

= Iron Maiden =

Iron Maiden are an English heavy metal band formed in Leyton , East London , in 1975 by bassist and primary songwriter Steve Harris . The band 's discography has grown to thirty @-@ eight albums , including sixteen studio albums , eleven live albums , four EPs , and seven compilations .

Pioneers of the new wave of British heavy metal , Iron Maiden achieved initial success during the early 1980s . After several line @-@ up changes , the band went on to release a series of UK and US platinum and gold albums , including 1982 's The Number of the Beast , 1983 's Piece of Mind , 1984 's Powerslave , 1985 's live release Live After Death , 1986 's Somewhere in Time and 1988 's Seventh Son of a Seventh Son . Since the return of lead vocalist Bruce Dickinson and guitarist Adrian Smith in 1999 , the band have undergone a resurgence in popularity , with their 2010 studio offering , The Final Frontier , peaking at No. 1 in 28 countries and receiving widespread critical acclaim . Their sixteenth studio album , The Book of Souls , was released on 4 September 2015 .

Despite little radio or television support , Iron Maiden are considered one of the most successful heavy metal bands in history , with The Observer reporting in 2015 that the band have sold over 90 million copies of their albums worldwide . The band won the Ivor Novello Award for international achievement in 2002 . As of October 2013 , the band have played over 2000 live shows throughout their career . For the past 35 years , the band have been supported by their famous mascot , " Eddie " , who has appeared on almost all of their album and single covers , as well as in their live shows .

= = History = =

= = = Early years ( 1975 ? 78 ) = = =

Iron Maiden were formed on Christmas Day 1975 by bassist Steve Harris shortly after he left his previous group , Smiler . Harris attributes the band 's name to a film adaptation of The Man in the Iron Mask from the novel by Alexandre Dumas , the title of which reminded him of the iron maiden torture device . After months of rehearsal , Iron Maiden made their debut at St. Nicks Hall in Poplar on 1 May 1976 , before taking up a semi @-@ residency at the Cart and Horses Pub in Maryland Point , Stratford .

The original line @-@ up did not last very long , however , with vocalist Paul Day being the first casualty as , according to Harris , he lacked " energy or charisma on stage " . He was replaced by Dennis Wilcock , a Kiss fan who used make @-@ up and fake blood during live performances . Wilcock 's friend Dave Murray was invited to join , to the dismay of the band 's guitarists Dave Sullivan and Terry Rance . Their frustration led Harris to temporarily disband Iron Maiden in 1976 , though the group reformed soon after with Murray as the sole guitarist . Steve Harris and Dave Murray remain the band 's longest @-@ standing members and have performed on all of their releases .

Iron Maiden recruited yet another guitarist in 1977 , Bob Sawyer , who was sacked for embarrassing the band on stage by pretending to play guitar with his teeth . Tension ensued again , causing a rift between Murray and Wilcock , who convinced Harris to fire Murray , as well as original drummer Ron Matthews . A new line @-@ up was put together , including future Cutting Crew member Tony Moore on keyboards , Terry Wapram on guitar , and drummer Barry Purkis . A bad performance at the Bridgehouse , a pub located in Canning Town , in November 1977 was the line @-@ up 's first and only concert and led to Purkis being replaced by Doug Sampson . At the same time , Moore was asked to leave as Harris decided that keyboards did not suit the band 's sound . A few months later , Dennis Wilcock decided that he had had enough with the group and left to form his own band , V1 , and Dave Murray was immediately reinstated . As he preferred to be the band 's sole guitarist , Wapram disapproved of Murray 's return and was also dismissed .

Steve Harris , Dave Murray and Doug Sampson spent the summer and autumn of 1978 rehearsing while they searched for a singer to complete the band 's new line @-@ up . A chance meeting at the Red Lion pub in Leytonstone in November 1978 evolved into a successful audition for vocalist Paul

Di 'Anno . Steve Harris has stated , " There 's sort of a quality in Paul 's voice , a raspiness in his voice , or whatever you want to call it , that just gave it this great edge . " At this time , Murray would typically act as their sole guitarist , with Harris commenting , " Davey was so good he could do a lot of it on his own . The plan was always to get a second guitarist in , but finding one that could match Davey was really difficult . "

= = = Record contract and early releases ( 1978 ? 81 ) = = =

On New Year 's Eve 1978 , Iron Maiden recorded a demo , consisting of four songs , at Spaceward Studios in Cambridge . Hoping the recording would help them secure more gigs , the band presented a copy to Neal Kay , then managing a heavy metal club called " Bandwagon Heavy Metal Soundhouse " , located in Kingsbury Circle , northwest London . Upon hearing the tape , Kay began playing the demo regularly at the Bandwagon , and one of the songs , " Prowler " , eventually went to No. 1 in the Soundhouse charts , which were published weekly in Sounds magazine . A copy was also acquired by Rod Smallwood , who soon became the band 's manager , and , as Iron Maiden 's popularity increased , they released the demo on their own record label as The Soundhouse Tapes , named after the club . Featuring only three tracks ( one song , " Strange World " , was excluded as the band were unsatisfied with its production ) all five thousand copies were sold out within weeks .

In December 1979 , the band secured a major record deal with EMI and asked Dave Murray 's childhood friend Adrian Smith to join the group as their second guitarist . Smith declined as he was busy with his own band , Urchin , so Iron Maiden hired guitarist Dennis Stratton instead . Shortly afterwards , Doug Sampson left due to health issues and was replaced by ex @-@ Samson drummer Clive Burr at Stratton 's suggestion on 26 December . Iron Maiden 's first appearance on an album was on the Metal for Muthas compilation ( released on 15 February 1980 ) with two early versions of " Sanctuary " and " Wrathchild " . The release led to an ensuing tour which featured several other bands linked with the new wave of British heavy metal .

Iron Maiden 's eponymous 1980 release , Iron Maiden , debuted at No. 4 in the UK Albums Chart . In addition to the title track ( a live version of which would be one of the first music videos aired on MTV ) , the album includes other early favourites such as " Running Free " , " Transylvania " , " Phantom of the Opera " , and " Sanctuary " ? which was not on the original UK release but appeared on the US version and subsequent remasters . The band set out on a headline tour of the UK , before opening for Kiss on their 1980 Unmasked Tour 's European leg as well as supporting Judas Priest on select dates . After the Kiss tour , Dennis Stratton was dismissed from the band as a result of creative and personal differences , and was replaced by Adrian Smith in October 1980 .

In 1981 , Iron Maiden released their second album , entitled Killers . Containing many tracks that had been written prior to their debut release , only two new songs were written for the record : " Prodigal Son " and " Murders in the Rue Morgue " ( the latter 's title was taken from the short story by Edgar Allan Poe ) . Unsatisfied with the production on their debut album , the band hired veteran producer Martin Birch , who would go on to work for Iron Maiden until his retirement in 1992 . The record was followed by the band 's first world tour , which included their debut performance in the United States , opening for Judas Priest at The Aladdin Casino , Las Vegas .

= = = Success ( 1981 ? 85 ) = = =

By 1981 , Paul Di 'Anno was demonstrating increasingly self @-@ destructive behaviour , particularly through his drug usage , about which Di 'Anno comments , " it wasn 't just that I was snorting a bit of coke , though ; I was just going for it non @-@ stop , 24 hours a day , every day ... the band had commitments piling up that went on for months , years , and I just couldn 't see my way to the end of it . I knew I 'd never last the whole tour . It was too much . " With his performances suffering , Di 'Anno was immediately dismissed following the Killer World Tour , at which point the band had already selected his replacement .

After a meeting with Rod Smallwood at the Reading Festival , Bruce Dickinson , previously of Samson , auditioned for Iron Maiden in September 1981 and was immediately hired . The following

month , Dickinson went out on the road with the band on a small headlining tour in Italy , as well as a one @-@ off show at the Rainbow Theatre in the UK . For the last show , and in anticipation of their forthcoming album , the band played " Children of the Damned " and " 22 Acacia Avenue " , introducing fans to the sound towards which they were progressing .

In 1982 , Iron Maiden released *The Number of the Beast* , an album which gave the band their first ever UK Albums Chart No. 1 record and additionally became a Top Ten hit in many other countries . At the time , Dickinson was in the midst of legal difficulties with Samson 's management and was not permitted to add his name to any of the songwriting credits , although he still made what he described as a " moral contribution " to " Children of the Damned " , " The Prisoner " and " Run to the Hills " . For the second time the band embarked on a world tour , dubbed *The Beast on the Road* , during which they visited North America , Japan , Australia and Europe , including a headline appearance at the Reading Festival . A new and hugely successful chapter in Iron Maiden 's future was cemented ; in 2010 *The New York Times* reported that the album had sold over 14 million copies worldwide .

*The Beast on the Road* 's US leg proved controversial when an American conservative political lobbying group claimed Iron Maiden were Satanic because of the new album 's title track , to the point where a group of Christian activists destroyed Iron Maiden records as a protest against the band . In recent years , Dickinson has stated that the band treated this as " silliness " , and that the demonstrations in fact gave them " loads of publicity " .

In December 1982 , drummer Clive Burr was fired from the band and replaced by Nicko McBrain , previously of French band Trust . Although Harris states that his dismissal took place because his live performances were affected by offstage activities , Burr objected to this and claimed that he was unfairly ousted from the band . Soon afterwards , the band journeyed for the first time to The Bahamas to record the first of three consecutive albums at Compass Point Studios . In 1983 , they released *Piece of Mind* , which reached the No. 3 spot in the UK , and was the band 's debut in the North American charts , reaching No. 70 on the *Billboard* 200 . *Piece of Mind* includes the successful singles " The Trooper " and " Flight of Icarus " , the latter of which being particularly notable as one of the band 's few songs to gain substantial airplay in the US .

Soon after the success of *Piece of Mind* and its supporting tour , the band released *Powerslave* on 9 September 1984 . The album featured fan favourites " 2 Minutes to Midnight " , " Aces High " , and " Rime of The Ancient Mariner " , the latter based on Samuel Taylor Coleridge 's poem of the same name and running over 13 minutes long .

The tour following the album , dubbed the *World Slavery Tour* , was the band 's largest to date and consisted of 193 shows in 28 countries over 13 months , playing to an estimated 3 @,@ 500 @,@ 000 people . Many shows were played back @-@ to @-@ back in the same city , such as in Long Beach , California , where the band played four consecutive concerts . It was here where the majority of their subsequent live release , *Live After Death* , was recorded , which became a critical and commercial success , peaking at No. 4 in the UK . Iron Maiden also made their debut appearance in South America , where they co @-@ headlined ( with Queen ) the Rock in Rio festival to an estimated crowd of 300 @,@ 000 . The tour was physically gruelling for the band , who demanded six months off when it ended ( although this was later reduced to four months ) . This was the first substantial break in the group 's history , including the cancellation of a proposed supporting tour for the new live album , with Bruce Dickinson threatening to quit unless the tour ended .

= = = Experimentation ( 1986 ? 89 ) = = =

Returning from their time off , the band adopted a different style for their 1986 studio album , entitled *Somewhere in Time* , featuring , for the first time in the band 's history , synthesised bass and guitars to add textures and layers to the sound . The release charted well across the world , particularly with the single " Wasted Years " , but notably included no writing credits from lead singer Bruce Dickinson , whose material was rejected by the rest of the band . While Dickinson was focused on his own music , guitarist Adrian Smith , who typically collaborated with the vocalist , was

" left to [ his ] own devices " and began writing songs on his own , coming up with " Wasted Years " , " Sea of Madness " , and " Stranger in a Strange Land " , the last of which would be the album 's second single .

The experimentation evident on Somewhere in Time continued on their next album , entitled Seventh Son of a Seventh Son , which was released in 1988 . A concept album , based on the 1987 novel Seventh Son by Orson Scott Card , this would be the band 's first record to include keyboards , performed by Harris and Smith , as opposed to guitar synthesisers on the previous release . After his contributions were not used for Somewhere in Time , Dickinson 's enthusiasm was renewed as his ideas were accepted for this album . Another popular release , it became Iron Maiden 's second album to hit No. 1 in the UK charts , although it only achieved a Gold certification in the US , in contrast to its four predecessors .

During the following tour , the band headlined the Monsters of Rock festival at Donington Park for the first time on 20 August 1988 , playing to the largest crowd in the festival 's history ( 107 @, @ 000 ) . Also included on the bill were Kiss , David Lee Roth , Megadeth , Guns N ' Roses and Helloween . The festival was marred , however , by the deaths of two fans in a crowd @-@ surge during the aforementioned Guns N ' Roses performance ; the following year 's festival was cancelled as a result . The tour concluded with several headline shows in the UK in November and December 1988 , with the concerts at the NEC Arena , Birmingham recorded for a live video , entitled Maiden England . Throughout the tour , Harris ' bass technician , Michael Kenney , provided live keyboards . Kenney has acted as the band 's live keyboard player ever since , also performing on the band 's four following albums before Harris took over as the group 's sole studio keyboardist from 2000 's Brave New World .

= = = Upheaval ( 1989 ? 94 ) = = =

During another break in 1989 , guitarist Adrian Smith released a solo album with his band ASAP , entitled Silver and Gold , and vocalist Bruce Dickinson began work on a solo album with former Gillan guitarist Janick Gers , releasing Tattooed Millionaire in 1990 , followed by a tour . At the same time , to mark the band 's ten @-@ year recording anniversary , Iron Maiden released The First Ten Years , a series of ten CDs and double 12 @-@ inch singles . Between 24 February and 28 April 1990 , the individual parts were released one @-@ by @-@ one , each containing two of Iron Maiden 's singles , including the original B @-@ sides .

Soon afterwards , Iron Maiden regrouped to work on a new studio record . During the pre @-@ production stages , Adrian Smith left the band due to differences with Steve Harris regarding the direction the band should be taking , disagreeing with the " stripped down " style that they were leaning towards . Janick Gers , having worked on Dickinson 's solo project , was chosen to replace Smith and became the band 's first new member in seven years . The album , No Prayer for the Dying , was released in October 1990 and contained " Bring Your Daughter ... to the Slaughter " , the band 's first ( and to date , only ) UK Singles Chart No. 1 , originally recorded by Dickinson 's solo outfit for the soundtrack to A Nightmare on Elm Street 5 : The Dream Child .

After another tour and some more time off , the band recorded their next studio release , Fear of the Dark , which was released in 1992 and included the stand @-@ out title track , which is now a regular fixture in the band 's concert setlists . Achieving their third No. 1 in the UK albums chart , the disc also featured the No. 2 single " Be Quick or Be Dead " and the No. 21 single " From Here to Eternity " . The album featured the first songwriting by Gers , and no collaboration at all between Harris and Dickinson on songs . The extensive worldwide tour that followed included their first ever Latin American leg ( after a single concert during the World Slavery Tour ) , and headlining the Monsters of Rock festivals in seven European countries . Iron Maiden 's second performance at Donington Park , to an audience of 68 @, @ 500 ( the attendance was capped after the incident in 1988 ) , was filmed for the audio and video release , Live at Donington , and featured a guest appearance by Adrian Smith , who joined the band to perform " Running Free " .

In 1993 , Bruce Dickinson left the band to further pursue his solo career , but agreed to remain for a farewell tour and two live albums ( later re @-@ released in one package ) . The first , A Real Live

One , featured songs from 1986 to 1992 , and was released in March 1993 . The second , A Real Dead One , featured songs from 1980 to 1984 , and was released after Dickinson had left the band . The tour did not go well , however , with Steve Harris claiming that Dickinson would only perform properly for high @-@ profile shows and that at several concerts he would only mumble into the microphone . Dickinson denies the charge that he was under @-@ performing , stating that it was impossible to " make like Mr Happy Face if the vibe wasn 't right " , saying that news of his exit from the band had prevented any chance of a good atmosphere during the tour . He played his farewell show with Iron Maiden on 28 August 1993 , which was filmed , broadcast by the BBC and released on video under the name Raising Hell .

= = = Blaze Bayley era , The X Factor and Virtual XI ( 1994 ? 99 ) = = =

In 1994 , the band listened to hundreds of tapes sent in by vocalists before convincing Blaze Bayley , formerly of the band Wolfsbane who had supported Iron Maiden in 1990 , to audition for them . Harris ' preferred choice from the outset , Bayley had a different vocal style from his predecessor , which ultimately received a mixed reception among fans .

After a two @-@ year hiatus ( as well as a three @-@ year hiatus from studio releases ? a record for the band at the time ) Iron Maiden returned in 1995 . Releasing The X Factor , the band had their lowest chart position since 1981 for an album in the UK ( debuting at No. 8 ) , although it would go on to win Album of the Year awards in France and Germany . The record included the 11 @-@ minute epic " Sign of the Cross " , the band 's longest song since " Rime of the Ancient Mariner " , as well as the singles , " Man on the Edge " , based on the film Falling Down , and " Lord of the Flies " , based on the novel of the same name . The release is notable for its " dark " tone , inspired by Steve Harris ' divorce . The band toured for the rest of 1995 and 1996 , playing for the first time in Israel and South Africa , before stopping to release Best of the Beast . The band 's first compilation , it included a new single , " Virus " , whose lyrics attack the critics who had recently written off the band .

Iron Maiden returned to the studio to record Virtual XI , released in 1998 . The album 's chart scores were the band 's lowest to date , including the UK where it peaked at No. 16 failing to score one million worldwide sales for the first time in Iron Maiden 's history . At the same time , Steve Harris assisted in remastering the band 's entire discography , up to and including Live at Donington ( which was given a mainstream release for the first time ) .

Bayley 's tenure in Iron Maiden ended in January 1999 when he was asked to leave during a band meeting . The dismissal took place due to issues Bayley had experienced with his voice during the Virtual XI World Tour , although Janick Gers has since stated that this was partly the band 's fault for forcing him to perform songs which were beyond his natural register .

= = = Return of Dickinson and Smith , Brave New World ( 1999 ? 2002 ) = = =

While the group were considering a replacement for Bayley , Rod Smallwood convinced Steve Harris to invite Bruce Dickinson back into the band . Although Harris admits that he " wasn 't really into it " at first , he then thought , " ' Well , if the change happens , who should we get ? ' The thing is , we know Bruce and we know what he 's capable of , and you think , ' Well , better the devil you know . ' I mean , we got on well professionally for , like , eleven years , and so ... after I thought about it , I didn 't really have a problem with it . "

The band entered into talks with Dickinson , who agreed to rejoin during a meeting in Brighton in January 1999 , along with guitarist Adrian Smith , who was telephoned a few hours later . With Gers , Smith 's replacement , remaining , Iron Maiden now had a three @-@ guitar line @-@ up and embarked on a hugely successful reunion tour . Dubbed The Ed Hunter Tour , it tied in with the band 's newly released greatest hits collection , Ed Hunter , whose track listing was decided by a poll on the group 's website , and also contained a computer game of the same name starring the band 's mascot .

One of Dickinson 's primary concerns on rejoining the group " was whether we would in fact be

making a real state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art record and not just a comeback album , " which eventually took the form of 2000 's Brave New World . Having disliked the results from Harris ' personal studio , Barnyard Studios located on his property in Essex , which had been used for the last four Iron Maiden studio albums , the band recorded the new release at Guillaume Tell Studios , Paris in November 1999 with producer Kevin Shirley . Thematic influences continued with " The Wicker Man " ? based on the 1973 British cult film of the same name ? and " Brave New World " ? title taken from the Aldous Huxley novel of the same name . The album furthered the more progressive and melodic sound present in some earlier recordings , with elaborate song structures and keyboard orchestration .

The world tour that followed consisted of well over 100 dates and culminated on 19 January 2001 in a show at the Rock in Rio festival in Brazil , where Iron Maiden played to an audience of around 250 @, @ 000 . While the performance was being produced for a CD and DVD release in March 2002 , under the name Rock in Rio , the band took a year out from touring , during which they played three consecutive shows at Brixton Academy in aid of former drummer Clive Burr , who had recently announced that he had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis . The band performed two further concerts for Burr 's MS Trust Fund charity in 2005 , and 2007 , before his death in 2013 .

= = = Dance of Death and A Matter of Life and Death ( 2003 ? 07 ) = = =

Following their Give Me Ed ... ' Til I'm Dead Tour in the summer of 2003 , Iron Maiden released Dance of Death , their thirteenth studio album , which was met by worldwide critical and commercial success . Produced by Kevin Shirley , now the band 's regular producer , many critics also felt that this release matched up to their earlier efforts , such as Killers , Piece of Mind and The Number of the Beast . As usual , historical and literary references were present , with " Montségur " in particular being about the Cathar stronghold conquered in 1244 , and " Paschendale " relating to the significant battle which took place during The First World War . During the following tour , the band 's performance at Westfalenhalle , in Dortmund , Germany , was recorded and released in August 2005 as a live album and DVD , entitled Death on the Road .

In 2005 , the band announced the Eddie Rips Up the World Tour which , tying in with their 2004 DVD entitled The History of Iron Maiden ? Part 1 : The Early Days , only featured material from their first four albums . As part of this celebration of their earlier years , " The Number of the Beast " single was re @-@ released and went straight to No. 3 in the UK Chart . The tour included many headlining stadium and festival dates , including a performance at Ullevi Stadium in Sweden to an audience of almost 60 @, @ 000 . This concert was also broadcast live on satellite television all over Europe to approximately 60 million viewers . Following this run of European shows , the band co @-@ headlined the US festival tour , Ozzfest , with Black Sabbath , their final performance at which earned international press coverage after their show was sabotaged by singer Ozzy Osbourne 's family , who took offence to Dickinson 's remarks against reality @-@ TV . The band completed the tour by headlining the Reading and Leeds Festivals on the 26 ? 28 August , and the RDS Stadium in Ireland on 31 August . For the second time , the band played a charity show for The Clive Burr MS Trust Fund , this time taking place at the Hammersmith Apollo . The same year , the band were inducted into the Hollywood RockWalk in Sunset Boulevard , Los Angeles .

At the end of 2005 , Iron Maiden began work on A Matter of Life and Death , their fourteenth studio effort , released in autumn 2006 . While not a concept album , war and religion are recurring themes in the lyrics , as well as in the cover artwork . The release was a critical and commercial success , earning the band their first top ten in the Billboard 200 and receiving the Album of the Year award at the 2006 Classic Rock Roll of Honour Awards . A supporting tour followed , during which they played the album in its entirety ; response to this was mixed .

The second part of the " A Matter of Life and Death " tour , which took place in 2007 , was dubbed " A Matter of the Beast " to celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Number of the Beast album , and included appearances at several major festivals worldwide . The tour opened in the Middle East with the band 's first performance in Dubai at the Dubai Desert Rock Festival , after which they played to over 30 @, @ 000 people at the Bangalore Palace Grounds , marking the first concert by any major

heavy metal band in the Indian sub @-@ continent . The band went on to play a string of European dates , including an appearance at Download Festival , their fourth headline performance at Donington Park , to approximately 80 @,@ 000 people . On 24 June they ended the tour with a performance at London 's Brixton Academy in aid of The Clive Burr MS Trust fund .

= = = Somewhere Back in Time World Tour and Flight 666 ( 2007 ? 09 ) = = =

On 5 September 2007 , the band announced their Somewhere Back in Time World Tour , which tied in with the DVD release of their Live After Death album . The setlist for the tour consisted of successes from the 1980s , with a specific emphasis on the Powerslave era for set design . The first part of the tour , commencing in Mumbai , India on 1 February 2008 , consisted of 24 concerts in 21 cities , travelling nearly 50 @,@ 000 miles in the band 's own chartered aeroplane , named " Ed Force One " . They played their first ever concerts in Costa Rica and Colombia and their first shows in Australia and Puerto Rico since 1992 .

The tour led to the release of a new compilation album , entitled Somewhere Back in Time , which included a selection of tracks from their 1980 eponymous debut to 1988 's Seventh Son of a Seventh Son , as well as several live versions from Live After Death .

The Somewhere Back in Time World Tour continued with two further legs in the US and Europe in the summer of 2008 , during which the band used a more expansive stage @-@ set , including further elements of the original Live After Death show . With the sole UK concert taking place at Twickenham Stadium , this would be the first time the band would headline a stadium in their own country . The three 2008 legs of the tour were remarkably successful ; it was the second highest grossing tour of the year for a British artist .

The last part of the tour took place in February and March 2009 , with the band , once again , using " Ed Force One " . The final leg included the band 's first ever appearances in Peru and Ecuador , as well as their return to Venezuela and New Zealand after 17 years . The band also played another show in India ( their third in the country within a span of 2 years ) at the Rock in India festival to a crowd of 20 @,@ 000 . At their concert in São Paulo on 15 March , Dickinson announced on stage that it was the largest non @-@ festival show of their career , with an overall attendance of 63 @,@ 000 people . The final leg ended in Florida on 2 April after which the band took a break . Overall , the tour reportedly had an attendance of over two million people worldwide over both years .

At the 2009 BRIT Awards , Iron Maiden won the award for best British live act . Voted for by the public , the band reportedly won by a landslide .

On 20 January 2009 , the band announced that they were to release a full @-@ length documentary film in select cinemas on 21 April 2009 . Entitled Iron Maiden : Flight 666 , it was filmed during the first part of the Somewhere Back in Time World Tour between February and March 2008 . Flight 666 was co @-@ produced by Banger Productions and was distributed in cinemas by Arts Alliance Media and EMI , with D & E Entertainment sub @-@ distributing in the US . The film went on to have a Blu @-@ ray , DVD and CD release in May and June , topping the music DVD charts in 22 countries .

= = = The Final Frontier and Maiden England World Tour ( 2010 ? 14 ) = = =

Following announcements that the band had begun composition of new material and booked studio time in early 2010 with Kevin Shirley producing , The Final Frontier was announced on 4 March . The album , the band 's fifteenth , was released on 16 August , garnering critical acclaim and the band 's greatest commercial success in their history , reaching No. 1 in twenty @-@ eight countries worldwide . Although Steve Harris had been quoted in the past as claiming that the band would only produce fifteen studio releases , band members have since confirmed that there will be at least one further record .

The album 's supporting tour saw the band perform 98 shows across the globe to an estimated audience of over 2 million , including their first visits to Singapore , Indonesia and South Korea , before concluding in London on 6 August 2011 . As the tour 's 2010 leg preceded The Final Frontier

's release , the band made " El Dorado " available as a free download on 8 June , which would go on to win the award for Best Metal Performance at the 2011 Grammy Awards on 13 February 2011 . It is the band 's first win following two previous Grammy nominations ( " Fear of the Dark " in 1994 and " The Wicker Man " in 2001 ) .

On 15 March , a new compilation to accompany 2009 's Somewhere Back in Time was announced . Entitled From Fear to Eternity , the original release date was set at 23 May but was later pushed back to 6 June . The double disc set covers the period 1990 ? 2010 ( the band 's most recent eight studio albums ) , and , as on Somewhere Back in Time , live versions with Bruce Dickinson were included in place of original recordings which featured other vocalists , in this case Blaze Bayley .

In a press release regarding From Fear to Eternity , band manager Rod Smallwood revealed that Iron Maiden will release a new concert video to DVD in 2011 , filmed in Santiago , Chile and Buenos Aires , Argentina during The Final Frontier World Tour . On 17 January 2012 , the band announced that the new release , entitled En Vivo ! , based on footage from the Chile concert , will be made available worldwide on CD , LP , DVD and Blu @-@ ray on 26 March , except the United States and Canada ( where it was released on 27 March ) . In addition to the concert footage , the video release includes an 88 @-@ minute tour documentary , entitled Behind The Beast , containing interviews with the band and their crew . In December 2012 , one song from the release ( " Blood Brothers " ) was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance at the 2013 Grammy Awards .

On 15 February 2012 , the band announced the Maiden England World Tour 2012 ? 14 , which was based around the video of the same name . The tour commenced in North America in the summer of 2012 and was followed by further dates in 2013 and 2014 , which included the band 's record @-@ breaking fifth headline performance at Donington Park , their first show at the newly built national stadium in Stockholm , a return to the Rock in Rio festival in Brazil , and their debut appearance in Paraguay . In August 2012 , Steve Harris stated that the Maiden England video would be re @-@ issued in 2013 , with a release date later set for 25 March 2013 in DVD , CD and LP formats under the title Maiden England ' 88 .

= = = The Book of Souls ( 2015 ? present ) = = =

Following confirmation from the group that 2010 's The Final Frontier would not be their last album , Bruce Dickinson revealed plans for a sixteenth studio record in July 2013 , with a potential release date in 2015 . In February 2015 , drummer Nicko McBrain revealed that a new album had been completed , although the release has been put on hold while Dickinson recovers from treatment for a cancerous tumour found on his tongue . On 15 May , after Dickinson had been given the all @-@ clear , manager Rod Smallwood confirmed that the album would be released in 2015 , although the band will not tour until 2016 to allow Dickinson to recuperate . On 18 June 2015 , the band 's website announced its title , The Book of Souls , and confirmed a release date of 4 September 2015 . A critical and commercial success , it received positive reviews and became the band 's fifth UK No. 1 album .

The new record was recorded at Guillaume Tell Studios , Paris , which they had previously used for 2000 's Brave New World , with regular producer Kevin Shirley in late summer 2014 . With a total time of 92 minutes , it is the group 's first double studio album . In addition , the release 's closing song , " Empire of the Clouds " , penned by Dickinson , replaces " Rime of the Ancient Mariner " ( from 1984 's Powerslave ) as Iron Maiden 's longest song , at 18 minutes in length . A music video for the song " Speed of Light " was issued on 14 August .

In February 2016 , the band embarked on The Book of Souls World Tour , which will see them play concerts in 35 countries in North and South America , Asia , Australasia , Africa and Europe , including their first ever performances in China , El Salvador and Lithuania . As with 2008 @-@ 09 's Somewhere Back in Time World Tour and 2010 @-@ 11 's The Final Frontier World Tour , the group will be travelling in a customised aeroplane , flown by Dickinson and nicknamed " Ed Force One " , although this time they will be using a Boeing 747 @-@ 400 jumbo jet .



= = Image and legacy = =

Iron Maiden were ranked No. 24 in VH1 's " 100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock " , No. 4 in MTV 's " Top 10 Greatest Heavy Metal Bands of All Time " and No. 3 in VH1 Classic 's " Top 20 Metal Bands " . The band also won the Ivor Novello Award for international achievement in 2002 and were inducted into the Hollywood RockWalk whilst touring in the US in 2005 .

Iron Maiden frequently use the slogan " Up the Irons " in their disc liner notes , and the phrase can also be seen on several T @-@ shirts officially licensed by the band . It is a paraphrase of " Up the Hammers " , the phrase which refers to the London football club , West Ham United , of which founder Steve Harris is a fan .

Iron Maiden 's mascot , Eddie , is a perennial fixture in the band 's science fiction and horror @-@ influenced album cover art , as well as in live shows . Originally a papier @-@ mâché mask incorporated in their backdrop which would squirt fake blood during their live shows , the name would be transferred to the character featured in the band 's debut album cover , created by Derek Riggs . Eddie was painted exclusively by Riggs until 1992 , at which point the band began using artwork from numerous other artists as well , including Melvyn Grant . Eddie is also featured in the band 's first @-@ person shooter video game , Ed Hunter , as well as their mobile role @-@ playing game , Iron Maiden : Legacy of the Beast , in addition to numerous T @-@ shirts , posters and other band @-@ related merchandise . In 2008 , he was awarded the " Icon Award " at the Metal Hammer Golden Gods , while Gibson.com describes him as " the most recognisable metal icon in the world and one of the most versatile too " .

Iron Maiden 's distinct logo has adorned all of the band 's releases since their debut , 1979 's The Soundhouse Tapes EP . The typeface originates with Vic Fair 's poster design for the 1976 science fiction film , The Man Who Fell to Earth , also used by Gordon Giltrap , although Steve Harris claims that he designed it himself , utilising his abilities as an architectural draughtsman .

= = = Influence on other artists = = =

According to Guitar World , Iron Maiden 's music has " influenced generations of newer metal acts , from legends like Metallica to current stars like Avenged Sevenfold , " with Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich commenting that he has " always had an incredible amount of respect and admiration for them . " Kerry King of Slayer has stated that " they meant so much to me in their early days " and Scott Ian of Anthrax said , " they had a major impact on my life . "

M. Shadows of Avenged Sevenfold states that Iron Maiden " are by far the best live band in the world and their music is timeless " , while Trivium singer Matt Heafy comments that " without Iron Maiden , Trivium surely wouldn 't exist " . Slipknot frontman Corey Taylor says that " Steve Harris does more with four fingers than I 've ever seen anybody do . And Bruce Dickinson ? Dude ! To me , he was the quintessential old @-@ school heavy metal singer . He could hit notes that were just sick , and he was a great showman . Everything made me a fan . And there wasn 't a dude that I hung out with that wasn 't trying to draw Eddie on their schoolbooks " , while their music also helped Jesper Strömblad of In Flames to pioneer the melodic death metal genre , stating that he had wanted to combine death metal with Iron Maiden 's melodic guitar sounds .

Other heavy metal artists who cite the band as an influence include Chris Jericho , lead singer of Fozzy , Cam Pipes , lead vocalist of 3 Inches of Blood , Vitaly Dubinin , bassist of Aria , and Mikael Åkerfeldt , guitarist and lead vocalist of Opeth . Both current and former Dream Theater members John Petrucci , John Myung and Mike Portnoy have stated that Iron Maiden were one of their biggest influences when their band first formed .

= = = Appearance in media = = =

The band 's name has been mentioned prominently in several songs , such as the singles " Teenage Dirtbag " by Wheatus , " Back to the 80 's " by Danish dance @-@ pop band Aqua. and " Fat Lip " by Sum 41 . Iron Maiden have also been referenced in Weezer 's " Heart Songs " ( from

their 2008 self @-@ titled " Red " album ) , Blues Traveler 's " Psycho Joe " ( from 1997 's Straight on till Morning ) , and NOFX 's " Eddie , Bruce and Paul " ( from their 2009 album Coaster ) , which Sputnikmusic describes as " a humorous retelling of Paul DiAnno 's departure " . Also , Swedish power metal band Sabaton have made references to the band in their songs " Metal Machine " , " Metal Crue " , and " Metal Ripper " , with the former mentioning various Iron Maiden songs ( namely " Fear of the Dark " and " Afraid to Shoot Strangers " ) , and the latter including lyrics from " The Number of the Beast " .

In 2008 , Kerrang ! released an album , entitled Maiden Heaven : A Tribute to Iron Maiden , composed of Iron Maiden cover songs played by artists such as Metallica , Machine Head , Dream Theater , Trivium , Coheed and Cambria , Avenged Sevenfold , and others who were influenced by Iron Maiden throughout their careers . In 2010 , Maiden uniteD , an acoustic tribute band consisting of members of Ayreon , Threshold and Within Temptation , released Mind the Acoustic Pieces , a re @-@ interpretation of the entire Piece of Mind album . Many other Iron Maiden cover albums exist ( each featuring various artists ) , including piano , electro , string quartet and hip @-@ hop tributes .

Iron Maiden songs have been featured in the soundtracks of several video games , including Carmageddon 2 , Grand Theft Auto : Vice City , Grand Theft Auto : Episodes From Liberty City , Grand Theft Auto IV : The Lost and Damned , Tony Hawk 's Pro Skater 4 , SSX on Tour and Madden NFL 10 . Their music also appears in the Guitar Hero and Rock Band series of rhythmic video games . Iron Maiden songs have also appeared in films , such as Phenomena ( entitled Creepers in the US ) , and Murder by Numbers ; while MTV 's animated duo Beavis and Butt @-@ head have commented favourably on the band several times .

Transformers author Bill Forster is an avowed Iron Maiden fan and made several Iron Maiden references , including song lyrics and the phrase " Up the Irons " in his books , including The Ark series and The AllSpark Almanac series .

= = = Claims of Satanic references = = =

In 1982 , the band released one of their most popular , controversial and acclaimed albums , The Number of the Beast . The artwork and title track led to Christian groups in the United States branding the band as Satanists , encouraging people to destroy copies of the release . The band 's manager , Rod Smallwood , later commented that Christians initially burnt the records , but later decided to destroy them with hammers through fear of breathing in the melting vinyl 's fumes . The claims were not restricted to the US , however , with Christian organisations managing to prevent Iron Maiden from performing in Chile in 1992 .

Contrary to the accusations , the band have always denied the notion that they are Satanists , with lead vocalist , Bruce Dickinson , doing so on @-@ stage in the Live After Death concert video . Steve Harris has since commented that , " It was mad . They completely got the wrong end of the stick . They obviously hadn 't read the lyrics . They just wanted to believe all that rubbish about us being Satanists . " Harris has also stated that " The Number of the Beast " song was inspired by a nightmare he had after watching Damien : Omen II , and also influenced by Robert Burns ' Tam o ' Shanter . Furthermore , the band 's drummer , Nicko McBrain , has been a born again Christian since 1999 .

= = = Ed Force One = = =

For their Somewhere Back in Time World Tour in 2008 and 2009 , Iron Maiden commissioned an Astraeus Airlines Boeing 757 as transport . The aeroplane was converted into a combi configuration , which enabled it to carry the band , their crew and stage production , thereby allowing the group to perform in countries which were previously deemed unreachable logistically . It was also repainted with a special Iron Maiden livery , which the airline decided to retain after receiving positive feedback from customers .

The aircraft , named " Ed Force One " after a competition on the band 's website , was flown by Dickinson , as he was also a commercial airline pilot for Astraeus , and plays a major role in the

award @-@ winning documentary , Iron Maiden : Flight 666 , which was released in cinemas in 42 countries in April 2009 . A different aeroplane ( registered G @-@ STRX ) was used for The Final Frontier World Tour in 2011 with altered livery , adopting the artwork of The Final Frontier album , and features heavily in the 2012 documentary " Behind the Beast " . For the The Book of Souls World Tour in 2016 , the band upgraded to an ex @-@ Air France Boeing 747 @-@ 400 jumbo jet , supplied by Air Atlanta Icelandic ( registered TF @-@ AAK ) and customised by Volga @-@ Dnepr Gulf , which allows for more space without the aircraft having to undergo a significant conversion to carry their equipment .

= = Musical style and influences = =

Steve Harris , Iron Maiden 's bassist and primary songwriter , has stated that his influences include Black Sabbath , Deep Purple , Led Zeppelin , Uriah Heep , Pink Floyd , Genesis , Yes , Jethro Tull , Thin Lizzy , UFO and Wishbone Ash . In 2010 Harris stated , " I think if anyone wants to understand Maiden 's early thing , in particular the harmony guitars , all they have to do is listen to Wishbone Ash 's Argus album . Thin Lizzy too , but not as much . And then we wanted to have a bit of a prog thing thrown in as well , because I was really into bands like Genesis and Jethro Tull . So you combine all that with the heavy riffs and the speed , and you 've got it . " In 2004 , Harris explained that the band 's " heaviness " was inspired by " Black Sabbath and Deep Purple with a bit of Zeppelin thrown in . " On top of this , Harris developed his own playing style , which guitarist Janick Gers describes as " more like a rhythm guitar , " cited as responsible for the band 's galloping style , heard in such songs as " The Trooper " and " Run to the Hills . "

The band 's guitarists , Dave Murray , Adrian Smith and Janick Gers , each have their own individual influences and playing style . Dave Murray is known for his legato technique which , he claims , " evolved naturally . I 'd heard Jimi Hendrix using legato when I was growing up , and I liked that style of playing . " Stating that he " was inspired by blues rock rather than metal , " Adrian Smith was influenced by Johnny Winter and Pat Travers , leading to him becoming a " melodic player . " Janick Gers , on the other hand , prefers a more improvised style , largely inspired by Ritchie Blackmore , which he claims is in contrast to Smith 's " rhythmic " sound .

Singer Bruce Dickinson , who typically works in collaboration with guitarist Adrian Smith , has an operatic vocal style , inspired by Arthur Brown , Peter Dinklage , Ian Anderson and Ian Gillan , and is often considered to be one of the best heavy metal vocalists of all time . Although Nicko McBrain has only received one writing credit , on the Dance of Death album , Harris often relies on him while developing songs . Adrian Smith commented , " Steve loves playing with him . [ They ] used to work for hours going over these bass and drum patterns . "

Throughout their career , the band 's style has remained largely unchanged , in spite of the addition of guitar synthesisers on 1986 's Somewhere in Time , keyboards on 1988 's Seventh Son of a Seventh Son , and an attempt to return to the " stripped down " production of their earlier material on 1990 's No Prayer for the Dying . In recent years , however , the band have begun using more progressive elements in their songs , which Steve Harris describes as not progressive " in the modern sense , but like Dream Theater , more in a 70s way " . According to Harris , Seventh Son of a Seventh Son was the band 's first album which was " more progressive " , while they would only return to this style from 1995 's The X Factor , which he states is " like an extension of Seventh Son ... , in the sense of the progressive element to it " . The development contrasts with the band 's raw sounding earlier material , which AllMusic states was " clearly drawing from elements of punk rock " , although Harris firmly denies this .

= = Awards = =

= = Band members = =

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Iron Maiden ( 1980 )

Killers ( 1981 )

The Number of the Beast ( 1982 )

Piece of Mind ( 1983 )

Powerslave ( 1984 )

Somewhere in Time ( 1986 )

Seventh Son of a Seventh Son ( 1988 )

No Prayer for the Dying ( 1990 )

Fear of the Dark ( 1992 )

The X Factor ( 1995 )

Virtual XI ( 1998 )

Brave New World ( 2000 )

Dance of Death ( 2003 )

A Matter of Life and Death ( 2006 )

The Final Frontier ( 2010 )

The Book of Souls ( 2015 )

= = Concert tours = =