying to [make sense](#) of it all.” A critic [agreed](#), adding “particularly if you accept (as most women do) that most men never get much further than puberty.”

## **GROUNDBREAKING SOUND**

The album became immediately famous for its [groundbreaking](#) sound. There were synthesizers making helicopter noises, phrases added between tracks using the voices of the group’s [roadies](#) and the Abbey Road studio staff, and clocks recorded in an antique [timepiece](#) shop.

## PIVOTAL MOMENT

The release of “The Dark Side of the Moon” is often seen as a [pivotal moment](#) in the history of rock music. It marked a high point in the album era. The record made the group members — Roger Waters, David Gilmour, Rick Wright and Nick Mason — extremely rich. It also helped increase album sales generally. The LP is eternally popular, selling 250,000 copies a year. Its 50th anniversary will take sales near the fifty-million-copies mark. Entertainment Ripercorriamo brano per brano il disco “The Dark Side of the Moon”, un classico intramontabile delle classifiche internazionali.

---

# Glossary

- **make sense** = capire, comprendere
- **landmark** = pietra miliare
- **greed** = avidità
- **grasp** = cogliere
- **seizing** = afferrare
- **musicianship** = abilità musicale
- **state of the art** = all'avanguardia
- **appeal** = rivolgersi
- **timepiece** = di orologi
- **wasted** = sprecare
- **groundbreaking** = rivoluzionario, all'avanguardia
- **roadies** = tecnici del suono
- **pivotal moment** = momento cruciale