

= Black Sabbath =

Black Sabbath are an English rock band , formed in Birmingham in 1968 , by guitarist and main songwriter Tony Iommi , bassist and main lyricist Geezer Butler , singer Ozzy Osbourne , and drummer Bill Ward . The band have since experienced multiple line @-@ up changes , with guitarist Iommi being the only constant presence in the band through the years . Originally formed as a blues rock band , the group soon adopted the Black Sabbath moniker and began incorporating occult themes with horror @-@ inspired lyrics and tuned @-@ down guitars . Despite an association with these two themes , Black Sabbath also composed songs dealing with social instability , political corruption , the dangers of drug abuse and apocalyptic prophecies of the horrors of war .

Osbourne 's regular abuse of alcohol and other drugs led to his dismissal from the band in 1979 . He was replaced by former Rainbow vocalist Ronnie James Dio . Following two albums with Dio , Black Sabbath endured countless personnel changes in the 1980s and 1990s that included vocalists Ian Gillan , Glenn Hughes , Ray Gillen and Tony Martin , as well as several drummers and bassists . In 1992 , Iommi and Butler rejoined Dio and drummer Vinny Appice to record *Dehumanizer* . The original line @-@ up reunited with Osbourne in 1997 and released a live album *Reunion* . Black Sabbath 's 19th studio album , *13* , which features all of the original members but Ward , was released in June 2013 .

Black Sabbath are often cited as pioneers of heavy metal music . The band helped define the genre with releases such as *Black Sabbath* (1970) , *Paranoid* (1970) and *Master of Reality* (1971) . They were ranked by MTV as the " Greatest Metal Band " of all time , and placed second in VH1 's " 100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock " list . Rolling Stone magazine ranked them number 85 in their " 100 Greatest Artists of All Time " . They have sold over 70 million records worldwide . Black Sabbath were inducted into the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2006 . They have also won two Grammy Awards for Best Metal Performance .

= = History = =

= = = Formation and early days (1968 ? 69) = = =

Following the break @-@ up of their previous band *Mythology* in 1968 , guitarist Tony Iommi and drummer Bill Ward sought to form a heavy blues rock band in Aston , Birmingham . They enlisted bassist Geezer Butler and vocalist Ozzy Osbourne , who had played together in a band called *Rare Breed* , Osbourne having placed an advertisement in a local music shop : " Ozzy Zig Needs Gig ? has own PA " . The new group was initially named the *Polka Tulk Blues Band* , the name taken either from a brand of talcum powder or an Indian / Pakistani clothing shop ; the exact origin is confused . The *Polka Tulk Blues Band* featured slide guitarist Jimmy Phillips , a childhood friend of Osbourne 's , and saxophonist Alan " Aker " Clarke . After shortening the name to *Polka Tulk* , the band again changed their name to *Earth* (which Osbourne hated) and continued as a four @-@ piece without Phillips and Clarke . Iommi became concerned that Phillips and Clarke lacked the necessary dedication and were not taking the band seriously . Rather than asking them to leave , they instead decided to break up and then quietly reformed the band as a four @-@ piece . While the band was performing under the *Earth* title , they recorded several demos written by Norman Haines such as " The Rebel " , " Song for Jim " , and " When I Came Down " . The demo titled " Song for Jim " was in reference to Jim Simpson . Jim Simpson was a manager for the bands *Bakerloo Blues Line* and *Tea & Symphony* . Simpson was also a trumpet player for the group *Locomotive* . Simpson had recently opened a new pub named *Henry 's Blues House* and offered to let *Earth* play some gigs in his club . The audience response was positive and Simpson agreed to manage *Earth* .

In December 1968 , Iommi abruptly left *Earth* to join *Jethro Tull* . Although his stint with the band would be short @-@ lived , Iommi made an appearance with *Jethro Tull* on *The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus* TV show . Unsatisfied with the direction of *Jethro Tull* , Iommi returned to

Earth in January 1969 . " It just wasn 't right , so I left " , Iommi said . " At first I thought Tull were great , but I didn 't much go for having a leader in the band , which was Ian Anderson 's way . When I came back from Tull , I came back with a new attitude altogether . They taught me that to get on , you got to work for it . "

While playing shows in England in 1969 , the band discovered they were being mistaken for another English group named Earth . They decided to change their name again . A cinema across the street from the band 's rehearsal room was showing the 1963 horror film Black Sabbath starring Boris Karloff and directed by Mario Bava . While watching people line up to see the film , Butler noted that it was " strange that people spend so much money to see scary movies . " Following that , Osbourne and Butler wrote the lyrics for a song called " Black Sabbath " , which was inspired by the work of horror and adventure @-@ story writer Dennis Wheatley , along with a vision that Butler had of a black silhouetted figure standing at the foot of his bed . Making use of the musical tritone , also known as " the Devil 's Interval " , the song 's ominous sound and dark lyrics pushed the band in a darker direction , a stark contrast to the popular music of the late 1960s , which was dominated by flower power , folk music , and hippie culture . Judas Priest frontman Rob Halford has called the track " probably the most evil song ever written " . Inspired by the new sound , the band changed their name to Black Sabbath in August 1969 , and made the decision to focus on writing similar material , in an attempt to create the musical equivalent of horror films .

= = = Black Sabbath and Paranoid (1970 ? 71) = = =

The band 's first show as Black Sabbath took place on 30 August 1969 , in Workington . They were signed to Philips Records in November 1969 , and released their first single , " Evil Woman " (a cover of a song by the band Crow) , recorded at Trident Studios , through Philips subsidiary Fontana Records in January 1970 . Later releases were handled by Philips ' newly formed progressive rock label , Vertigo Records .

Black Sabbath 's first major exposure came when the band appeared on John Peel 's Top Gear radio show in 1969 , performing " Black Sabbath " , " N.I.B. " , " Behind the Wall of Sleep " , and " Sleeping Village " to a national audience in Great Britain shortly before recording of their first album commenced . Although the " Evil Woman " single failed to chart , the band were afforded two days of studio time in November to record their debut album with producer Rodger Bain . Iommi recalls recording live : " We thought ' We have two days to do it and one of the days is mixing . ' So we played live . Ozzy was singing at the same time , we just put him in a separate booth and off we went . We never had a second run of most of the stuff . "

Black Sabbath was released on Friday the 13th , February 1970 , and reached number 8 in the UK Albums Chart . Following its US and Canadian release in May 1970 by Warner Bros. Records , the album reached number 23 on the Billboard 200 , where it remained for over a year . The album was a commercial success but was widely panned by some critics . Lester Bangs dismissed it in a Rolling Stone review as " discordant jams with bass and guitar reeling like velocitised speedfreaks all over each other 's musical perimeters , yet never quite finding synch " . It sold in substantial numbers despite being panned , giving the band their first mainstream exposure . It has since been certified platinum in both US by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and in the UK by British Phonographic Industry (BPI) .

To capitalise on their chart success in the US , the band returned to the studio in June 1970 , just four months after Black Sabbath was released . The new album was initially set to be named War Pigs after the song " War Pigs " , which was critical of the Vietnam War ; however , Warner changed the title of the album to Paranoid . The album 's lead @-@ off single , " Paranoid " , was written in the studio at the last minute . Ward explains : " We didn 't have enough songs for the album , and Tony just played the [Paranoid] guitar lick and that was it . It took twenty , twenty @-@ five minutes from top to bottom . " The single was released in September 1970 and reached number four on the UK charts , remaining Black Sabbath 's only top ten hit . The album followed in the UK in October 1970 , where , pushed by the success of the " Paranoid " single , it made number one in the charts .

The US release was held off until January 1971 , as the Black Sabbath album was still on the

charts at the time of *Paranoid* 's UK release . Black Sabbath subsequently toured America for the first time and played their first US show at a club called Ungano 's at 210 West 70th Street in New York City . The album reached No. 12 in the US in March 1971 , and would go on to sell four million copies in the US , with virtually no radio airplay . Like Black Sabbath , the album was panned by rock critics of the era , but modern @-@ day reviewers such as AllMusic 's Steve Huey cite *Paranoid* as " one of the greatest and most influential heavy metal albums of all time " , which " defined the sound and style of heavy metal more than any other record in rock history " . The album was ranked at No. 131 on Rolling Stone magazine 's list of The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time . *Paranoid* 's chart success allowed the band to tour the US for the first time in October 1970 , which spawned the release of the album 's second single " Iron Man " . Although the single failed to reach the top 40 , " Iron Man " remains one of Black Sabbath 's most popular songs , as well as the band 's highest charting US single until 1998 's " Psycho Man " .

= = = Master of Reality and Volume 4 (1971 ? 73) = = =

In February 1971 , after a one off performance at the Myponga Pop Festival in Australia , Black Sabbath returned to the studio to begin work on their third album . Following the chart success of *Paranoid* , the band were afforded more studio time , along with a " briefcase full of cash " to buy drugs . " We were getting into coke , big time " , Ward explained . " Uppers , downers , Quaaludes , whatever you like . It got to the stage where you come up with ideas and forget them , because you were just so out of it . "

Production completed in April 1971 , in July the band released *Master of Reality* , just six months after the US release of *Paranoid* . The album reached the top ten in both the US and UK , and was certified gold in less than two months , eventually receiving platinum certification in the 1980s and Double Platinum in the early 21st century . *Master of Reality* contained Black Sabbath 's first acoustic songs , alongside fan favourites such as " Children of the Grave " and " Sweet Leaf " . Critical response of the era was generally unfavourable , with Lester Bangs delivering an ambivalent review of *Master of Reality* in Rolling Stone , describing the closing song " Children of the Grave " as " naïve , simplistic , repetitive , absolute doggerel ? but in the tradition [of rock 'n'roll] ... The only criterion is excitement , and Black Sabbath 's got it " . In 2003 , Rolling Stone would place the album at number 300 on their 500 Greatest Albums of All Time list .

Following the *Master of Reality* world tour in 1972 , Black Sabbath took its first break in three years . As Ward explained : " The band started to become very fatigued and very tired . We 'd been on the road non @-@ stop , year in and year out , constantly touring and recording . I think *Master of Reality* was kind of like the end of an era , the first three albums , and we decided to take our time with the next album . "

In June 1972 , the band reconvened in Los Angeles to begin work on their next album at the Record Plant . The recording process was plagued with problems , many as a result of substance abuse issues . While struggling to record the song " Cornucopia " after " sitting in the middle of the room , just doing drugs " , Ward was nearly fired from the band . " I hated the song , there were some patterns that were just ... horrible " Ward said . " I nailed it in the end , but the reaction I got was the cold shoulder from everybody . It was like ' Well , just go home , you 're not being of any use right now . ' I felt like I 'd blown it , I was about to get fired " . The album was originally titled *Snowblind* after the song of the same name , which deals with cocaine abuse . The record company changed the title at the last minute to *Black Sabbath Vol . 4* , with Ward stating " There was no Volume 1 , 2 or 3 , so it 's a pretty stupid title really " .

Black Sabbath Vol . 4 was released in September 1972 , and while critics were dismissive of the album upon release , it achieved gold status in less than a month , and was the band 's fourth consecutive release to sell a million copies in the US . With more time in the studio , the album saw the band starting to experiment with new textures , such as strings , piano , orchestration and multi @-@ part songs . The song " Tomorrow 's Dream " was released as a single ? the band 's first since " *Paranoid* " ? but failed to chart . Following an extensive tour of the US , in 1973 the band travelled again to Australia , followed by a tour for the first time to New Zealand , before moving onto

mainland Europe .

= = = Sabbath Bloody Sabbath and Sabotage (1973 ? 76) = = =

Following the Volume 4 world tour , Black Sabbath returned to Los Angeles to begin work on their next release . Pleased with the Volume 4 album , the band sought to recreate the recording atmosphere , and returned to the Record Plant studio in Los Angeles . With new musical innovations of the era , the band were surprised to find that the room they had used previously at the Record Plant was replaced by a " giant synthesiser " . The band rented a house in Bel Air and began writing in the summer of 1973 , but in part because of substance issues and fatigue , they were unable to complete any songs . " Ideas weren 't coming out the way they were on Volume 4 and we really got discontent " Iommi said . " Everybody was sitting there waiting for me to come up with something . I just couldn 't think of anything . And if I didn 't come up with anything , nobody would do anything . "

After a month in Los Angeles with no results , the band opted to return to England . They rented Clearwell Castle in The Forest of Dean . " We rehearsed in the dungeons and it was really creepy but it had some atmosphere , it conjured up things , and stuff started coming out again . " While working in the dungeon , Iommi stumbled onto the main riff of " Sabbath Bloody Sabbath " , which set the tone for the new material . Recorded at Morgan Studios in London by Mike Butcher and building off the stylistic changes introduced on Volume 4 , new songs incorporated synthesisers , strings , and complex arrangements . Yes keyboardist Rick Wakeman was brought in as a session player , appearing on " Sabbra Cadabra " .

In November 1973 , Black Sabbath began to receive positive reviews in the mainstream press after the release of Sabbath Bloody Sabbath , with Gordon Fletcher of Rolling Stone calling the album " an extraordinarily gripping affair " , and " nothing less than a complete success . " Later reviewers such as Allmusic 's Eduardo Rivadavia cite the album as a " masterpiece , essential to any heavy metal collection " , while also displaying " a newfound sense of finesse and maturity . " The album marked the band 's fifth consecutive platinum selling album in the US , reaching number four on the UK charts , and number eleven in the US .

The band began a world tour in January 1974 , which culminated at the California Jam festival in Ontario , California on 6 April 1974 . Attracting over 200 @, @ 000 fans , Black Sabbath appeared alongside popular 1970s rock and pop bands Deep Purple , Eagles , Emerson , Lake & Palmer , Rare Earth , Seals & Crofts , Black Oak Arkansas , and Earth , Wind & Fire . Portions of the show were telecast on ABC Television in the US , exposing the band to a wider American audience . In the same year , the band shifted management , signing with notorious English manager Don Arden . The move caused a contractual dispute with Black Sabbath 's former management , and while on stage in the US , Osbourne was handed a subpoena that led to two years of litigation .

Black Sabbath began work on their sixth album in February 1975 , again in England at Morgan Studios in Willesden , this time with a decisive vision to differ the sound from Sabbath , Bloody Sabbath . " We could 've continued and gone on and on , getting more technical , using orchestras and everything else which we didn 't particularly want to . We took a look at ourselves , and we wanted to do a rock album ? Sabbath , Bloody Sabbath wasn 't a rock album , really . " Produced by Black Sabbath and Mike Butcher , Sabotage was released in July 1975 . As with its precursor , the album initially saw favourable reviews , with Rolling Stone stating " Sabotage is not only Black Sabbath 's best record since Paranoid , it might be their best ever " , although later reviewers such as AllMusic noted that " the magical chemistry that made such albums as Paranoid and Volume 4 so special was beginning to disintegrate " .

Sabotage reached the top 20 in both the US and the UK , but was the band 's first release not to achieve Platinum status in the US , only achieving Gold certification . Although the album 's only single " Am I Going Insane (Radio) " failed to chart , Sabotage features fan favourites such as " Hole in the Sky " , and " Symptom of the Universe " . Black Sabbath toured in support of Sabotage with openers Kiss , but were forced to cut the tour short in November 1975 , following a motorcycle accident in which Osbourne ruptured a muscle in his back . In December 1975 , the band 's record companies released a greatest hits album without input from the band , titled We Sold Our Soul for

Rock 'n' Roll . The album charted throughout 1976 , eventually selling two million copies in the US .

= = = Technical Ecstasy and Never Say Die ! (1976 ? 79) = = =

Black Sabbath began work for their next album at Criteria Studios in Miami , Florida , in June 1976 . To expand their sound , the band added keyboard player Gerry Woodruffe , who also had appeared to a lesser extent on Sabotage . During the recording of Technical Ecstasy , Osbourne admits that he began losing interest in Black Sabbath and began to consider the possibility of working with other musicians . Recording of Technical Ecstasy was difficult ; by the time the album was completed Osbourne was admitted to Stafford County Asylum in Britain . It was released on 25 September 1976 to mixed reviews , and (for the first time) later music critics gave the album less favourable retrospective reviews ; two decades after its release AllMusic gave the album two stars , and noted that the band was " unravelling at an alarming rate " . The album featured less of the doomy , ominous sound of previous efforts , and incorporated more synthesisers and uptempo rock songs . Technical Ecstasy failed to reach the top 50 in the US , and was the band 's second consecutive release not to achieve platinum status , although it was later certified gold in 1997 . The album included " Dirty Women " , which remains a live staple , as well as Ward 's first lead vocal on the song " It 's Alright " . Touring in support of Technical Ecstasy began in November 1976 , with openers Boston and Ted Nugent in the US , and completed in Europe with AC / DC in April 1977 .

In late 1977 , while in rehearsal for their next album , and just days before the band was set to enter the studio , Osbourne abruptly quit the band . Iommi called vocalist Dave Walker , a longtime friend of the band , who had previously been a member of Fleetwood Mac and Savoy Brown , and informed him that Osbourne had left the band . Walker , who was at that time fronting a band called Mistress , flew to Birmingham from California in late 1977 to write material and rehearse with Black Sabbath . On 8 January 1978 , Black Sabbath made their only live performance with Walker on vocals , playing an early version of the song " Junior 's Eyes " on the BBC Television program " Look ! Hear ! " . Walker later recalled that while in Birmingham he had bumped into Osbourne in a pub and came to the conclusion that Osbourne wasn 't fully committed to leaving Black Sabbath . " The last Sabbath albums were just very depressing for me " , Osbourne said . " I was doing it for the sake of what we could get out of the record company , just to get fat on beer and put a record out . " Walker has said that he wrote a lot of lyrics during his brief time in the band but none of them were ever used . If any recordings of this version of the band other than the " Look ! Hear ! " footage still exist , Walker says that he is not aware of them .

Osbourne initially set out to form a solo project featuring former Dirty Tricks members John Frazer @-@ Binnie , Terry Horbury , and Andy Bierre . As the new band were in rehearsals in January 1978 , Osbourne had a change of heart and rejoined Black Sabbath . " Three days before we were due to go into the studio , Ozzy wanted to come back to the band " , Iommi explained . " He wouldn 't sing any of the stuff we 'd written with the other guy (Walker) , so it made it very difficult . We went into the studio with basically no songs . We 'd write in the morning so we could rehearse and record at night . It was so difficult , like a conveyor belt , because you couldn 't get time to reflect on stuff . ' Is this right ? Is this working properly ? ' It was very difficult for me to come up with the ideas and putting them together that quick . "

The band spent five months at Sounds Interchange Studios in Toronto , Canada , writing and recording what would become Never Say Die ! . " It took quite a long time " , Iommi said . " We were getting really drugged out , doing a lot of dope . We 'd go down to the sessions , and have to pack up because we were too stoned , we 'd have to stop . Nobody could get anything right , we were all over the place , everybody 's playing a different thing . We 'd go back and sleep it off , and try again the next day . " The album was released in September 1978 , reaching number twelve in the UK , and number 69 in the US . Press response was unfavourable and did not improve over time with Eduardo Rivadavia of AllMusic stating two decades after its release that the album 's " unfocused songs perfectly reflected the band 's tense personnel problems and drug abuse . " The album featured the singles " Never Say Die " and " Hard Road " , both of which cracked the top 40 in the

UK . The band also made their second appearance on Top of the Pops , performing " Never Say Die " . It took nearly 20 years for the album to be certified Gold in the US .

Touring in support of Never Say Die ! began in May 1978 with openers Van Halen . Reviewers called Black Sabbath 's performance " tired and uninspired " , a stark contrast to the " youthful " performance of Van Halen , who were touring the world for the first time . The band filmed a performance at the Hammersmith Odeon in June 1978 , which was later released on DVD as Never Say Die . The final show of the tour , and Osbourne 's last appearance with the band (until later reunions) was in Albuquerque , New Mexico on 11 December .

Following the tour , Black Sabbath returned to Los Angeles and again rented a house in Bel Air , where they spent nearly a year working on new material for the next album . The entire band were abusing both alcohol and other drugs , but Iommi says Osbourne " was on a totally different level altogether " . The band would come up with new song ideas but Osbourne showed little interest and would refuse to sing them . Pressure from the record label and frustrations with Osbourne 's lack of input coming to a head , Iommi made the decision to fire Osbourne in 1979 . Iommi believed the only options available were to fire Osbourne or break the band up completely . " At that time , Ozzy had come to an end " , Iommi said . " We were all doing a lot of drugs , a lot of coke , a lot of everything , and Ozzy was getting drunk so much at the time . We were supposed to be rehearsing and nothing was happening . It was like ' Rehearse today ? No , we 'll do it tomorrow . ' It really got so bad that we didn 't do anything . It just fizzled out . " Drummer Ward , who was close with Osbourne , was chosen by Tony to break the news to the singer on 27 April 1979 . " I hope I was professional , I might not have been , actually . When I 'm drunk I am horrible , I am horrid " , Ward said . " Alcohol was definitely one of the most damaging things to Black Sabbath . We were destined to destroy each other . The band were toxic , very toxic . "

= = = Heaven and Hell and Mob Rules (1979 ? 82) = = =

Sharon Arden (later Sharon Osbourne) , daughter of Black Sabbath manager Don Arden , suggested former Rainbow vocalist Ronnie James Dio to replace Ozzy Osbourne in 1979 . Don Arden was at this point still trying to convince Osbourne to rejoin the band , as he viewed the original line @-@ up as the most profitable . Dio officially joined in June , and the band began writing their next album . With a notably different vocal style from Osbourne 's , Dio 's addition to the band marked a change in Black Sabbath 's sound . " They were totally different altogether " , Iommi explains . " Not only voice @-@ wise , but attitude @-@ wise . Ozzy was a great showman , but when Dio came in , it was a different attitude , a different voice and a different musical approach , as far as vocals . Dio would sing across the riff , whereas Ozzy would follow the riff , like in " Iron Man " . Ronnie came in and gave us another angle on writing . "

Geezer Butler temporarily left the band in September 1979 for personal reasons . According to Dio , the band initially hired Craig Gruber (with whom Dio had previously played while in Elf) on bass to assist with writing the new album . Gruber was soon replaced by Geoff Nicholls of Quartz . The new line @-@ up returned to Criteria Studios in November to begin recording work , with Butler returning to the band in January 1980 , and Nicholls moving to keyboards . Produced by Martin Birch , Heaven and Hell was released on 25 April 1980 , to critical acclaim . Over a decade after its release Allmusic said the album was " one of Sabbath 's finest records , the band sounds reborn and re @-@ energised throughout " . Heaven and Hell peaked at number 9 in the UK , and number 28 in the US , the band 's highest charting album since Sabotage . The album eventually sold a million copies in the US , and the band embarked on an extensive world tour , making their first live appearance with Dio in Germany on 17 April 1980 .

Black Sabbath toured the US throughout 1980 with Blue Öyster Cult on the " Black and Blue " tour , with a show at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale , New York filmed and released theatrically in 1981 as Black and Blue . On 26 July 1980 , the band played to 75 @,@ 000 fans at a sold @-@ out Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum with Journey , Cheap Trick , and Molly Hatchet . The next day , the band appeared at the 1980 Day on the Green at Oakland Coliseum . While on tour , Black Sabbath 's former label in England issued a live album culled from a seven @-@ year @-@ old performance

, titled *Live at Last* without any input from the band . The album reached number five on the British charts , and saw the re @-@ release of " *Paranoid* " as a single , which reached the top 20 .

On 18 August 1980 , after a show in Minneapolis , Ward quit the band . " It was intolerable for me to get on the stage without Ozzy . And I drank 24 hours a day , my alcoholism accelerated " . Geezer Butler stated that after the show , Ward came in drunk , talking about the things where " He might as well be a Martian " . Ward then got angry , and decided to pack his things , and get on a bus to leave . The group then brought in drummer Vinny Appice to replace Ward .

The band completed the *Heaven and Hell* world tour in February 1981 , and returned to the studio to begin work on their next album . Black Sabbath 's second studio album produced by Martin Birch and featuring Ronnie James Dio as vocalist *Mob Rules* was released in October 1981 , to be well received by fans , but less so by the critics . Rolling Stone reviewer J. D. Considine gave the album one star , claiming " *Mob Rules* finds the band as dull @-@ witted and flatulent as ever " . Like most of the band 's earlier work , time helped to improve the opinions of the music press , a decade after its release , Allmusic 's Eduardo Rivadavia called *Mob Rules* " a magnificent record " . The album was certified gold , and reached the top 20 on the UK charts . The album 's title track " *The Mob Rules* " , which was recorded at John Lennon 's old house in England , also featured in the 1981 animated film *Heavy Metal* , although the film version is an alternate take , and differs from the album version .

Unhappy with the quality of 1980 's *Live at Last* , the band recorded another live album ? titled *Live Evil* ? during the *Mob Rules* world tour , across the United States in Dallas , San Antonio , and Seattle , in 1982 . During the mixing process for the album , Iommi and Butler had a falling out with Dio . Misinformed by their then @-@ current mixing engineer , Iommi and Butler accused Dio of sneaking into the studio at night to raise the volume of his vocals . In addition , Dio was not satisfied with the pictures of him in the artwork . Butler also accused Dio and Appice of working on a solo album during the album 's mixing without telling the other members of Black Sabbath . " Ronnie wanted more say in things , " Iommi said . " And Geezer would get upset with him and that is where the rot set in . *Live Evil* is when it all fell apart . Ronnie wanted to do more of his own thing , and the engineer we were using at the time in the studio didn 't know what to do , because Ronnie was telling him one thing and we were telling him another . At the end of the day , we just said , ' That 's it , the band is over ' " . " When it comes time for the vocal , nobody tells me what to do . Nobody ! Because they 're not as good as me , so I do what I want to do , " Dio later said . " I refuse to listen to *Live Evil* , because there are too many problems . If you look at the credits , the vocals and drums are listed off to the side . Open up the album and see how many pictures there are of Tony , and how many there are of me and Vinny " .

Ronnie James Dio left Black Sabbath in November 1982 to start his own band , and took drummer Vinny Appice with him . *Live Evil* was released in January 1983 , but was overshadowed by Ozzy Osbourne 's platinum selling album *Speak of the Devil* .

= = = *Born Again* (1983 ? 84) = = =

The remaining two original members , Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler , began auditioning new singers for the band 's next release . Samson 's Nicky Moore , and Lone Star 's John Sloman were considered . The band settled on former Deep Purple vocalist Ian Gillan to replace Ronnie James Dio in December 1982 . While the project was not initially set to be called Black Sabbath , pressures from the record label forced the group to retain the name . The band entered The Manor Studios in Shipton @-@ on @-@ Cherwell , Oxfordshire , in June 1983 with a returned and newly sober Bill Ward on drums . *Born Again* was panned upon release by critics . Despite the negative reception of the album , it reached number four on the UK charts , and number 39 in the US . Even a decade after its release Allmusic 's Eduardo Rivadavia called the album " dreadful " , noting that " Gillan 's bluesy style and humorous lyrics were completely incompatible with the lords of doom and gloom " .

Although he performed on the album , drummer Ward was unable to tour because of the pressures of the road , and quit the band after the commencement of the *Born Again* album . " I fell apart with the idea of touring " , Ward later said . " I got so much fear behind touring , I didn 't talk about the

fear , I drank behind the fear instead and that was a big mistake . " Ward was replaced by former Electric Light Orchestra drummer Bev Bevan for the Born Again ' 83 - ' 84 world tour , (often unofficially referred to as the ' Feigh Death Sabbath ' 83 ? ' 84 ' World Tour) which began in Europe with Diamond Head , and later in the US with Quiet Riot and Night Ranger . The band headlined the 1983 Reading Festival in England , adding the Deep Purple song " Smoke on the Water " to their set list .

The tour in support of Born Again included a giant set of the Stonehenge monument . In a move that would be later parodied in the mockumentary This Is Spinal Tap , the band made a mistake in ordering the set piece . As Geezer Butler later explained :

We had Sharon Osbourne 's dad , Don Arden , managing us . He came up with the idea of having the stage set be Stonehenge . He wrote the dimensions down and gave it to our tour manager . He wrote it down in metres but he meant to write it down in feet . The people who made it saw fifteen metres instead of fifteen feet . It was 45 feet high and it wouldn 't fit on any stage anywhere so we just had to leave it in the storage area . It cost a fortune to make but there was not a building on earth that you could fit it into .

= = = Hiatus and Seventh Star (1984 ? 86) = = =

Following the completion of the Born Again tour in March 1984 , vocalist Ian Gillan left Black Sabbath to re @-@ join Deep Purple , which was reforming after a long hiatus . Bevan left at the same time , and Gillan remarked that he and Bevan were made to feel like " hired help " by Iommi . The band then recruited an unknown Los Angeles vocalist named David Donato . The new line @-@ up wrote and rehearsed throughout 1984 , and eventually recorded a demo with producer Bob Ezrin in October . Unhappy with the results , the band parted ways with Donato shortly after . Disillusioned with the band 's revolving line @-@ up , bassist Geezer Butler quit Black Sabbath in November 1984 to form a solo band . " When Ian Gillan took over that was the end of it for me " , Butler later said . " I thought it was just a joke and I just totally left . When we got together with Gillan it was not supposed to be a Black Sabbath album . After we had done the album we gave it to Warner Bros. and they said they were going to put it out as a Black Sabbath album and we didn 't have a leg to stand on . I got really disillusioned with it and Gillan was really pissed off about it . That lasted one album and one tour and then that was it . "

Following Butler 's exit , sole remaining original member Tony Iommi put Black Sabbath on hiatus , and began work on a solo album with long @-@ time Sabbath keyboardist Geoff Nicholls . While working on new material , the original Black Sabbath line @-@ up were offered a spot at Bob Geldof 's Live Aid benefit concert ; the band agreed , performing at the Philadelphia show , on 13 July 1985 . The event marked the first time the original line @-@ up appeared on stage since 1978 , and also featured reunions of the Who and Led Zeppelin . Returning to his solo work , Iommi enlisted bassist Dave Spitz , drummer Eric Singer and initially intended to use multiple singers , including Rob Halford of Judas Priest , former Deep Purple and Trapeze vocalist Glenn Hughes , and former Black Sabbath vocalist Ronnie James Dio . This plan didn 't work as he forecasted . " We were going to use different vocalists on the album , guest vocalists , but it was so difficult getting it together and getting releases from their record companies . Glenn Hughes came along to sing on one track and we decided to use him on the whole album . "

The band spent the remainder of the year in the studio , recording what would become Seventh Star . Warner Bros. refused to release the album as a Tony Iommi solo release , instead insisting on using the name Black Sabbath . Pressured by the band 's manager , Don Arden , the two compromised and released the album as " Black Sabbath featuring Tony Iommi " in January 1986 . " It opened up a whole can of worms really " , Iommi explained , " because I think if we could have done it as a solo album , it would have been accepted a lot more . " Seventh Star , which sounded little like a Black Sabbath album , incorporated more hard rock elements popularised by the 1980s Sunset Strip hard rock scene , and was panned by the critics of the era , although later reviewers such as Allmusic gave the album favourable reviews , calling the album " often misunderstood and underrated " .

The new line @-@ up rehearsed for six weeks preparing for a full world tour , although the band were eventually forced to use the Black Sabbath name . " I was into the ' Tony Iommi project ' , but I wasn't into the Black Sabbath moniker " , Hughes said . " The idea of being in Black Sabbath didn't appeal to me whatsoever . Glenn Hughes singing in Black Sabbath is like James Brown singing in Metallica . It wasn't gonna work " . Just four days before the start of the tour , vocalist Glenn Hughes got into a bar fight with the band 's production manager John Downing which splintered the singer 's orbital bone . The injury interfered with Hughes ' ability to sing , and the band brought in vocalist Ray Gillen to continue the tour with W.A.S.P. and Anthrax , although nearly half of the US dates would eventually be cancelled because of poor ticket sales .

One vocalist whose status is disputed , both inside and outside Black Sabbath , is Christian evangelist and former Joshua frontman , Jeff Fenholt . Fenholt has insisted that he was a singer in Black Sabbath between January and May 1985 . Tony Iommi has never confirmed this . Fenholt gives a detailed account of his time with Iommi and Sabbath in Garry Sharpe @-@ Young 's book Sabbath Bloody Sabbath : The Battle for Black Sabbath .

= = = The Eternal Idol , Headless Cross and Tyr (1986 ? 90) = = =

Black Sabbath began work on new material in October 1986 at Air Studios in Montserrat with producer Jeff Glixman . The recording was fraught with problems from the beginning , as Glixman left after the initial sessions to be replaced by producer Vic Coppersmith @-@ Heaven . Bassist Dave Spitz quit over " personal issues " , and former Rainbow and Ozzy Osbourne bassist Bob Daisley was brought in . Daisley re @-@ recorded all of the bass tracks , and wrote the album 's lyrics , but before the album was complete , he left to join Gary Moore 's backing band , taking drummer Eric Singer with him . After problems with second producer Coppersmith @-@ Heaven , the band returned to Morgan Studios in England in January 1987 to work with new producer Chris Tsangarides . While working in the UK , new vocalist Ray Gillen abruptly left Black Sabbath to form Blue Murder with John Sykes . The band enlisted former Alliance vocalist Tony Martin to re @-@ record Gillen 's tracks , and former Electric Light Orchestra drummer Bev Bevan to complete a few percussion overdubs . Before the release of the new album Black Sabbath accepted an offer to play six shows at Sun City , South Africa during the apartheid era . The band drew criticism from activists and artists involved with Artists United Against Apartheid , who had been boycotting South Africa since 1985 . Drummer Bev Bevan refused to play the shows , and was replaced by Terry Chimes , formerly of the Clash .

After nearly a year in production , The Eternal Idol was released on 8 December 1987 and ignored by contemporary reviewers . On @-@ line internet era reviews were mixed . AllMusic said that " Martin 's powerful voice added new fire " to the band , and the album contained " some of Iommi 's heaviest riffs in years . " Blender gave the album two stars , claiming the album was " Black Sabbath in name only " . The album would stall at No. 66 in the UK , while peaking at 168 in the US . The band toured in support of Eternal Idol in Germany , Italy and for the first time , Greece . Unfortunately , in part because of a backlash from promoters over the South Africa incident , other European shows were cancelled . Bassist Dave Spitz left the band shortly before the tour , and was replaced by Jo Burt , formerly of Virginia Wolf .

Following the poor commercial performance of The Eternal Idol , Black Sabbath were dropped by both Vertigo Records and Warner Bros. Records , and signed with I.R.S. Records . The band took time off in 1988 , returning in August to begin work on their next album . As a result of the recording troubles with Eternal Idol , Tony Iommi opted to produce the band 's next album himself . " It was a completely new start " , Iommi said . " I had to rethink the whole thing , and decided that we needed to build up some credibility again " . Iommi enlisted former Rainbow drummer Cozy Powell , long @-@ time keyboardist Nicholls and session bassist Laurence Cottle , and rented a " very cheap studio in England " .

Black Sabbath released Headless Cross in April 1989 , and it was also ignored by contemporary reviewers , although Allmusic contributor Eduardo Rivadavia gave the album four stars and called it " the finest non @-@ Ozzy or Dio Black Sabbath album " . Anchored by the number 62 charting

single " Headless Cross " , the album reached number 31 on the UK charts , and number 115 in the US . Queen guitarist Brian May , a good friend of Iommi 's , played a guest solo on the song " When Death Calls " . Following the album 's release the band added touring bassist Neil Murray , formerly of Whitesnake , Gary Moore 's backing band , and Vow Wow .

The unsuccessful Headless Cross US tour began in May 1989 with openers Kingdom Come and Silent Rage , but because of poor ticket sales , the tour was cancelled after just eight shows . The European leg of the tour began in September , where the band were enjoying chart success . After a string of Japanese shows the band embarked on a 23 date Russian tour with Girlschool . Black Sabbath was one of the first bands to tour Russia , after Mikhail Gorbachev opened the country to western acts for the first time in 1989 .

The band returned to the studio in February 1990 to record Tyr , the follow @-@ up to Headless Cross . While not technically a concept album , some of the album 's lyrical themes are loosely based on Norse mythology . Tyr was released on 6 August 1990 , reaching number 24 on the UK albums chart , but was the first Black Sabbath release not to break the Billboard 200 in the US . The album would receive mixed internet @-@ era reviews , with Allmusic noting that the band " mix myth with metal in a crushing display of musical synthesis " , while Blender gave the album just one star , claiming that " Iommi continues to besmirch the Sabbath name with this unremarkable collection " . The band toured in support of Tyr with Circus of Power in Europe , but the final seven UK dates were cancelled because of poor ticket sales . For the first time in their career , the band 's touring cycle did not include US dates .

= = = Dehumanizer (1990 ? 92) = = =

While on his own Lock Up the Wolves US tour in August 1990 , former Black Sabbath vocalist Ronnie James Dio was joined on stage at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium by former Black Sabbath bassist Geezer Butler to perform " Neon Knights " . Following the show , the two expressed interest in rejoining Black Sabbath . Butler convinced Iommi , who in turn broke up the current line @-@ up , dismissing vocalist Tony Martin and bassist Neil Murray . " I do regret that in a lot of ways " , Iommi said . " We were at a good point then . We decided to [reunite with Dio] and I don 't even know why , really . There 's the financial aspect , but that wasn 't it . I seemed to think maybe we could recapture something we had " .

Ronnie James Dio and Geezer Butler joined Tony Iommi and Cozy Powell in autumn of 1990 to begin working on the next Black Sabbath release . While rehearsing in November , Powell suffered a broken hip when his horse died , falling on the drummer 's legs . Unable to complete work on the album , Powell was replaced by former drummer Vinny Appice , reuniting the Mob Rules era line @-@ up , and the band entered the studio with producer Reinhold Mack . The year @-@ long recording process was plagued with problems , primarily stemming from writing tension between Iommi and Dio . Some songs were re @-@ written multiple times . " Dehumanizer took a long time , it was just hard work " , Iommi said . " We took too long on it , that album cost us a million dollars , which is bloody ridiculous " . Dio later recalled the album as difficult , but worth the effort . " It was something we had to really wring out of ourselves , but I think that 's why it works " , he said . " Sometimes you need that kind of tension , or else you end up making the Christmas album " .

The resulting album , Dehumanizer was released on 22 June 1992 . In the US , the album was released on 30 June 1992 by Reprise Records , as Ronnie James Dio and his namesake band were still under contract with the label at the time . While the album received mixed reviews , it was the band 's biggest commercial success in a decade . Anchored by the top 40 rock radio single " TV Crimes " , the album peaked at number 44 on the Billboard 200 . The album also featured the song " Time Machine " , a version of which had been recorded for the 1992 film Wayne 's World . Additionally , the perception by many fans of a return of some semblance of the " real " Black Sabbath provided the band with some much needed momentum .

Black Sabbath began touring in support of Dehumanizer in July 1992 with Testament , Danzig , Prong , and Exodus . While on tour , former vocalist Ozzy Osbourne announced his first retirement , and invited Black Sabbath to open for his solo band at the final two shows of his No More Tours tour

in Costa Mesa , California . The band agreed , aside from vocalist Ronnie James Dio , who told Iommi in no uncertain terms " I 'm not doing that . I 'm not supporting a clown . " Dio spoke of the situation in an interview years later :

I was told in the middle of the tour that we would be opening for Ozzy in Los Angeles . And I said , " No . Sorry , I have more pride than that . " A lot of bad things were being said from camp to camp , and it created this horrible schism . So by [the band] agreeing to play the shows in L.A. with Ozzy , that , to me , spelled out reunion . And that obviously meant the doom of that particular project .

Dio quit Black Sabbath following a show in Oakland , California on 13 November 1992 , one night before the band were set to appear at Osbourne 's retirement show . Judas Priest vocalist Rob Halford stepped in at the last minute , performing two nights with the band . Iommi and Butler also joined Osbourne and former drummer Ward on stage for the first time since 1985 's Live Aid concert , performing a brief set of Black Sabbath songs .

= = = Cross Purposes and Forbidden (1993 ? 96) = = =

Drummer Vinny Appice left the band following the reunion show to join Ronnie James Dio 's solo band , later appearing on Dio 's Strange Highways and Angry Machines . Iommi and Butler enlisted former Rainbow drummer Bobby Rondinelli , and reinstated former vocalist Tony Martin . The band returned to the studio to work on new material , although the project was not originally intended to be released under the Black Sabbath name . As Geezer Butler explains :

It wasn 't even supposed to be a Sabbath album ; I wouldn 't have even done it under the pretence of Sabbath . That was the time when the original band were talking about getting back together for a reunion tour . Tony and myself just went in with a couple of people , did an album just to have , while the reunion tour was (supposedly) going on . It was like an Iommi / Butler project album .

Under pressure from their record label , the band released their seventeenth studio album , Cross Purposes , on 8 February 1994 , under the Black Sabbath name . The album received mixed reviews , with Blender giving the album two stars , calling Soundgarden 's 1994 album Superunknown " a far better Sabbath album than this by @-@ the @-@ numbers potboiler " . Allmusic 's Bradley Torreano called Cross Purposes " the first album since Born Again that actually sounds like a real Sabbath record " . The album just missed the Top 40 in the UK reaching number 41 , and also reached 122 on the Billboard 200 in the US . Cross Purposes contained the song " Evil Eye " , which was co @-@ written by Van Halen guitarist Eddie Van Halen , although uncredited because of record label restrictions . Touring in support of Cross Purposes began in February with Morbid Angel and Motörhead in the US . The band filmed a live performance at the Hammersmith Apollo on 13 April 1994 , which was released on VHS accompanied by a CD , titled Cross Purposes Live . After the European tour with Cathedral and Godspeed in June 1994 , drummer Bobby Rondinelli quit the band and was replaced by original Black Sabbath drummer Ward for five shows in South America .

Following the touring cycle for Cross Purposes , bassist Geezer Butler quit the band for the second time . " I finally got totally disillusioned with the last Sabbath album , and I much preferred the stuff I was writing to the stuff Sabbath were doing " . Butler formed a solo project called GZR , and released Plastic Planet in 1995 . The album contained the song " Giving Up the Ghost " , which was critical of Tony Iommi for carrying on with the Black Sabbath name , with the lyrics : You plagiarised and parodied / the magic of our meaning / a legend in your own mind / left all your friends behind / you can 't admit that you 're wrong / the spirit is dead and gone (" I heard it 's something about me ... " said Iommi . " I had the album given to me a while back . I played it once , then somebody else had it , so I haven 't really paid any attention to the lyrics ... It 's nice to see him doing his own thing ? getting things off his chest . I don 't want to get into a rift with Geezer . He 's still a friend . "

Following Butler 's departure , newly returned drummer Ward once again left the band . Iommi reinstated former members Neil Murray on bass and Cozy Powell on drums , effectively reuniting the Tyr line @-@ up . The band enlisted Body Count guitarist Ernie C to produce the new album , which was recorded in London in autumn of 1994 . The album featured a guest vocal on " Illusion of Power " by Body Count vocalist Ice @-@ T. The resulting Forbidden was released on 8 June 1995 , but

failed to chart in the US or the UK . The album was widely panned by critics ; Allmusic 's Bradley Torreano said " with boring songs , awful production , and uninspired performances , this is easily avoidable for all but the most enthusiastic fan " ; while Blender magazine called Forbidden " an embarrassment ... the band 's worst album " .

Black Sabbath embarked on a world tour in July 1995 with openers Motörhead and Tiamat , but two months into the tour , drummer Cozy Powell left the band , citing health issues , and was replaced by former drummer Bobby Rondinelli . " The members I had in the last lineup ? Bobby Rondinelli , Neil Murray ? they 're great , great characters ... " Iommi told Sabbath fanzine Southern Cross . " That , for me , was an ideal lineup . I wasn 't sure vocally what we should do , but Neil Murray and Bobby Rondinelli I really got on well with . "

After completing Asian dates in December 1995 , Tony Iommi put the band on hiatus , and began work on a solo album with former Black Sabbath vocalist Glenn Hughes , and former Judas Priest drummer Dave Holland . The album was not officially released following its completion , although a widely traded bootleg called Eighth Star surfaced soon after . The album was officially released in 2004 as The 1996 DEP Sessions , with Holland 's drums re @-@ recorded by session drummer Jimmy Copley .

In 1997 , Tony Iommi disbanded the current line @-@ up to officially reunite with Ozzy Osbourne and the original Black Sabbath line @-@ up . Vocalist Tony Martin claimed that an original line @-@ up reunion had been in the works since the band 's brief reunion at Ozzy Osbourne 's 1992 Costa Mesa show , and that the band released subsequent albums to fulfill their record contract with I.R.S. Records . Martin later recalled Forbidden as a " filler album that got the band out of the label deal , rid of the singer , and into the reunion . However I wasn 't privy to that information at the time " . I.R.S. Records released a compilation album in 1996 to fulfill the band 's contract , titled The Sabbath Stones , which featured songs from Born Again to Forbidden .

= = = Reunion (1997 ? 2006) = = =

In the summer of 1997 , Tony Iommi , Geezer Butler , and Ozzy Osbourne officially reunited to co @-@ headline the Ozzfest festival tour alongside Osbourne 's solo band . The line @-@ up featured Osbourne 's drummer Mike Bordin filling in for Ward , who was unable to participate because of previous commitments with his solo project , the Bill Ward Band . In December 1997 , the group was joined by Ward , marking the first reunion of the original four members since Osbourne 's 1992 " retirement show " . The original line @-@ up recorded two shows at the Birmingham NEC , which were released as the double live album Reunion on 20 October 1998 . Reunion reached number eleven on the Billboard 200 , and went platinum in the US . The album spawned the single " Iron Man " , which won Black Sabbath their first Grammy Award in 2000 for Best Metal Performance , 30 years after the song was originally released . Reunion also featured two new studio tracks , " Psycho Man " and " Selling My Soul " , both of which cracked the top 20 on the Billboard Mainstream Rock Tracks chart .

Shortly before the band embarked on a European tour in the summer of 1998 , Ward suffered a heart attack and was temporarily replaced by former drummer Vinny Appice . Ward returned in time for the US tour with openers Pantera , which began in January 1999 and continued through the summer , headlining the annual Ozzfest tour . Following the Ozzfest appearances , the band was put on hiatus while members worked on solo material . Tony Iommi released his first official solo album , Iommi , in 2000 , while Osbourne continued work on his next solo release , Down to Earth .

Black Sabbath returned to the studio to work on new material with all four original members and producer Rick Rubin in the spring of 2001 , but the sessions were halted when Osbourne was called away to finish tracks for his solo album in the summer of 2001 . " It just came to an end " , Iommi said . " We didn 't go any further , and it 's a shame because [the songs] were really good " . Iommi commented on the difficulty getting all of the band members together to work on material :

It 's quite different recording now . We 've all done so much in between . In [the early] days there was no mobile phone ringing every five seconds . When we first started , we had nothing . We all worked for the same thing . Now everybody has done so many other things . It 's great fun and we

all have a good chat , but it 's just different , trying to put an album together .

In March 2002 , Ozzy Osbourne 's Emmy winning reality TV show The Osbournes debuted on MTV , and quickly became a worldwide hit . The show introduced Osbourne to a broader audience and to capitalise , the band 's back catalogue label , Sanctuary Records released a double live album Past Lives , which featured concert material recorded in the 1970s , including the previously unofficial Live at Last album . The band remained on hiatus until the summer of 2004 when they returned to headline Ozzfest 2004 and 2005 . In November 2005 , Black Sabbath were inducted into the UK Music Hall of Fame , and in March 2006 , after eleven years of eligibility , the band were inducted into the US Rock and Roll Hall of Fame . At the awards ceremony Metallica played two Black Sabbath songs , " Hole in the Sky " and " Iron Man " in tribute to the band .

= = = The Dio Years and Heaven and Hell (2006 ? 10) = = =

While Ozzy Osbourne was working on new solo album material in 2006 , Rhino Records released Black Sabbath : The Dio Years , a compilation of songs culled from the four Black Sabbath releases featuring Ronnie James Dio . For the release , Iommi , Butler , Dio and Appice reunited to write and record three new songs as Black Sabbath . The Dio Years was released on 3 April 2007 , reaching number 54 on the Billboard 200 , while the single " The Devil Cried " reached number 37 on the Mainstream Rock Tracks chart . Pleased with the results , Iommi and Dio decided to reunite the Heaven and Hell era line @-@ up for a world tour . While the line @-@ up of Osbourne , Butler , Iommi and Ward were still officially called Black Sabbath , the new line @-@ up opted to call themselves Heaven & Hell , after the album of the same name , to avoid confusion . When asked about the name of the group , Iommi stated " it really is Black Sabbath , whatever we do ... so everyone knows what they 're getting [and] so people won 't expect to hear ' Iron Man ' and all those songs . We 've done them for so many years , it 's nice to do just all the stuff we did with Ronnie again . " Ward was initially set to participate , but dropped out before the tour began due to musical differences with " a couple of the band members " . He was replaced by former drummer Vinny Appice , effectively reuniting the line @-@ up that had featured on the Mob Rules and Dehumanizer albums .

Heaven & Hell toured the US with openers Megadeth and Machine Head , and recorded a live album and DVD in New York on 30 March 2007 , titled Live from Radio City Music Hall . In November 2007 , Dio confirmed that the band had plans to record a new studio album , which was recorded in the following year . In April 2008 the band announced the upcoming release of a new box set and their participation in the Metal Masters Tour , alongside Judas Priest , Motörhead and Testament . The box set , The Rules of Hell , featuring remastered versions of all the Dio fronted Black Sabbath albums , was supported by the Metal Masters Tour . In 2009 , the band announced the name of their debut studio album , The Devil You Know , released on 28 April .

On 26 May 2009 Osbourne filed suit in a federal court in New York against Iommi alleging that he illegally claimed the band name . Iommi noted that he has been the only constant band member for its full 41 @-@ year career , and that his bandmates relinquished their rights to the name in the 1980s , therefore claiming more rights to the name of the band . Although , in the suit , Osbourne was seeking 50 % ownership of the trademark , he said that he hoped the proceedings would lead to equal ownership among the four original members .

In March 2010 , Black Sabbath announced that along with Metallica they would be releasing a limited edition single together to celebrate Record Store Day . It was released on 17 April 2010 .

Ronnie James Dio died on 16 May 2010 from stomach cancer . In June 2010 , the legal battle between Ozzy Osbourne and Tony Iommi over the trademarking of the Black Sabbath name ended , but the terms of the settlement have not been disclosed .

= = = Reunion and 13 (2010 ? 14) = = =

In a January 2010 interview while promoting his biography I Am Ozzy , Osbourne stated that although he would not rule it out , he was doubtful there would be a reunion with all four original

members of the band . Osbourne stated : " I 'm not gonna say I 've written it out forever , but right now I don 't think there 's any chance . But who knows what the future holds for me ? If it 's my destiny , fine . " In July , Butler said that there would be no reunion in 2011 , as Osbourne was already committed to touring with his solo band . However , by that August they had already met up to rehearse together , and continued to do so through the autumn .

On 11 November 2011 , Iommi , Butler , Osbourne , and Ward announced that they were reuniting to record a new album with a full tour in support beginning in 2012 . Guitarist Iommi was diagnosed with lymphoma on 9 January 2012 , which forced the band to cancel all but two shows (Download Festival , and Lollapalooza Festival) of a previously booked European tour . It was later announced that an intimate show would be played in their hometown Birmingham . It was the first concert since the reunion and the only indoors concerts that year . In February 2012 , drummer Ward announced that he would not participate further in the band 's reunion until he was offered a " signable contract "

On 21 May 2012 , at the O2 Academy in Birmingham , Black Sabbath played their first concert since 2005 , with Tommy Clufetos playing the drums . In June , they performed at Download Festival , followed by the last concert of the short tour at Lollapalooza Festival in Chicago . Later that month , the band started recording an album .

On 13 January 2013 , the band announced that the album would be released in June under the title 13 . Brad Wilk of Rage Against the Machine was chosen as the drummer , and Rick Rubin was chosen as the producer . Mixing of the album commenced in February . On 12 April 2013 , the band released the album 's track listing . The standard version of the album features eight new tracks , and the deluxe version features three bonus tracks .

The band 's first single from 13 , " God Is Dead ? " , was released on 19 April 2013 . On 20 April 2013 , Black Sabbath commenced their first Australia / New Zealand tour in 40 years , to be followed by a major North American Tour in Summer 2013 . The second single of the album , " End of the Beginning " , debuted on 15 May in a CSI : Crime Scene Investigation episode , where all three members appeared . In June 2013 , 13 topped both the UK Albums Chart and the US Billboard 200 . " God Is Dead ? " earned Black Sabbath their first Grammy Award in 14 years for Best Metal Performance in 2014 .

In July 2013 , Black Sabbath embarked on a North American Tour (for the first time since July 2001) , followed by a Latin American tour in October 2013 . In November 2013 , the band started their European tour which lasted until December 2013 . In March and April 2014 , they made 12 stops in North America (mostly in Canada) as the second leg of their North American Tour before embarking in June 2014 on the second leg of their European tour , which ended with a concert at London 's Hyde Park .

= = = Final tour (2014 ? present) = = =

On 29 September 2014 , vocalist Ozzy Osbourne told Metal Hammer that Black Sabbath would begin work on their twentieth studio album in early 2015 with producer Rick Rubin , followed by a final tour in 2016 . In an April 2015 interview , however , Osbourne said that these plans " could change " , and added , " We all live in different countries and some of them want to work and some of them don 't want to , I believe . But we are going to do another tour together . "

On 3 September 2015 , it was announced that Black Sabbath would embark on their final tour , titled The End , from January 2016 to February 2017 . Numerous dates and locations across the US , Canada , Europe , Australia and New Zealand were announced . The final shows of The End tour will take place at the Genting Arena in Birmingham on February 2 and February 4 , 2017 .

On 26 October 2015 , it was announced the band consisting of Osbourne , Iommi and Butler would be returning to the Download Festival on 11 June 2016 . Despite earlier reports that they would enter the studio before their farewell tour , Osbourne stated that there will not be another Black Sabbath studio album . However , an 8 @-@ track CD entitled The End was sold at dates on the tour . Along with some live recordings , the CD includes four unused tracks from the 13 sessions .

On 4 March 2016 , Iommi discussed future re @-@ releases of the Tony Martin @-@ era catalogue

. He explained : " We 've held back on the reissues of those albums because of the current Sabbath thing with Ozzy Osbourne , but they will certainly be happening ... I 'd like to do a couple of new tracks for those releases with Tony Martin ... I 'll also be looking at working on Cross Purposes and Forbidden . " Martin has suggested that this could coincide with the 30th anniversary of The Eternal Idol , in 2017 .

= = Musical style = =

Black Sabbath are a heavy metal band , whose music has also been described as psychedelic rock , blues rock , hard rock , progressive rock , proto @-@ progressive metal , and acid rock . The band have also been cited as a key influence on genres including stoner rock , doom metal , and sludge metal .

Early on Black Sabbath were influenced by Cream , the Beatles , Fleetwood Mac , Jimi Hendrix , John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers , Led Zeppelin and Jethro Tull .

Although Black Sabbath have gone through many line @-@ ups and stylistic changes , their core sound focuses on ominous lyrics and doomy music , often making use of the musical tritone , also called the " devil 's interval " . While their Ozzy @-@ era albums such as Sabbath Bloody Sabbath had slight compositional similarities to the progressive rock genre that was growing in popularity at the time , standing in stark contrast to popular music of the early 1970s Black Sabbath 's dark sound was dismissed by rock critics of the era . Much like many of their early heavy metal contemporaries , the band received virtually no airplay on rock radio .

As the band 's primary songwriter , Tony Iommi wrote the majority of Black Sabbath 's music , while Osbourne would write vocal melodies , and bassist Geezer Butler would write lyrics . The process was sometimes frustrating for Iommi , who often felt pressured to come up with new material . " If I didn 't come up with anything , nobody would do anything . " On Iommi 's influence , Osbourne later said :

Black Sabbath never used to write a structured song . There 'd be a long intro that would go into a jazz piece , then go all folky ... and it worked . Tony Iommi ? and I have said this a zillion times ? should be up there with the greats . He can pick up a guitar , play a riff , and you say , ' He 's gotta be out now , he can 't top that . ' Then you come back , and I bet you a billion dollars , he 'd come up with a riff that 'd knock your fucking socks off .

Beginning with their third album , Master of Reality , Black Sabbath began to feature tuned @-@ down guitars . In 1965 , before forming Black Sabbath , guitarist Tony Iommi suffered an accident while working in a sheet metal factory , losing the tips of two fingers on his right hand . Iommi almost gave up music , but was urged by the factory manager to listen to Django Reinhardt , a jazz guitarist who lost the use of two fingers . Inspired by Reinhardt , Iommi created two thimbles made of plastic and leather to cap off his missing fingertips . The guitarist began using lighter strings , and detuning his guitar , to better grip the strings with his prosthesis . Early in the band 's history Iommi experimented with different dropped tunings , including C ? tuning , or 3 semitones down , before settling on E ? / D ? tuning , or a half @-@ step down from standard tuning .

= = Legacy = =

Black Sabbath has sold over 70 million records worldwide , including a RIAA @-@ certified 15 million in the US . They are one of the most influential heavy metal bands of all time . The band helped to create the genre with ground @-@ breaking releases such as Paranoid , an album that Rolling Stone magazine said " changed music forever " , and called the band " the Beatles of heavy metal " . Time Magazine called Paranoid " the birthplace of heavy metal " , placing it in their Top 100 Albums of All Time . Rolling Stone magazine ranked Black Sabbath number 85 in their list of the " 100 Greatest Artists of All Time " . MTV placed Black Sabbath at number one on their Top Ten Heavy Metal Bands and VH1 placed them at number two on their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock . VH1 ranked Black Sabbath 's " Iron Man " the number one song on their 40 Greatest Metal Songs countdown . Allmusic 's William Ruhlmann said :

Black Sabbath has been so influential in the development of heavy metal rock music as to be a defining force in the style . The group took the blues @-@ rock sound of late ' 60s acts like Cream , Blue Cheer , and Vanilla Fudge to its logical conclusion , slowing the tempo , accentuating the bass , and emphasising screaming guitar solos and howled vocals full of lyrics expressing mental anguish and macabre fantasies . If their predecessors clearly came out of an electrified blues tradition , Black Sabbath took that tradition in a new direction , and in so doing helped give birth to a musical style that continued to attract millions of fans decades later .

According to Rolling Stone 's Holly George @-@ Warren , " Black Sabbath was the heavy metal king of the 70s . " Although initially " despised by rock critics and ignored by radio programmers " , the group sold more than 8 million albums by the end of that decade .

= = = Influence and innovation = = =

Black Sabbath have influenced many acts including Iron Maiden , Slayer , Metallica , Nirvana , Korn , Mayhem , Venom , Judas Priest , Guns N ' Roses , Soundgarden , Body Count , Alice in Chains , Anthrax , Disturbed , Death , Opeth , Pantera , Megadeth , the Smashing Pumpkins , Slipknot , Foo Fighters , Fear Factory , Candlemass , Godsmack , and Van Halen . Two gold selling tribute albums have been released , *Nativity in Black* Volume 1 & 2 , including covers by Sepultura , White Zombie , Type O Negative , Faith No More , Machine Head , Primus , System of a Down , and Monster Magnet .

Metallica 's Lars Ulrich , who , along with bandmate James Hetfield inducted Black Sabbath into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2006 , said " Black Sabbath is and always will be synonymous with heavy metal " , while Hetfield said " Sabbath got me started on all that evil @-@ sounding shit , and it 's stuck with me . Tony Iommi is the king of the heavy riff . " former Guns N ' Roses guitarist Slash said of the *Paranoid* album : " There 's just something about that whole record that , when you 're a kid and you 're turned onto it , it 's like a whole different world . It just opens up your mind to another dimension ... *Paranoid* is the whole Sabbath experience ; very indicative of what Sabbath meant at the time . Tony 's playing style ? doesn 't matter whether it 's off *Paranoid* or if it 's off *Heaven and Hell* ? it 's very distinctive . " Anthrax guitarist Scott Ian said " I always get the question in every interview I do , ' What are your top five metal albums ? ' I make it easy for myself and always say the first five Sabbath albums . "

Lamb of God 's Chris Adler said : " If anybody who plays heavy metal says that they weren 't influenced by Black Sabbath 's music , then I think that they 're lying to you . I think all heavy metal music was , in some way , influenced by what Black Sabbath did . " Judas Priest vocalist Rob Halford commented : " They were and still are a groundbreaking band .. you can put on the first Black Sabbath album and it still sounds as fresh today as it did 30 @-@ odd years ago . And that 's because great music has a timeless ability : To me , Sabbath are in the same league as the Beatles or Mozart . They 're on the leading edge of something extraordinary . " On Black Sabbath 's standing , Rage Against the Machine guitarist Tom Morello states : " The heaviest , scariest , coolest riffs and the apocalyptic Ozzy wail are without peer . You can hear the despair and menace of the working @-@ class Birmingham streets they came from in every kick @-@ ass , evil groove . Their arrival ground hippy , flower @-@ power psychedelia to a pulp and set the standard for all heavy bands to come . " Phil Anselmo of Pantera and Down stated that " Only a fool would leave out what Black Sabbath brought to the heavy metal genre " .

According to Tracii Guns of L.A. Guns and former member of Guns N ' Roses , the main riff of " *Paradise City* " by Guns N ' Roses , from *Appetite for Destruction* (1987) , was influenced by the song " *Zero the Hero* " from the *Born Again* album . King Diamond guitarist Andy LaRocque affirmed that the clean guitar part of " *Sleepless Nights* " from *Conspiracy* (1989) is inspired by Tony Iommi 's playing on *Never Say Die* ! .

In addition to being pioneers of heavy metal , they also have been credited for laying the foundations for heavy metal subgenres stoner rock , sludge metal , thrash metal , black metal and doom metal as well as for alternative rock subgenre grunge . According to the critic Bob Gulla , the band 's sound " shows up in virtually all of grunge 's most popular bands , including Nirvana ,

Soundgarden , and Alice in Chains " .

Tony Iommi has been credited as the pioneer of lighter gauge guitar strings . The tips of his fingers were severed in a steel factory , and while using thimbles (artificial finger tips) he found that standard guitar strings were too difficult to bend and play . He found that there was only one size of strings available , so after years with Sabbath he had strings custom made .

Culturally , Black Sabbath have exerted a huge influence in both television and literature and have in many cases become synonymous with heavy metal . In the film Almost Famous , Lester Bangs gives the protagonist an assignment to cover the band (plot point one) with the immortal line : ' Give me 500 words on Black Sabbath ' . Contemporary music and arts publication Trebuchet Magazine has put this to practice by asking all new writers to write a short piece (500 words) on Black Sabbath as a means of proving their creativity and voice on a well documented subject .

= = Members = =

Current line @-@ up

Tony Iommi ? lead guitar (1968 ? present)

Geezer Butler ? bass guitar (1968 ? 1979 , 1980 ? 1985 , 1987 , 1990 ? 1994 , 1997 ? present)

Ozzy Osbourne ? lead vocals (1968 ? 1977 , 1978 ? 1979 , 1985 , 1997 ? present)

Touring members

Adam Wakeman ? keyboards , back @-@ up guitar (2004 ? 2006 , 2012 ? present)

Tommy Clufetos ? drums (2012 ? present)

= = Tours = =

Black Sabbath Tour 1970

Paranoid Tour 1970 ? 1971

Master of Reality Tour 1971 ? 1972

Vol . 4 Tour 1972 ? 1973

Sabbath Bloody Sabbath Tour 1973 ? 1974

Sabotage Tour 1974 ? 1976

Technical Ecstasy Tour 1976 ? 1977

Never Say Die ! Tour 1978

Heaven & Hell Tour 1980 ? 1981

Mob Rules Tour 1981 ? 1982

Born Again Tour 1983

Seventh Star Tour 1986

Eternal Idol Tour 1987

Headless Cross Tour 1989

Tyr Tour 1990

Dehumanizer Tour 1992

Cross Purposes Tour 1994

Forbidden Tour 1995

Ozzfest Tour 1997

European Tour 1998

Reunion Tour 1999

Ozzfest Tour 1999

US Tour 1999

European Tour 1999

Ozzfest Tour 2001

Ozzfest Tour 2004

European Tour 2005

Ozzfest Tour 2005

Black Sabbath Reunion Tour , 2012 ? 2014

The End Tour 2016

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Black Sabbath (1970)

Paranoid (1970)

Master of Reality (1971)

Vol . 4 (1972)

Sabbath Bloody Sabbath (1973)

Sabotage (1975)

Technical Ecstasy (1976)

Never Say Die ! (1978)

Heaven and Hell (1980)

Mob Rules (1981)

Born Again (1983)

Seventh Star (1986)

The Eternal Idol (1987)

Headless Cross (1989)

Tyr (1990)

Dehumanizer (1992)

Cross Purposes (1994)

Forbidden (1995)

13 (2013)