

= Pixies =

The Pixies ( or just Pixies ) are an American alternative rock band formed in 1986 in Boston , Massachusetts . The group disbanded in 1993 in acrimonious circumstances , but reunited in 2004 . As of 2016 , the group currently consists of founders Black Francis ( lead vocals , rhythm guitar ) , Joey Santiago ( lead guitar ) , and David Lovering ( drums ) ; as well as Paz Lenchantin ( bass , vocals ) . Co @-@ founder Kim Deal ( bass , backing vocals ) left in 2013 , and was replaced by Kim Shattuck as live bass player for a few months ; then by Lenchantin for the band 's 2014 tour . In 2016 , Lenchantin was inducted as an official member of the band .

The Pixies achieved relatively modest popularity in their home country , but were significantly more successful in the United Kingdom , mainland Europe and Israel . The group is credited with having an influence on the alternative rock boom of the 1990s .

The band 's style of music contains a range of elements , including psychedelia , noise pop , hard rock , surf pop , and surf rock . Black Francis is the Pixies ' primary songwriter and singer . His lyrics feature a number of offbeat subjects such as extraterrestrials , surrealism , incest , and biblical violence .

Despite limited commercial success , their jarring pop sound subsequently influenced bands such as Nirvana , Radiohead , The Strokes , Blur and Weezer . The Pixies ' legacy and popularity grew in the years following their break @-@ up , leading to sold @-@ out world tours following their reunion in 2004 . In June 2013 , the band released their first new material in almost 10 years . Their popular song " Where Is My Mind ? " served as the ending song for the successful film Fight Club .

= = History = =

= = = Formation ( 1986 ) = = =

Joey Santiago and Black Francis ( born Charles Thompson IV ) first met when they lived next to each other in a suite while attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst . Although Santiago was worried about distractions , he noticed Francis played music and the pair began to jam together . Francis then embarked on a student exchange trip to Puerto Rico to study Spanish . After six months , he returned to Amherst and dropped out of the university . Francis and Santiago spent 1984 working in a warehouse , with Francis composing songs on his acoustic guitar and writing lyrics on the subway train .

Black Francis didn 't discover punk until he was 16 , saying " it was good I didn 't listen to these hip records . " He started out on a diet of 60s songs , religious music and Emerson Lake and Palmer , then Iggy Pop , Husker Du , Captain Beefheart and Talking Heads , who he says " weren 't punk either " .

The pair formed a band in January 1986 . Bass player Kim Deal joined Santiago and Francis two weeks later after responding to a classified advertisement Francis had placed , seeking a female bass player who liked both folk music icons Peter , Paul and Mary and the band Hüsker Dü . Deal was the only person to respond , but arrived at the audition without a bass as she had never played the instrument before . She was invited to join the band just because she liked the songs Black Francis was showing her . She later obtained a bass , and the trio started rehearsing in Deal 's apartment .

After recruiting Deal , the band tried unsuccessfully to get her sister , Kelley Deal , to join as its drummer . Kim 's husband suggested they hire drummer David Lovering , whom Kim had met at her wedding reception . The group arrived at a name after Santiago selected the word " pixies " randomly from a dictionary and took a liking to how it looked and its definition as " mischievous little elves " . Once the band had settled on a name and stable line @-@ up , they moved rehearsals to Lovering 's parents ' garage in mid @-@ 1986 . They began to play shows at bars in and around the Boston area .

== Record contract and Come on Pilgrim ( 1987 ) ==

While the Pixies were playing a concert with Throwing Muses , they were noticed by producer Gary Smith , manager of Fort Apache Studios . He told the band he " could not sleep until you guys are world famous " . The band produced a 17 @-@ track demo at Fort Apache soon afterwards , known to fans as " The Purple Tape " because of the tape cover 's purple background . Funded by Francis ' father at the cost of \$ 1000 , the recording session was completed in three days . Local promoter Ken Goes became the band 's manager , and he passed the demo to Ivo Watts @-@ Russell of the independent record label 4AD . Watts @-@ Russell nearly passed on the band , finding them too normal , " too rock ' n ' roll " , but signed them at the persuasion of his girlfriend .

Upon signing with 4AD , eight tracks from the Purple Tape were selected for the Come on Pilgrim mini @-@ LP , the band 's first release . On it , Francis drew upon his experiences in Puerto Rico , mostly in the songs " Vamos " and " Isla de Encanta " ; the album included lyrics describing the poverty in Puerto Rico . The religious lyrics in Come on Pilgrim and later albums came from his parents ' born @-@ again Christian days in the Pentecostal Church . Critic Heather Phares sees themes such as sexual frustration ( " I 've Been Tired " ) and incest ( " Nimrod 's Son " and " The Holiday Song " ) on the record .

== Surfer Rosa and Doolittle ( 1988 ? 89 ) ==

Come on Pilgrim was followed by the band 's first full @-@ length album , Surfer Rosa . The album was recorded by Steve Albini ( who was hired by Watts @-@ Russell on the advice of a 4AD colleague ) , completed in two weeks , and released in early 1988 . Surfer Rosa gained the Pixies acclaim in Europe ; both Melody Maker and Sounds gave Surfer Rosa their " Album of the Year " award . American critical response was also positive yet more muted , a reaction that persisted for much of the band 's career . The album was eventually certified Gold in the U.S. in 2005 . After the album was released , the band arrived in England to support Throwing Muses on the European " Sex and Death " tour ? beginning at the Mean Fiddler in London . The tour also took them to the Netherlands , where the Pixies had already received enough media attention to be headlining the tour . Francis later recalled : " The first place I made it with the Pixies was in Holland . " The tour became notable for the band 's in @-@ jokes , such as playing their entire set list in alphabetical order .

Meanwhile , the Pixies signed an American distribution deal with major record label Elektra . Around this time , the Pixies struck up a relationship with the British producer Gil Norton . Norton produced their second full album , Doolittle , which was recorded in the last six weeks of 1988 and seen as a departure from the raw sound of Come on Pilgrim and Surfer Rosa . Doolittle had a much cleaner sound , largely due to Norton and the production budget of US \$ 40 @,@ 000 , which was quadruple that of Surfer Rosa . Doolittle featured the single " Here Comes Your Man " , which biographers Josh Frank and Caryn Ganz describe as an unusually jaunty and pop @-@ like song for the band . " Monkey Gone to Heaven " was a Top 10 modern rock radio hit in the U.S. , and reached the Top 100 in the U.K. Like Surfer Rosa , Doolittle was acclaimed by fans and music critics alike .

== Hiatus ( 1989 ? 90 ) ==

After Doolittle tensions between Deal and Francis came to a head ( for example , Francis threw a guitar at Deal during a concert in Stuttgart ) , and Deal was almost fired from the band when she refused to play at a concert in Frankfurt . Santiago , in an interview with Mojo , described Deal as being " headstrong and want [ ing ] to include her own songs , to explore her own world " on the band 's albums ; eventually she accepted that Francis was the singer and had musical control of the band , but after the Frankfurt incident , " they kinda stopped talking " . The band became increasingly tired during the post @-@ Doolittle " Fuck or Fight " tour of the United States and fighting among members continued . After the tour 's final date in New York City , the band was too

exhausted to attend the end @-@ of @-@ tour party the following night and soon announced a hiatus .

During this time , Santiago and Lovering went on vacation , while Francis performed a short solo tour , made up of a number of concerts to generate gas money as he traveled across the country . Deal formed a new band , The Breeders , with Tanya Donelly of Throwing Muses and bass player Josephine Wiggs of Perfect Disaster . Their debut album , Pod , was released in 1990 .

= = = Bossanova , Trompe le Monde , and break @-@ up ( 1990 ? 2002 ) = = =

In 1990 , all members of the group except for Deal moved to Los Angeles . Lovering stated that he , Santiago , and Francis moved there " because the recording studio was there " . Unlike previous recordings , the band had little time to practice beforehand , and Black Francis wrote much of the album in the studio . Featuring the singles " Velouria " and " Dig for Fire " , Bossanova reached number 70 in the United States . In contrast , the album peaked at number three in the United Kingdom . Also in 1990 , the Pixies released a cover of the Paul Butterfield Blues Band 's " Born in Chicago " on the compilation album Rubáiyát : Elektra 's 40th Anniversary .

The band continued to tour and released Trompe le Monde in 1991 , their final album before their break @-@ up . The album included " U @-@ Mass " , which has been described as being about college apathy , and whose guitar riff was written years before at the University of Massachusetts before Francis and Santiago dropped out . The album also featured a cover of " Head On " by The Jesus and Mary Chain . Also that year , the band contributed a cover of " I Can 't Forget " to the Leonard Cohen tribute album I 'm Your Fan , and began an international tour on which they played stadiums in Europe and smaller venues in the United States . They then embarked on an uncomfortable tour supporting U2 on their Zoo TV Tour in 1992 . Tensions rose between band members , and , at the end of the year , the Pixies went on sabbatical and focused on separate projects .

In early 1993 , Francis announced in an interview to BBC Radio 5 that the band was finished and offered no explanation at the time , unbeknownst to the other members of the band . He later called Santiago and subsequently notified Deal and Lovering via fax , in January 1993 . After the break @-@ up , the four members embarked on separate projects . Black Francis renamed himself Frank Black , and he released several solo albums , including a string of releases with Frank Black and the Catholics . Deal returned to The Breeders , who scored a hit with " Cannonball " from that group 's platinum @-@ selling Last Splash in 1993 , and released two more albums several years later . She also formed and released one album with The Amps . Santiago played lead guitar on multiple Frank Black albums , as well as on other artists ' albums . He wrote theme music for the show Undeclared on Fox television and for Crime and Punishment in Suburbia . He formed a band called The Martinis with his wife , Linda Mallari , who released an album in 2004 . In 2004 , he also played lead guitar on the album " Statecraft " by the novelist and musician Charles Douglas . Lovering went on to become a magician and made occasional appearances as " The Scientific Phenomenalist " , performing experiments on stage and occasionally opening for Frank Black and The Breeders . Lovering continued to do some drumming , playing with the band Cracker , as well as on one of Tanya Donelly 's solo albums , and on the Martinis ' song " Free " , which appeared on the Empire Records soundtrack .

4AD and Elektra Records continued to release Pixies material in the band 's absence . They released the best @-@ of album Death to the Pixies ( 1997 ) , the Peel @-@ session compilation Pixies at the BBC ( 1998 ) , and the Complete ' B ' Sides compilation ( 2001 ) . Meanwhile , in 2002 material from the band 's original 17 @-@ track demo tape was released as an EP , Pixies , on Cooking Vinyl in the U.K. and SpinArt Records in the U.S. ; Frank Black has also used these labels to release solo work and albums with The Catholics .

= = = Reunion ( 2003 ? 12 ) = = =

In the 11 years following the break @-@ up , rumors sometimes circulated regarding a reunion .

Though Frank Black steadfastly dismissed them , he did begin to incorporate an increasing number of Pixies songs in his sets with The Catholics , and occasionally included Santiago in his solo work and Lovering 's magic show as an opening act to concerts .

In 2003 , a series of phone calls between band members resulted in some low @-@ key rehearsals , and soon to a decision to reunite . By February 2004 , a full tour was announced , and tickets for nearly all the initial tour dates sold out within minutes . The band 's four @-@ night run at London 's Brixton Academy was the fastest selling in the venue 's twenty @-@ year history .

The Pixies played their first reunion concert on April 13 , 2004 , at The Fine Line Music Cafe in Minneapolis , Minnesota , and a warm @-@ up tour through the U.S. and Canada was followed by an appearance at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival . The band then spent much of 2004 touring throughout Brazil , Europe , Japan , and the U.S. The group won the Act @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Year award in the 2004 Boston Music Awards . The 2004 reunion tour reportedly grossed over \$ 14 million in ticket sales .

In June 2004 , the band released a new song , " Bam Thwok " exclusively on the iTunes Music Store . The song reached number one in the UK Official Download Chart . 4AD released Wave of Mutilation : The Best of Pixies , along with a companion DVD , entitled Pixies . The band also contributed a rendition of " Ain 't That Pretty at All " to the Warren Zevon tribute album Enjoy Every Sandwich . " Bam Thwok " and " Ain 't That Pretty at All " were both recorded by engineer Ben Mumphrey , the former at Stagg Street Studios in Van Nuys , CA and the latter at Metamorphosis Studio in Vienna , Austria .

In 2005 , the band made appearances at festivals including Lollapalooza , " T on the Fringe " , and the Newport Folk Festival . They continued to make appearances through 2006 and 2007 , culminating in their first @-@ ever appearances in Australia . Since 2005 , Francis has at various times stated that the Pixies recording a new studio album was either a possibility , or an unlikelihood , the main obstacle being Deal 's reluctance to do so .

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the release of Doolittle , the Pixies launched a tour in October 2009 where they performed the album track @-@ for @-@ track , including the associated B @-@ sides . The tour began in Europe , continued in the United States in November , with the Southamerican and Australian tour following in March 2010 , then New Zealand , and more European dates in spring 2010 , and back to North America in fall 2010 and into spring 2011 .

= = = Kim Deal 's departure and Indie Cindy ( 2013 ? 2015 ) = = =

On June 14 , 2013 , it was announced by the band 's Twitter profile that Kim Deal had left the band . Deal has since posted new solo music on her website and the remaining Pixies have welcomed her to come back as her schedule with Breeders allows . Two weeks later , the band released a new song , " Bagboy " , as a free download via the Pixies website . The song features Jeremy Dubs of Bunnies and formerly of the Bennies on vocals in place of Deal .

On July 1 , 2013 , the Pixies announced the addition of The Muffs and The Pandoras guitarist and vocalist Kim Shattuck , who would be replacing Deal for the band 's 2013 European tour . On September 3 , 2013 the Pixies released an EP of new songs titled EP1 . On November 29 , 2013 , Shattuck announced that she had been dismissed from the band that day . In December 2013 , Paz Lenchantin was announced as the new bassist for the 2014 tour . More new material surfaced when the Pixies released their second EP , titled EP2 , on January 3 , 2014 . The single released to radio was " Blue Eyed Hexe . " Another new EP , called EP3 , was released on March 24 , 2014 . All the EPs were only available as downloads and limited edition vinyl . The three EPs were collected in LP format and released as the album Indie Cindy in April 2014 . The album was the first release from the band in over two decades , the last being Trompe le Monde in 1991 .

In 2015 it was revealed that the Pixies would go on tour as a supporting act to former Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant for a series of dates across North America .

= = = Head Carrier ( 2016 ? present ) = = =

On July 6 , 2016 , the band announced both that their sixth album , Head Carrier would be released on September 30 , and that Lenchantin was now a full @-@ time member of the band .

= = Musical style = =

Spin magazine described the Pixies ' musical style as " Surf music @-@ meets @-@ Stooges spikiness and oft @-@ imitated stop / start and quiet / loud dynamics " . Their music has also been pictured as " an unorthodox marriage of surf music and punk rock , ... characterized by Black 's bristling lyrics and hackle @-@ raising caterwaul , Kim Deal 's whispered harmonies and waspy basslines , Joey Santiago 's fragile guitar , and the persistent flush of David Lovering 's drums . " The band 's music incorporates extreme dynamic shifts ; Francis explained in 1991 , " Those are the two basic components of rock music [ ... ] the dreamy side and the rockin ' side . It 's always been either sweaty or laid back and cool . We do try to be dynamic , but it 's dumbo dynamics , because we don 't know how to do anything else . We can play loud or quiet ? that 's it " .

= = = Influences = = =

The Pixies are influenced by a range of artists and genres ; each member came from a different musical background . When he first started writing songs for the Pixies , Francis says he was listening to nothing but Hüsker Dü , Captain Beefheart , and Iggy Pop ; Other influences associated with Francis include The Gun Club and The Cars . During the making of Doolittle he was listening heavily to The Beatles ' The White Album . He has cited Buddy Holly as a model for his compressed songwriting .

Santiago listened to 1970s and 1980s punk including Black Flag , as well as David Bowie . Guitarists who influenced him include Jimi Hendrix , Les Paul , Wes Montgomery , and George Harrison . Deal 's musical background was folk music and country ; she had formed a country @-@ folk band with her sister in her teenage years , and played covers of artists such as The Everly Brothers and Hank Williams . Other artists they listened to included XTC , Gang of Four and Elvis Costello . Lovering is a fan of the band Rush .

Other media such as film has influenced the Pixies ; Francis cites surrealist films Eraserhead and Un chien andalou ( as mentioned in " Debaser " ) as influences . He has commented on these influences , saying he " didn 't have the patience to sit around reading Surrealist novels " , but found it easier to watch twenty @-@ minute films .

= = = Songwriting and vocals = = =

Most of the Pixies ' songs were composed and sung by Francis . Critic Stephen Thomas Erlewine has described Francis 's writing as containing " bizarre , fragmented lyrics about space , religion , sex , mutilation , and pop culture " . Biblical violence is a theme of Doolittle 's " Dead " and " Gouge Away " ; Francis told a Melody Maker interviewer , " It 's all those characters in the Old Testament . I 'm obsessed with them . Why it comes out so much I don 't know . " He has described Come on Pilgrim 's " Caribou " as being about reincarnation , and extraterrestrial themes appear in a number of songs on Bossanova .

Deal co @-@ wrote Doolittle 's " Silver " with Francis , and they share lead harmony vocals on the track . She also co @-@ wrote and sang lead vocals on Surfer Rosa 's " Gigantic " , and is the sole songwriter of the 2004 digital single " Bam Thwok " . She was credited as Mrs. John Murphy on the former composition ? at the time she was married and she used this name as an ironic feminist joke . She also sang lead vocals on the song " Into the White " and the Neil Young cover " Winterlong " , both B @-@ sides . Lovering sang lead vocals on Doolittle 's " La La Love You " and the B @-@ side " Make Believe " .

= = Legacy = =

Although the Pixies produced relatively few albums , whose sales were modest , they influenced a number of bands associated with the alternative rock boom of the 1990s . Gary Smith , who produced their *Come on Pilgrim* , commented on the band 's influence on alternative rock and their legacy in 1997 :

I 've heard it said about The Velvet Underground that while not a lot of people bought their albums , everyone who did started a band . I think this is largely true about the Pixies as well . Charles ' secret weapon turned out to be not so secret and , sooner or later , all sorts of bands were exploiting the same strategy of wide dynamics . It became a kind of new pop formula and , within a short while , " Smells Like Teen Spirit " was charging up the charts and even the members of Nirvana said later that it sounded for all the world like a Pixies song .

Sonically , the Pixies are credited with popularizing the extreme dynamics and stop @-@ start timing that would become widespread in alternative rock ; Pixies songs typically feature hushed , restrained verses , and explosive , wailing choruses . Artists including David Bowie , Radiohead , PJ Harvey , U2 , Nirvana , The Strokes , Alice in Chains , Weezer , Bush , Arcade Fire and Pavement have cited admiration of or influence by the Pixies . Bono of U2 has called the Pixies " one of America 's greatest bands ever " , and Radiohead 's Thom Yorke has said that , while at school , " the Pixies had changed my life " . Bowie , whose own music had inspired Francis and Santiago while they were at university , has said that the Pixies made " just about the most compelling music of the entire 80s . "

One notable citation as an influence was by Kurt Cobain , on influencing Nirvana 's " Smells Like Teen Spirit " , which he admitted was a conscious attempt to co @-@ opt the Pixies ' style . In a January 1994 interview with *Rolling Stone* , he said , " I was trying to write the ultimate pop song . I was basically trying to rip off the Pixies . I have to admit it [ smiles ] . When I heard the Pixies for the first time , I connected with that band so heavily I should have been in that band ? or at least in a Pixies cover band . We used their sense of dynamics , being soft and quiet and then loud and hard . " Cobain cited *Surfer Rosa* as one of his main musical influences , and particularly admired the album 's natural and powerful drum sounds ? a result of Steve Albini 's influence on the record . Albini later produced Nirvana 's 1993 *In Utero* at the request of Cobain .

= = Music videos and DVDs = =

No music videos were released from *Come on Pilgrim* or *Surfer Rosa* , but from *Doolittle* onwards , the following videos were made : " Monkey Gone To Heaven " , " Here Comes Your Man " , " Velouria " , " Dig For Fire " , " Allison " , " Alec Eiffel " , " Head On " , and " Debaser " ; these were later released on the 2004 DVD *Pixies* . Furthermore , a music video accompanied the release of their 2013 song , " Bagboy " , as well an alternate video released on a later date . Videos have been made for all the songs in EP1 . The videos for " Here Comes Your Man " and " Allison " were also released on *The Complete ' B ' Sides* .

By *Bossanova* , the band had developed a severe aversion to recording music videos , and Francis refused to lip @-@ sync to them . For example , in the " Here Comes Your Man " video , both Black and Deal open their mouths wide instead of mouthing their lyrics . According to the record label this became one of the reasons that the Pixies never achieved major coverage on MTV .

With *Bossanova* 's release , 4AD hoped to get the Pixies chosen to perform their single " Velouria " on the BBC music programme *Top of the Pops* . To this end , the band was pressured into producing a video for the song , and they made one cheaply with the band members filmed running down a quarry , shown in slow motion . The group was ultimately not given a spot on the show .

A 90 @-@ minute documentary called *loudQUIETloud* : a film about the Pixies directed by Steven Cantor and Matthew Galkin was released in 2006 . The film documents their 2004 reunion and tour , and covers the years after the break @-@ up . In addition to *Pixies* and *LoudQUIETloud* , four other Pixies ' DVDs were released between 2004 and 2006 , all featuring concert performances : *Live at the Town and Country Club 1988* , *The Pixies ? Sell Out* , *The Pixies Acoustic : Live in Newport* , and *The Pixies Club Date : Live at the Paradise in Boston* .

## = = Members = =

### Current members

Black Francis ? vocals , rhythm guitar ( 1986 @-@ 1993 , 2004 ? present )  
Joey Santiago ? lead guitar , keyboards ( 1986 @-@ 1993 , 2004 ? present )  
David Lovering ? drums , percussion ( 1986 @-@ 1993 , 2004 ? present )  
Paz Lenchantin ? bass guitar , violin , vocals ( 2014 ? present )

### Former members

Kim Deal ? bass guitar , vocals ( 1986 ? 1993 , 2004 @-@ 2013 )  
Kim Shattuck ? bass guitar , vocals ( 2013 )

## = = Discography = =

Surfer Rosa ( 1988 )  
Doolittle ( 1989 )  
Bossanova ( 1990 )  
Trompe le Monde ( 1991 )  
Indie Cindy ( 2014 )  
Head Carrier ( 2016 )