

= The Black Parade =

The Black Parade is the third studio album by American rock band My Chemical Romance . Released on October 23 , 2006 through Reprise Records , it was produced by Rob Cavallo , known for having produced multiple albums for Goo Goo Dolls and Green Day . It is a rock opera centering on a dying character with cancer known as " The Patient " . The album tells the story of his apparent death , experiences in the afterlife , and subsequent reflections on his life .

Four singles were released from the album : " Welcome to the Black Parade " , " Famous Last Words " , " I Don 't Love You " , and " Teenagers " . The Black Parade has received generally favorable reviews , and the band achieved its first Number 1 single in the UK with " Welcome to the Black Parade " . The album debuted at number two on both the Billboard 200 and the UK Albums Chart and is also certified as platinum by the RIAA , as well as a Platinum certification in the UK and a Gold certification in Argentina by the CAPIF and in Chile by the IFPI Chile . The Black Parade was given the Platinum Europe Award by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry for 1 million sales in Europe . The limited edition boxed set also earned My Chemical Romance a Grammy Award nomination . In the video game Guitar Hero II (Xbox 360 version) , the song " Dead ! " was added to the game 's track list prior to the earlier PS2 version , and the three songs " Teenagers " , " Famous Last Words " and " This Is How I Disappear " are available for download . The Black Parade has sold 1 @, @ 610 @, @ 000 copies in the US as of October 2010 , and has sold 3 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 copies worldwide .

= = Musical and lyrical themes = =

The Black Parade is a rock opera centering around the character of " The Patient " . It is about his passage out of life and the memories he has of his life . " The Patient " dies and death comes for him in the form of a parade . This is based upon Gerard Way 's notion of death appearing to a person in the form of their fondest memory , in this case seeing a parade as a child .

The album also saw the creation of the alter @-@ ego band , The Black Parade . My Chemical Romance would perform the album live in costume as the Black Parade up until October 7 , 2007 Mexico City performance . On stage , the band would don black marching uniforms similar to those worn by The Beatles for the album Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967) . The live performance was theatrical , with Gerard Way assuming the character of a member of The Black Parade . Way 's mannerisms were compared to Bob Geldof in his performance of the lead character in the movie adaption of Pink Floyd 's The Wall (1979) . His performance was also compared to David Bowie 's performance of Ziggy Stardust and Freddie Mercury 's stage presence . There are also similarities to Alice Cooper in his " Welcome to My Nightmare " period . The video for " Welcome to the Black Parade " , directed by Sam Bayer , portrays the events of the entire story , starring all its characters , including Mother War , who is primarily involved in the song " Mama " . Gerard Way has described this video as " The definitive video for the record " and one that " summed up the album . "

The album also has strong influences from 1970s classic rock , glam rock , pop music , punk rock and gothic rock . The album 's style is considered pop punk , and alternative rock .

Lead singer Gerard Way has cited the bands Queen and Pink Floyd as major influences on the album . Similarities have been noted between the guitar orchestration in " Welcome to the Black Parade " , and the arrangements of Queen . Additionally , Pink Floyd 's The Wall and David Bowie 's The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars (1972) are noted as major influences for the album , which is especially evident when comparing the album 's opening track , " The End . " , to the first tracks on The Wall , " In the Flesh ? " , and on Ziggy Stardust , " Five Years " . Gerard Way has also stated that one of their biggest influences were The Smashing Pumpkins , often giving them credit for their thematic videos .

? The intention was to make something that was classic , something timeless , ? explained guitarist Ray Toro . ? Something that 20 or 30 years from now , parents could play for their kids and say , ? This is what I was listening to when I was your age . Check it out , it ? s still fucking cool . ? We

wanted to make a record you could pass down . There ? s a lot of music out now that doesn ? t feel like that . ?

Looking back at the creation of the album , guitarist Frank Iero was blasé about criticism the band received for this decidedly ? non @-@ scene ? record . " When we did Three Cheers For Sweet Revenge , we didn 't fit in , " he said . ? There was a little less screaming and a little more melody , but it was still us . Never was it a case of , ' Don 't put that melody there because Hardcore Chuck , who took me to my first show at Fairfield American Legion Hall , is really going to be bummed at me . ' I don ? t give a shit : If I had to work at McDonald 's for the rest of my life to play shows and ride in a shitty van on tour ? I 've done it . I 'll do it again . "

= = Release = =

The Black Parade debuted at number two in the United States on the Billboard 200 behind Hannah Montana (2006) . It also debuted at number two on the UK Albums Chart , behind Robbie Williams ' Rudebox (2006) . In its first week , the album sold 240 @,@ 000 copies , far surpassing the 38 @,@ 000 best @-@ week sales of the band 's previous album , Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge (2004) . The album debuted at number three on the Australian ARIA Albums Chart and was certified platinum after shipping more than 70 @,@ 000 copies . It debuted atop the charts in New Zealand and was certified platinum there , with shipments of more than 15 @,@ 000 . In 2012 , The Black Parade was certified Platinum by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) for 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 sales in Europe . The Black Parade has also been certified platinum by the RIAA for selling over 1 @,@ 100 @,@ 000 copies . It has been certified 2x Platinum in the UK , and has sold just over 600 @,@ 000 units there to date . As of August 25 , 2007 , the album has sold 1 @,@ 169 @,@ 697 copies in the U.S. " Welcome to the Black Parade " , a single from " The Black Parade " became My Chemical Romance 's first and only top 10 single in the United States .

= = Reception = =

At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 79 , based on 24 professional critic reviews , which indicates " generally favorable reviews " . Dan Martin from NME compared the album to Green Day 's American Idiot , positing that " it 's a piece of work that will challenge every preconception you ever had about the people who made it . " Tim Karan of Alternative Press called The Black Parade " MCR 's whole raison d 'etre rolled up into one mega @-@ decibel calling card " . Ed Thompson of IGN stated , " The Black Parade is a rock and roll gem that celebrates everything that was over the top about the 1970s rock scene . " David Fricke of Rolling Stone praised the classic rock feel of the album . Rolling Stone went on to rank The Black Parade # 20 in its " Top 50 Albums of 2006 " feature . Spin magazine named it the 5th best album of 2006 . Entertainment Weekly stated that " On their third studio album , a musical H @-@ bomb of an effort , the Jersey quintet combine the rock @-@ opera pomp of Queen with the darker , dirtier tones of their screamo past : Call it a Bro @-@ hemian Rhapsody . Even without its broad concept ? a dying cancer patient seeks revenge and redemption ? Parade stands as one of the most cohesive , engaging rock records of 2006 . " The Black Parade was ranked the third best record of the year , being surpassed only by Gnarls Barkley and TV on the Radio . Wizard Magazine praised the album in their " Best of 2006 " issue , declaring it " an instant classic . " IGN named it one of the best rock albums of the last decade . Robert Christgau gave the album a two @-@ star honorable mention () and said , " In prog , a good sense of humor means so much . "

The album was not without its share of criticism , and was panned by such publications as The Observer and Aversion . Stated Jamie Hodgson of The Observer , " ... it reeks of a band with ideas above its station . " Matt Schild of Aversion originally refused to review the album , simply writing the word " lame " in lieu of an actual review . Bowing to editorial pressure , he later posted a review listing specific aspects of the album before denouncing them as " lame " . Theon Weber of Stylus praised the album 's use of Queen influences , but went on to summarize the album as " ... a goofy

record of bubblegum punk , with Queen lapping at its edges and enough good tracks to justify the smattering of empty screamfests . " The album was included in Rock Sound 's 101 Modern Classics list at number 9 .

= = Versions = =

Several special editions of The Black Parade were released . One bears white text on a black background , and the second has black text on a white background . A third version has the normal booklet reversed , showing the picture of the parade drawn and painted by comic artist James Jean . Inside the booklet there are also lyrics , a photo of the band , and characters from the album .

A limited edition of the album was released the same time as the original release . It contains the same track listing as the original release but it is sold in a box wrapped in black velveteen material . It also contains a 64 @-@ page book which includes concept art by Gerard Way and making of the album notes by the band .

The version of The Black Parade that was released in Japan contains different content than the other regular editions . It contains 14 tracks , but the 14th track is the song " Heaven Help Us " (which was released with the single version of " Welcome to the Black Parade ") , instead of the song " Blood " . The Japanese version is also an Enhanced CD and includes the music video of " Welcome to the Black Parade " .

On December 11 , 2007 , The Black Parade was released as a vinyl LP , a first for the band . Two versions were released , the regular edition and the special edition . Both editions contain two records . The first record of both editions has tracks one to four on the A @-@ side and five to seven the B @-@ side . The second record has tracks eight to ten on the A @-@ side and 11 to 13 on the B @-@ side . The special edition includes the hidden track , " Blood , " while the regular edition does not . The special edition comes in a slip @-@ case box with two 15 @-@ page books . 2 @, @ 500 copies were made of the special edition , while 3 @, @ 000 copies of the regular vinyl edition were made . On February 10 , 2015 , the album was repressed on vinyl as a 2 @-@ LP set . The D side of the album includes an engraved picture of the cover of artwork .

= = Tour = =

My Chemical Romance began The Black Parade World Tour on February 22 , 2007 in Manchester , New Hampshire 's Verizon Wireless Arena . The tour featured 138 performances worldwide , as well as several festival and condensed shows . The tour is the longest and most internationally comprehensive headlining tour that the band has played to date , featuring three legs in North America , two legs in Europe , and one in Asia , Australia , and Latin America . The shows at the Palacio de los Deportes in Mexico City , Mexico on October 7 , 2007 and Maxwell 's in Hoboken , New Jersey on October 24 , 2007 were filmed for the DVD , The Black Parade Is Dead ! , which was released on July 1 , 2008 .

During the tour there were several cancellations and some members left the tour for personal or medical reasons . On January 11 , 2007 Frank Iero left the tour because of an unspecified illness . He was replaced by Drive By guitarist Todd Price . Mikey Way took time off to get married and spend time with his new wife (Alicia Simmons) and was replaced by guitar tech , Matt Cortez , from April 18 , 2007 until October 4 , 2007 . Six shows were cancelled from April 29 , 2007 to May 4 , 2007 after the band and crew contracted food poisoning . Bob Bryar suffered injuries relating to his wrists during the tour which led to the cancellation of the show at the University of Maine on October 27 , 2007 . Bryar left the tour on November 9 , 2007 and was replaced by a friend of the band , Pete , who wished to remain anonymous . Following the November 11 , 2007 show in Newcastle , Frank Iero left the tour to return home after learning about a family member 's illness . He was replaced by Matt Cortez .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by My Chemical Romance .

" The End . " ? 1 : 52

" Dead ! " ? 3 : 15

" This Is How I Disappear " ? 3 : 59

" The Sharpest Lives " ? 3 : 20

" Welcome to the Black Parade " ? 5 : 11

" I Don 't Love You " ? 3 : 58

" House of Wolves " ? 3 : 04

" Cancer " ? 2 : 22

" Mama " ? 4 : 39

" Sleep " ? 4 : 43

" Teenagers " ? 2 : 41

" Disenchanted " ? 4 : 55

" Famous Last Words " ? 4 : 59

Bonus tracks

B @-@ sides

= = Release history = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Charts = = =

= = = Certifications = = =

= = Personnel = =