

= The Smashing Pumpkins =

The Smashing Pumpkins (or Smashing Pumpkins) is an American alternative rock band from Chicago , Illinois , formed in 1988 . Formed by frontman Billy Corgan (lead vocals , guitar) and James Iha (guitar) , the band included D 'arcy Wretzky (bass guitar) and Jimmy Chamberlin (drums) in its original incarnation . It has undergone many line @-@ up changes over the course of its existence , with the current lineup including Corgan , rhythm guitarist Jeff Schroeder and Chamberlin .

Disavowing the punk rock roots of many of their alt @-@ rock contemporaries , the Pumpkins have a diverse , densely layered , and guitar @-@ heavy sound , containing elements of gothic rock , heavy metal , dream pop , psychedelic rock , progressive rock , shoegazing , and electronica in later recordings . Corgan is the group 's primary songwriter ? his grand musical ambitions and cathartic lyrics have shaped the band 's albums and songs , which have been described as " anguished , bruised reports from Billy Corgan 's nightmare @-@ land " .

The Smashing Pumpkins broke into the musical mainstream with their second album , 1993 's Siamese Dream . The group built its audience with extensive touring and their 1995 follow @-@ up , the double album Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness , which debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 album chart . With 20 million albums sold in the United States alone , The Smashing Pumpkins were one of the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed bands of the 1990s . However , internal fighting , drug use , and diminishing record sales led to a 2000 break @-@ up .

In 2006 , Billy Corgan and Jimmy Chamberlin reconvened to record a new Smashing Pumpkins album , Zeitgeist . After touring throughout 2007 and 2008 with a lineup including new guitarist Jeff Schroeder , Chamberlin left the band in early 2009 . Later that year , Corgan began a new recording series entitled Teagarden by Kaleidyscope featuring a rotating lineup of musicians , that has resulted in the albums Oceania (2012) , Monuments to an Elegy (2014) , and a forthcoming album . Chamberlin rejoined , originally temporarily , in 2015 for The End Times Tour , but remained a member of the band afterwards . As of 2016 , Corgan , Chamberlin & Schroeder are the sole permanent band members .

= = History = =

= = = Early years : 1988 ? 1991 = = =

After the breakup of his gothic rock band The Marked , singer and guitarist Billy Corgan left St. Petersburg , Florida , to return to his native city of Chicago , where he took a job in a record store and formed the idea of a new band to be called " The Smashing Pumpkins " . While working there , he met guitarist James Iha . Adorning themselves with paisley and other psychedelic trappings , the two began writing songs together (with the aid of a drum machine) that were heavily influenced by The Cure and New Order . The duo performed live for the first time on July 9 , 1988 at the Polish bar Chicago 21 . This performance included only Corgan on bass and Iha on guitar with a drum machine . Shortly thereafter , Corgan met D 'arcy Wretzky after a show by the Dan Reed Network where they argued the merits of the band . After finding out Wretzky played bass guitar , Corgan recruited her into the lineup and the now @-@ trio played a show at the Avalon Nightclub . After this show , Cabaret Metro owner Joe Shanahan agreed to book the band on the condition that they replace the drum machine with a live drummer .

Jazz drummer Jimmy Chamberlin was recommended by a friend of Corgan 's . Chamberlin knew little of alternative music and immediately changed the sound of the nascent band . As Corgan recalled of the period , " We were completely into the sad @-@ rock , Cure kind of thing . It took about two or three practices before I realized that the power in his playing was something that enabled us to rock harder than we could ever have imagined . " On October 5 , 1988 , the complete band took the stage for the first time at the Cabaret Metro .

In 1989 , The Smashing Pumpkins made their first appearance on record with the compilation

album *Light Into Dark* , which featured several Chicago alternative bands . The group released its first single , " I Am One " , in 1990 on local Chicago label Limited Potential . The single sold out and they released a follow @-@ up , " Tristessa " , on Sub Pop , after which they signed to Caroline Records . The band recorded their 1991 debut studio album *Gish* with producer Butch Vig at his Smart Studios in Madison , Wisconsin for \$ 20 @,@ 000 . In order to gain the consistency he desired , Corgan often played all instruments save drums , which created tension in the band . The music fused heavy metal guitars , psychedelia , and dream pop , garnering them comparisons to Jane 's Addiction . *Gish* became a minor success , with the single " Rhinoceros " receiving some airplay on modern rock radio . After releasing the *Lull* EP in October 1991 on Caroline Records , the band formally signed with Virgin Records , which was affiliated with Caroline . The band supported the album with a tour that included opening for bands such as the Red Hot Chili Peppers , Jane 's Addiction , and Guns N ' Roses . During the tour , Iha and Wretzky went through a messy breakup , Chamberlin became addicted to narcotics and alcohol , and Corgan entered a deep depression , writing some songs for the upcoming album in the parking garage where he lived at the time .

= = = Mainstream breakout : 1992 ? 1994 = = =

With the breakthrough of alternative rock into the American mainstream due to the popularity of grunge bands such as Nirvana and Pearl Jam , The Smashing Pumpkins were poised for major commercial success . At this time , the Pumpkins were routinely lumped in with the grunge movement , with Corgan protesting , " We 've graduated now from ' the next Jane 's Addiction ' to ' the next Nirvana , ' now we 're ' the next Pearl Jam . ' "

Amid this environment of intense internal pressure for the band to break through to widespread popularity , the band relocated to Marietta , Georgia in late 1992 to begin work on their second album , with Butch Vig returning as producer . The decision to record so far away from their hometown was motivated partly by the band 's desire to avoid friends and distractions during the recording , but largely as a desperate attempt to cut Chamberlin off from his known drug connections . The recording environment for *Siamese Dream* was quickly marred by discord within the band . As was the case with *Gish* , Corgan and Vig decided that Corgan should play nearly all of the guitar and bass parts on the album , contributing to an air of resentment . The contemporary music press began to portray Corgan as a tyrant . Corgan 's depression , meanwhile , had deepened to the point where he contemplated suicide , and he compensated by practically living in the studio . Meanwhile , Chamberlin quickly managed to find new connections and was often absent without any contact for days at a time . In all , it took over four months to complete the record , with the budget exceeding \$ 250 @,@ 000 .

Despite all the problems in its recording , *Siamese Dream* debuted at number ten on the Billboard 200 chart , and sold over four million copies in the U.S. alone . Alongside the band 's mounting mainstream recognition , the band 's reputation as careerists among their former peers in the independent music community was worsened . Indie rock band Pavement 's 1994 song " Range Life " directly mocks the band in its lyrics , although Stephen Malkmus , lead singer of Pavement , has stated , " I never dissed their music . I just dissed their status . " Former Hüsker Dü frontman Bob Mould called them " the grunge Monkees " , and fellow Chicago musician / producer Steve Albini wrote a scathing letter in response to an article praising the band , derisively comparing them to REO Speedwagon (" by , of and for the mainstream ") and concluding their ultimate insignificance . The opening track and lead single of *Siamese Dream* , " Cherub Rock " , directly addresses Corgan 's feud with the " indie @-@ world " .

In 1994 , Virgin released the B @-@ sides / rarities compilation *Pisces Iscariot* which charted higher than *Siamese Dream* by reaching number four on the Billboard 200 . Also released was a VHS cassette titled *Vieuphoria* featuring a mix of live performances and behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage . Following relentless touring to support the recordings , including headline slots on the 1994 Lollapalooza tour and at Reading Festival in 1995 , the band took time off to write the follow @-@ up album .

== Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness : 1995 ? 1997 ==

Corgan worked non stop over the next year and wrote about fifty six songs for the next album . Following this spell of concentrated creativity , the Pumpkins went back into the studio with producers Flood and Alan Moulder to work on what Corgan described as " The Wall for Generation X " , a comparison with the 1979 Pink Floyd two LP concept album .

The result was Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness , a double album featuring twenty eight songs and lasting over two hours (the vinyl version of the album contained three records , two extra songs , and an alternate track listing) . The songs were intended to hang together conceptually as a symbol of the cycle of life and death . Praised by Time as " the group 's most ambitious and accomplished work yet " , Mellon Collie debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 in October 1995 . Even more successful than Siamese Dream , it was certified ten times platinum in the United States and became the best selling double album of the decade to date . It also garnered seven 1997 Grammy Award nominations , including Album of the Year . The band won only the Best Hard Rock Performance award , for the album 's lead single " Bullet with Butterfly Wings " . The album spawned five singles ? " Bullet with Butterfly Wings " , " 1979 " , " Zero " , " Tonight , Tonight " , and " Thirty Three " ? of which the first three were certified gold and all but " Zero " entered the Top 40 . Many of the remaining songs that did not make it onto Mellon Collie were released as B sides to the singles , and were eventually compiled in The Aeroplane Flies High box set . As a testament to the band 's popularity , Virgin Records originally intended to limit the set to 200 ,000 copies , but produced more after the original run sold out due to overwhelming demand .

In 1996 , the Pumpkins undertook an extended world tour in support of Mellon Collie . Corgan 's look during this period ? a shaved head , a long-sleeve black shirt with the word " Zero " printed on it , and silver pants ? became iconic . That year , the band also made a guest appearance in an episode of The Simpsons , " Homerpalooza " . With considerable video rotation on MTV , major industry awards , and " Zero " shirts selling in many malls , the Pumpkins were considered one of the most popular bands of the time . But the year was far from entirely positive for the band . In May , the Smashing Pumpkins played a gig at The Point Theatre in Dublin , Ireland . Despite the band 's repeated requests for moshing to stop , a seventeen year old fan named Bernadette O'Brien was crushed to death . The concert ended early and the following night 's performance in Belfast was cancelled out of respect for her . However , while Corgan maintained that moshing 's " time [had] come and gone " , the band would continue to request open floor concerts throughout the rest of the tour .

The band suffered a personal tragedy on the night of July 11 , 1996 , when touring keyboardist Jonathan Melvoin and Chamberlin overdosed on heroin in a hotel room in New York City . Melvoin died , and Chamberlin was arrested for drug possession . A few days later , the band announced that Chamberlin had been fired as a result of the incident . The Pumpkins chose to finish the tour , and hired drummer Matt Walker and keyboardist Dennis Flemion . Corgan later said the decision to continue touring was the worst decision the band had ever made , damaging both their music and their reputation . Chamberlin admitted in a 1994 Rolling Stone cover story that in the past he 'd " gotten high in every city in this country and probably half the cities in Europe . " But in recent years , he had reportedly been clean . On July 17 , the Pumpkins issued a statement in which they said , " For nine years we have battled with Jimmy 's struggles with the insidious disease of drug and alcohol addiction . It has nearly destroyed everything we are and stand for . ? We wish [him] the best we have to offer , " Meanwhile , the band had given interviews since the release of Mellon Collie stating that it would be the last conventional Pumpkins record , and that rock was becoming stale . James Iha said at the end of 1996 , " The future is in electronic music . It really seems boring just to play rock music . "

== Adore , Machina , and breakup : 1998 ? 2000 ==

After the release of Mellon Collie , the Pumpkins contributed a number of songs to various compilations . Released in early 1997 , the song " Eye " , which appeared on the soundtrack to

David Lynch 's Lost Highway , relied almost exclusively on electronic instruments and signaled a drastic shift from the Pumpkins ' previous musical styles . At the time , Corgan stated his " idea [was] to reconfigure the focus and get away from the classic guitars @-@ bass @-@ drum rock format . " Later that year , the group contributed " The End Is the Beginning Is the End " to the soundtrack for the film Batman & Robin . With Matt Walker on drums , the song featured a heavy sound similar to " Bullet With Butterfly Wings " while still having strong electronic influences . The song later won the 1998 Grammy for Best Hard Rock Performance . Though Corgan announced that the song represented the sound people could expect from the band in the future , the band 's next album would feature few guitar driven songs .

Recorded following the death of Corgan 's mother and his divorce , 1998 's Adore represented a significant change of style from the Pumpkins ' previous guitar @-@ based rock , veering into electronica . The record , cut with assistance from drum machines and studio drummers including Matt Walker , was infused with a darker aesthetic than much of the band 's earlier work . The group also modified its public image , shedding its alternative rock look for a more subdued appearance . Although Adore received favorable reviews and was nominated for Best Alternative Performance at the Grammy Awards , the album had only sold about 830 @, @ 000 copies in the United States by the end of the year , which led the music industry to consider it a failure . The album nonetheless sold three times as many copies overseas . The band began a seventeen @-@ date , fifteen @-@ city charity North American tour in support of Adore . At each stop on the tour , the band donated 100 percent of tickets sales to a local charity organization . The tour 's expenses were entirely funded out of the band 's own pockets . All told , the band donated over \$ 2 @. @ 8 million to charity as a result of the tour .

In 1999 , the band surprised fans by reuniting with a rehabilitated Jimmy Chamberlin for a brief tour dubbed " The Arising " , which showcased both new and classic material . The lineup was short @-@ lived , however , as the band announced the departure of Wretzky in September during work on the album Machina / The Machines of God . Former Hole bassist Melissa Auf der Maur was recruited for the " Sacred and Profane " tour in support of the album and appeared in the videos accompanying its release . Released in 2000 , Machina was initially promoted as the Pumpkins ' return to a more traditional rock sound , after the more gothic , electronic @-@ sounding Adore . The album debuted at number three on the Billboard charts , but quickly disappeared and as of 2007 had only been certified gold . Music journalist Jim DeRogatis , who described the album as " one of the strongest of their career " , noted that the stalled sales for Machina in comparison to teen pop ascendant at the time " seems like concrete proof that a new wave of young pop fans has turned a deaf ear toward alternative rock . "

On May 23 , 2000 , in a live radio interview on KROQ @-@ FM (Los Angeles) , Billy Corgan announced the band 's decision to break up at the end of that year following additional touring and recording . The group 's final album before the break @-@ up , Machina II / The Friends & Enemies of Modern Music , was released in September 2000 in a limited pressing on vinyl with permission and instructions for free redistribution on the Internet by fans . Only twenty @-@ five copies were cut , each of which was hand numbered and given to friends of the band along with band members themselves . The album , released under the Constantinople Records label created by Corgan , consisted of one double LP and three ten @-@ inch EPs . Originally , the band asked Virgin to offer Machina II as a free download to anyone who bought Machina . When the record label declined , Corgan opted to release the material independently .

On December 2 , 2000 , Smashing Pumpkins played a farewell concert at The Metro , the same Chicago club where their career had effectively started twelve years earlier . The four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ hour @-@ long show featured 35 songs spanning the group 's career , and attendees were given a recording of the band 's first concert at The Metro , Live at Cabaret Metro 10 @-@ 5 @-@ 88 . The single " Untitled " was released commercially to coincide with the farewell show .

== = Post @-@ breakup : 2001 ? 2004 == =

In 2001 , the compilation Rotten Apples was released . The double @-@ disc version of the album , released as a limited edition , included a collection of B @-@ sides and rarities called Judas O. The Greatest Hits Video Collection DVD was also released at the same time . This was a compilation of all of the Pumpkins promo videos from Gish to Machina along with unreleased material . Vieuphoria was released on DVD in 2002 , as was the soundtrack album Earphoria , previously released solely to radio stations in 1994 .

Billy Corgan and Jimmy Chamberlin reunited in 2001 as members of Corgan 's next project , the short @-@ lived supergroup Zwan . The group 's only album , Mary Star of the Sea , was released in 2003 . After cancelling a few festival appearances , Corgan announced the demise of the band in 2003 . During 2001 , Corgan also toured as part of New Order and provided vocals on their comeback album Get Ready . In October 2004 , Corgan released his first book , Blinking with Fists , a collection of poetry . In June 2005 , he released a solo album , TheFutureEmbrace , which he described as " (picking) up the thread of the as @-@ of @-@ yet @-@ unfinished work of the Smashing Pumpkins " . Despite this , it was greeted with generally mixed reviews and lackluster sales . Only one single , " Walking Shade " , was released in support of the album .

In addition to drumming with Zwan , Jimmy Chamberlin also formed an alternative rock / jazz fusion project band called The Jimmy Chamberlin Complex . The group released an album in 2005 titled Life Begins Again . Corgan provided guest vocals on the track " Lokicat " . James Iha served as a guitarist in A Perfect Circle , appearing on their Thirteenth Step club tour and 2004 album , eMOTIVE . He has also been involved with other acts such as Chino Moreno 's Team Sleep and Vanessa and the O 's . He continues to work with his own record label as well , Scratchie Records . D 'arcy Wretzky has , aside from one radio interview in 2009 , not made any public statements or appearances nor given any interviews since leaving the band in 1999 . On January 25 , 2000 , she was arrested after she allegedly purchased three bags of crack cocaine , but after successfully completing a court @-@ ordered drug education program , the charges were dropped .

Corgan insisted during this period that the band would not reform , although when Zwan broke up he announced , " I think my heart was in Smashing Pumpkins [?] I think it was naive of me to think that I could find something that would mean as much to me . " Corgan said in 2005 , " I never wanted to leave the Smashing Pumpkins . That was never the plan . " On February 17 , 2004 , Corgan posted a message on his personal blog calling Wretzky a " mean @-@ spirited drug addict " and blaming Iha for the breakup of The Smashing Pumpkins . On June 3 , 2004 , he added that " the depth of my hurt [from Iha] is only matched with the depth of my gratitude " . Iha responded to Corgan 's claims in 2005 , saying , " No , I didn 't break up the band . The only person who could have done that is Billy . "

= = = Reformation and Zeitgeist : 2005 ? 2008 = = =

On June 21 , 2005 , the day of the release of his album TheFutureEmbrace , Corgan took out full @-@ page advertisements in the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun @-@ Times to announce that he planned to reunite the band . " For a year now " , Corgan wrote , " I have walked around with a secret , a secret I chose to keep . But now I want you to be among the first to know that I have made plans to renew and revive the Smashing Pumpkins . I want my band back , and my songs , and my dreams " . Corgan and Chamberlin were verified as participants in the reunion , but there was question as to whether other former members of the band would participate .

In April 2007 , Iha and Auf der Maur separately confirmed that they were not taking part in the reunion . Chamberlin would later state that Iha and Wretzky " didn 't want to be a part of " the reunion . The Smashing Pumpkins performed live for the first time since 2000 on May 22 , 2007 , in Paris , France . There , the band unveiled new touring members : guitarist Jeff Schroeder , bassist Ginger Reyes , and keyboardist Lisa Harriton . That same month , " Tarantula " was released as the first single from the band 's forthcoming album . On July 7 , the band performed at the Live Earth concert in New Jersey .

The band 's new album , Zeitgeist , was released that same month on Reprise Records , entering the Billboard charts at number two and selling 145 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . Zeitgeist

received mixed reviews , with much of the criticism targeted at the absence of half of the original lineup . The album divided the Pumpkins ' fanbase . Corgan would later admit , " I know a lot of our fans are puzzled by Zeitgeist . I think they wanted this massive , grandiose work , but you don 't just roll out of bed after seven years without a functioning band and go back to doing that " .

Corgan and Chamberlin continued to record as a duo , releasing the four @-@ song EP American Gothic in January 2008 and the singles " Superchrist " and " G.L.O.W. " later that year . That November , the group released the DVD If All Goes Wrong , which chronicled the group 's 2007 concert residences in Asheville , North Carolina and San Francisco , California . In late 2008 , the band commenced on a controversy @-@ riddled 20th Anniversary Tour . Around this time , Corgan said the group will make no more full @-@ length records in order to focus exclusively on singles , explaining , " The listening patterns have changed , so why are we killing ourselves to do albums , to create balance , and do the arty track to set up the single ? It 's done . "

= = = Teargarden and Oceania : 2009 ? 2013 = = =

In March 2009 , Corgan announced on the band 's website that Chamberlin had left the group and would be replaced . Chamberlin subsequently stated that his departure from the band is " a positive move forward for me . I can no longer commit all of my energy into something that I don 't fully possess . " Chamberlin stressed that the split was amicable , commenting , " I am glad [Corgan] has chosen to continue under the name . It is his right . " Chamberlin soon formed the band Skysaw , which has released an album and toured in support of Minus the Bear . In July 2009 , Billy Corgan formed a new group called Spirits in the Sky , initially as a tribute band to Sky Saxon of The Seeds , who had recently died . The following month Corgan confirmed on the band 's website that 19 @-@ year @-@ old Spirits in the Sky drummer Mike Byrne had replaced Chamberlin and that the pair was working on new Pumpkins recordings .

The group announced plans to release a 44 @-@ track concept album , Teargarden by Kaleidyscope , for free over the Internet one track at a time . The first track , " A Song for a Son " , was released in December 2009 to moderate press acclaim . In March 2010 , Ginger Reyes officially left the band , prompting an open call for auditions for a new bassist . In May , Nicole Fiorentino announced she had joined the band as bass player , and would be working on Teargarden by Kaleidyscope . The new lineup went on a world tour through to the end of 2010 . One of the first shows with the new lineup was a concert to benefit Matthew Leone , bassist for the rock band Madina Lake , at the Metro on July 27 , 2010 . In late 2010 , all four members contributed to the sessions for the third volume of Teargarden .

On April 26 , 2011 , Corgan announced that the Smashing Pumpkins would be releasing a new album titled Oceania , which he labeled as " an album within an album " in regards to the Teargarden by Kaleidyscope project , in the fall . As with the previous recording sessions , all four band members contributed to the project . Also , the entire album catalog was to be remastered and reissued with bonus tracks , starting with Gish and Siamese Dream in November 2011 . The pre @-@ Gish demos , Pisces Iscariot , and Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness were released in 2012 , with The Aeroplane Flies High released the following year . Adore was released in 2014 , and Machina / The Machines of God and the yet commercially unreleased Machina II / Friends and Enemies of Modern Music are expected to be combined , remixed , and released in the same year . The band did a thirteen @-@ city US tour in October 2011 followed by a European tour in November and December .

Oceania was released on June 19 , 2012 and received generally positive reviews . The album debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 and at No. 1 on the Billboard Independent . The album spawned two singles , " The Celestials " and " Panopticon " . The band proceeded to tour in support of the album , including a US tour involving playing the album in its entirety . By September 2012 , Corgan stated that the band had already begun work on their next album . However , despite this , the band concentrated on touring , playing at Glastonbury Festival , Dour Festival and the Barclays Center , where they recorded Oceania : Live in NYC , which was released on September 24 , 2013 , without much comment on new material .

= = = Monuments to an Elegy : 2014 ? present = = =

On March 25 , 2014 , Corgan announced he had signed a new record deal with BMG , for two new albums , titled Monuments to an Elegy and Day for Night , respectively . In June , it was revealed that Mike Byrne was no longer in the band , to be replaced by Tommy Lee of Mötley Crüe on the new album , and Fiorentino would not be recording on the album either . Monuments to an Elegy was released on December 5 , 2014 , to generally positive reviews . The band toured in support of the album starting on November 26 , with Rage Against the Machine 's Brad Wilk filling in on drums and The Killers ' Mark Stoermer filling in on bass . The follow @-@ up album , which will no longer be titled Day For Night , was pushed back to a late 2015 or early 2016 release as the band continued to tour .

Later in 2015 , Corgan announced that the band would undertake a co @-@ headlining tour of North America with Marilyn Manson . The End Times Tour was set to begin in Concord , California , at the Concord Pavilion on July 7 , and was scheduled to end with a concert in Cincinnati , Ohio , at the Riverbend Music Center on August 8 . Prior to the co @-@ headlining dates , the band performed a series of acoustic shows with drum machines and tapes for percussion . When the time came for the co @-@ headlining tour , plans for a drummer fell through and Corgan recruited Chamberlin to reunite for the shows . On February 1 , 2016 , it was announced that the band would continue their In Plainsong acoustic tour with Jimmy Chamberlin on drums and were planning to head " straight to the studio after the dates to record a brand new album inspired by the sounds explored in the new acoustic setting " . On February 25 , 2016 , Corgan posted a video from a Los Angeles studio on the band 's Facebook account , giving an update on the writing process for the new songs for the upcoming album to be released after the In Plainsong tour . The tour began in Portland , Oregon , on March 22 , 2016 .

On his birthday on March 26 , 2016 , original guitarist James Iha joined Billy Corgan , Jimmy Chamberlin , and Jeff Schroeder on stage unannounced at the Ace Hotel in downtown Los Angeles . He performed a few songs , including " Mayonaise " , " Soma " and " Whir " marking his first appearance with the Smashing Pumpkins in 16 years . Iha also played at the second of the two Smashing Pumpkins shows at the Ace Hotel the following day , which was Easter Sunday . Iha joined the Pumpkins for a third time at their April 14 concert at the Civic Opera House in Chicago .

= = Musical style , influences , and legacy = =

The direction of the band is dominated by chief guitarist , lead vocalist , and principal songwriter Billy Corgan . Journalist Greg Kot wrote , " The music [of The Smashing Pumpkins] would not be what it is without his ambition and vision , and his famously fractured relationships with his family , friends , and bandmembers . " Melissa Auf der Maur commented upon news of the group 's reunion , " Everyone knows Billy doesn 't need too many people to make a Pumpkins record , other than Jimmy [Chamberlin] ? who he has on board . " In a 2015 interview Corgan himself referred to the current iteration of the band " as sort of an open source collective " noting that " It 's whoever feels right at the time . " . Many of Corgan 's lyrics for the Pumpkins are cathartic expressions of emotion , full of personal musings and strong indictments of himself and those close to him . Music critics were not often fans of Corgan 's angst @-@ filled lyrics . Jim DeRogatis wrote in a 1993 Chicago Sun @-@ Times article that Corgan 's lyrics " too often sound like sophomore poetry , " although he viewed the lyrics of later albums Adore and Machina as an improvement . Corgan responded to DeRogatis ' words with " fuck the Sun @-@ Times " , at the band 's 1993 show at the Metro Chicago .

The Smashing Pumpkins ' distinctive sound up until Adore involved layering numerous guitar tracks onto a song during the recording process , a tactic that Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness coproducer Flood called the " Pumpkin guitar overdub army . " Although there were a lot of overdubbed parts on Gish , Corgan began to really explore the possibilities of overdubbing with Siamese Dream ; Corgan has stated that " Soma " alone contains up to 40 overdubbed guitar parts .

While Corgan knew many of the songs would be difficult or impossible to replicate from their recorded versions in concert (in fact , some songs were drastically altered for live performance) , he has explained the use of overdubbing by posing the question " When you are faced with making a permanent recorded representation of a song , why not endow it with the grandest possible vision ? " This use of multilayered sounds was inspired by Corgan 's love of 1970s arena rock bands Queen , Boston , and the Electric Light Orchestra , as well as shoegaze , a British alternative rock style of the late 1980s and early 1990s that relied on swirling layers of guitar noise for effect . Mellon Collie coproducer Alan Moulder was originally hired to mix Siamese Dream because Corgan was a fan of his work producing shoegaze bands such as My Bloody Valentine , Ride , and Slowdive .

Like many contemporary alternative bands , The Smashing Pumpkins utilized shifts in song dynamics , going from quiet to loud and vice versa . Hüsker Dü 's seminal album Zen Arcade demonstrated to the band how they could place gentler material against more aggressive fare , and Corgan made such shifts in dynamics central to the pursuit of his grand musical ambitions . Corgan said he liked the idea of creating his own alternative universe through sound that essentially tells the listener , " Welcome to Pumpkin Land , this is what it sounds like on Planet Pumpkin . " This emphasis on atmosphere carried through to Adore (described as " arcane night music " in prerelease promotion) and the Machina albums (concept records that tell the story of a fictional rock band) .

The Pumpkins drew inspiration from a variety of other genres , some unfashionable during the 1990s among music critics . Corgan in particular was open about his appreciation of heavy metal , citing Dimebag Darrell of Pantera as his favorite contemporary guitarist . When one interviewer commented to Corgan and Iha that " Smashing Pumpkins is one of the groups that relegitimized heavy metal " and that they " were among the first alternative rockers to mention people like Ozzy and Black Sabbath with anything other than contempt , " Corgan went on to rave about Black Sabbath 's Master of Reality and Judas Priest 's Unleashed in the East . The song " Zero , " which reminded Iha of Judas Priest , is an example of what the band dubbed " cybermetal . " Post @-@ punk and gothic rock bands like Joy Division / New Order , Bauhaus , The Cure , and Depeche Mode were formative influences on the band , which covered such artists in concert and on record . Corgan also cited Siouxsie and the Banshees saying it was important to point back to bands that influenced them . Psychedelic rock was also referenced often in the band 's early recordings ; according to Corgan , " In typical Pumpkins fashion , no one at that point really liked loud guitars or psychedelic music so , of course , that 's exactly what we had to do . " Corgan acknowledged that a chord he jokingly claimed as " the Pumpkin chord " (a G # octave chord at the eleventh fret of a guitar with the low E string played over it) , used as the basis for " Cherub Rock " , " Drown " , and other songs , was in fact previously used by Jimi Hendrix . Other early influences cited by Corgan include Cream , The Stooges , and Blue Cheer .

Regarding the band 's influence upon other groups , Greg Kot wrote in 2001 , " Whereas Nirvana spawned countless mini @-@ Nirvanas , the Pumpkins remain an island unto themselves . " Still , some artists and bands have been influenced by the Pumpkins , such as Nelly Furtado , Marilyn Manson , Tegan and Sara , Panic ! at the Disco , and members of My Chemical Romance . My Chemical Romance vocalist Gerard Way has said that they pattern their career upon the Pumpkins ' , including music videos . The members of fellow Chicago band Kill Hannah are friends with Corgan , and lead singer Mat Devine has compared his group to the Pumpkins .

= = Music videos = =

The Smashing Pumpkins have been praised as " responsible for some of the most striking and memorable video clips " and for having " approached videos from a completely artistic standpoint rather than mere commercials to sell albums " . MTV 's 2001 anniversary special Testimony : 20 Years of Rock on MTV credited the Pumpkins , along with Nine Inch Nails , with treating music videos as an art form during the 1990s . Corgan has said , " We generally resisted the idea of what I call the classic MTV rock video , which is like lots of people jumping around and stuff . " The band worked with video directors including Kevin Kerslake (" Cherub Rock ") , Samuel Bayer (" Bullet

with Butterfly Wings ") , and , most frequently , the team of Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris (" Rocket " , " 1979 " , " Tonight , Tonight " , " The End Is the Beginning Is the End " , and " Perfect ") . Corgan , who was frequently heavily involved in the conception of the videos , said of Dayton and Faris , " I know my [initial] versions are always darker , and they 're always talking me into something a little kinder and gentler . " Videos like " Today " , " Rocket " , and " 1979 " dealt with images taken from middle American culture , albeit exaggerated . The group 's videos so often avoid the literal interpretation of the song lyrics that the video for " Thirty @-@ Three " , with images closely related to the words of the song , was created as an intentional stylistic departure .

The band was nominated for several MTV Video Music Awards during the 1990s . In 1996 , the group won seven VMAs total for the " 1979 " and " Tonight , Tonight " videos , including the top award , Video of the Year , for " Tonight , Tonight " . The video was also nominated for a Grammy at the 1997 ceremony . Of the " Tonight , Tonight " video , Corgan remarked , " I don 't think we 've ever had people react [like this] ... it just seemed to touch a nerve . "

Shortly after the band 's 2000 breakup , the Greatest Hits Video Collection was released , collecting the band 's music videos from 1991 to 2000 and including commentary from Corgan , Iha , Chamberlin , Wretzky , and various music video directors with outtakes , live performances , and the extended " Try , Try , Try " short film . The band has also released several music videos to YouTube and other online sources since reuniting .

= = Band members = =

= = = Current = = =

Billy Corgan ? lead vocals , guitars , keyboards , bass guitar (1988 ? 2000 ; 2006 ? present)

Jimmy Chamberlin ? drums , percussion , backing vocals (1988 ? 1996 ; 1999 ? 2000 ; 2006 ? 2009 ; 2015 ? present)

Jeff Schroeder ? guitars , keyboards , backing vocals (2007 ? present)

= = = Current touring = = =

Katie Cole ? various instruments (2015 ; 2016 ? present)

Sierra Swan ? various instruments (2016 ? present)

= = = Former = = =

James Iha ? guitars , backing vocals (1988 ? 2000)

D 'arcy Wretzky ? bass guitar , backing vocals (1988 ? 1999)

Melissa Auf der Maur ? bass guitar , backing vocals (1999 ? 2000)

Mike Byrne ? drums , percussion , backing vocals , keyboards (2009 ? 2014)

Nicole Fiorentino ? bass guitar , backing vocals , keyboards (2009 ? 2014)

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Gish (1991)

Siamese Dream (1993)

Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness (1995)

Adore (1998)

Machina / The Machines of God (2000)

Machina II / The Friends & Enemies of Modern Music (2000)

Zeitgeist (2007)

Teargarden by Kaleidyscope (2009 ? 2016)

Oceania (2012)
Monuments to an Elegy (2014)