

= Velvet Revolver =

Velvet Revolver was an American hard rock supergroup consisting of former Guns N ' Roses members Slash (lead guitar) , Duff McKagan (bass , backing vocals) , and Matt Sorum (drums , backing vocals) , alongside Dave Kushner (rhythm guitar) formerly of punk band Wasted Youth . Original vocalist Scott Weiland formerly of Stone Temple Pilots left the band in 2008 . In 2004 , the band achieved commercial success with their debut album , Contraband . Despite positive reviews , some critics initially described Velvet Revolver as a mere combination of Stone Temple Pilots and Guns N ' Roses , criticizing them for a " disconnection " between Scott Weiland and the rest of the band . With their single " Slither " , they won the 2005 Grammy Award for Best Hard Rock Performance .

The band released Libertad in 2007 , driven by the release of the single " She Builds Quick Machines " , and embarked on a tour with Alice in Chains . In April 2008 , Weiland left Velvet Revolver and reunited with Stone Temple Pilots . Velvet Revolver was put on indefinite hiatus in April 2008 , and in November of that year , the band was released by their record label RCA Records at their request to allow them " complete freedom to go through whatever process it would take to accomplish " replacing Weiland .

The release of Slash 's self @-@ titled debut solo album and Duff McKagan 's addition to the Jane 's Addiction lineup seemed to put the future of the band in doubt . However , McKagan left Jane 's Addiction a few months after joining . Velvet Revolver then wrote new songs and briefly auditioned singers before once again resuming their hiatus , although reunited with Scott Weiland for a one @-@ off reunion show on January 12 , 2012 at a benefit concert , which proved to be their last performance together before Weiland 's death in 2015 .

= = History = =

= = = Foundations (2001 ? 2002) = = =

Slash , Duff McKagan , and Matt Sorum were members of hard rock band Guns N ' Roses . However , a distancing relationship with singer Axl Rose resulted in Slash , in 1996 , and McKagan , in 1997 , leaving the band while Sorum was fired the same year . Following their departures , the trio focused on separate projects with Slash reforming Slash 's Snakepit and McKagan reforming 10 Minute Warning , as well as recording his second solo album while Sorum rejoined The Cult .

By 2001 , Slash 's Snakepit had disbanded for the second time . Slash began working with The Black Crowes drummer Steve Gorman and an unnamed bassist on a new project : writing the music for what would become " Fall to Pieces " . McKagan reformed Loaded , previously his band for the tour in support of Beautiful Disease , with Geoff Reading . McKagan also added both Mike Squires and Jeff Rouse to the lineup . Following a tour of Japan in 2002 , former Zilch , Wasted Youth , Electric Love Hogs , and Dave Navarro guitarist Dave Kushner joined Loaded in place of Mike Squires .

= = = Formation (2002 ? 2003) = = =

When musician Randy Castillo died from cancer in 2002 , Slash , McKagan , and Sorum performed at a benefit concert to raise money and commemorate Castillo with Josh Todd and Keith Nelson of Buckcherry as well as B @-@ Real and Sen Dog of Cypress Hill . Recognizing that their musical relationship was still intact , the trio began rehearsing with Todd and Nelson , working on material that would become " Dirty Little Thing " , but eventually decided against forming a group with them . During a Loaded show at West Hollywood 's Viper Room , McKagan introduced Kushner to Slash , who were previously friends in junior high and high school . Kushner was invited to jam with the group and was soon invited to join with Slash , stating that " Dave brought a cool vibe to what [they] were doing . There was no deliberation ; that was it , it was a perfect fit . " Their former Guns N '

Roses band mate Izzy Stradlin also joined them for two weeks , eventually suggesting that " Duff and [Stradlin] will sing and [they] will just do a club tour in a van . " Slash states in his autobiography that it was hard to tell if Stradlin was serious or kidding . After auditioning Kelly Shaefer of Atheist and Neurotica , Stradlin left the group .

While Shaefer 's audition was unsuccessful , the quartet continued auditioning for a lead singer , with VH1 filming the recruitment process while being referred to as the temporary name " The Project " . The resulting documentary was aired as VH1 Inside Out : The Rise of Velvet Revolver . A number of lead singers auditioned for the band , including Steve Ludwin , of Carrie and Little Hell , Todd Kerns , formerly of Age of Electric , Sebastian Bach , formerly of Skid Row , Shawn Albrow of U.P.O. , and Travis Meeks of Days of the New . Myles Kennedy , formerly of The Mayfield Four , declined an invitation from Sorum to audition . Ian Astbury of The Cult and Mike Patton of Faith No More also declined audition offers . The band were also interested in auditioning Stone Temple Pilots singer Scott Weiland , who had become friends with McKagan after attending the same gym . Weiland once played on the same bill as Kushner , and was in rehab at the same time as Sorum . Weiland was sent two discs of material , and felt that the first disc " sounded like Bad Company gone wrong . " When he was sent the second disc , Weiland was more positive , comparing it to Core @-@ era Stone Temple Pilots , though he turned them down because Stone Temple Pilots were still together .

When Stone Temple Pilots disbanded in 2003 , the band sent Weiland new music , which he took into his studio and added vocals . This music eventually becoming the song " Set Me Free " . Weiland was still unsure whether or not he wanted to join , despite delivering the music to the band himself and performing at an industry showcase at Mates . They recorded two songs with producer Nick Raskulinecz , a recorded version of " Set Me Free " and a cover of Pink Floyd 's " Money " , for the soundtracks to the movies The Hulk and The Italian Job , respectively . Weiland joined the band soon after . " Set Me Free " managed to peak at number 17 on the Mainstream Rock Chart without any radio promotion or a record label . It was prior to a screening of The Hulk at Universal Studios that the band chose a name . After seeing a movie by Revolution Studios , Slash liked the beginning of the word , eventually thinking of Revolver because of its multiple meanings ; the name of a gun , subtext of a revolving door which suited the band as well as the name of a Beatles album . When he suggested Revolver to the band , Weiland suggested back Black Velvet Revolver , liking the idea of " something intimate like velvet juxtaposed with something deadly like a gun . " They eventually arrived at Velvet Revolver , announcing it at a press conference and performance showcase at the El Rey Theatre while also performing the songs " Set Me Free " and " Slither " as well as covers of Nirvana 's " Negative Creep " , Sex Pistols ' " Pretty Vacant " , and Guns N ' Roses ' " It 's So Easy " .

= = = Contraband and mainstream success (2003 ? 2005) = = =

Prior to the recording of their debut album , Weiland took material that the band had previously written to his studio , Lavish , in Toluca Lake . With engineer Doug Grean , Weiland rearranged the music to fit his vocals , eventually coming out with the songs " Big Machine " and " Dirty Little Thing " . The band worked on new material for songs such as " You Got No Right " , " Slither " , " Sucker Train Blues " , and " Do It for the Kids " , among others . It was during this time that Weiland was arrested at the parking lot of his studio for drug possession . Upon release from jail , he wrote lyrics to material he was given previously , writing the lyrics to the song " Fall to Pieces " . Velvet Revolver soon began recording their debut album . Initially , they recorded " Slither " with producer Bob Ezrin at Henson Studios , but were dissatisfied with the result . After recording " Headspace " with Josh Abraham , the band liked the track enough to do the rest of the album with him .

Velvet Revolver soon gained major label attention with Warner Bros. and Chrysalis . RCA and Elektra were also interested in signing the band . They eventually signed with RCA Records . They recorded their album at NRG Recording Studios , while Slash recorded his guitar parts at a smaller studio on the southern corner between Highland Avenue and Sunset Boulevard . During recording , Weiland could only work for three hours a day due to a court order mentioning that he was to stay in

a halfway house . The marketing campaign for Velvet Revolver in the run @-@ up to the release of the first album was profiled as part of the Frontline program The Way the Music Died , which included interviews with the band members and producers .

The resulting album , titled Contraband , was released on June 8 , 2004 , and , helped by the success of the single " Slither " , debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 , selling over 250 @, @ 000 copies in the first week . Contraband went on to sell four million copies worldwide , 2 @. @ 9 million of which were sold in the United States , and was certified 2x platinum by the RIAA . Both " Slither " and " Fall to Pieces " managed to peak at number one on the Mainstream Rock Chart as well as number 56 and 67 on the Billboard Hot 100 , respectively . " Slither " also peaked at number one on the Modern Rock Chart and number 35 on the UK Singles Chart . The album 's third single , " Dirty Little Thing " , peaked at number eight on the Mainstream Rock chart .

Critically , the album was generally well received . Despite being praised for its hedonism and maturity , critics noted a disconnection between " singer and band " . Velvet Revolver won the Kerrang ! Award for Best International Newcomer in 2004 , and the following year they won the Best Hard Rock Performance Grammy Award for " Slither " . They also received a nomination for Rock Artist of the Year at the Billboard Music Awards while " Fall to Pieces " was nominated for a Song of the Year / Rock Radio Radio Music Award . They recorded a new song entitled " Come On , Come In " for the movie Fantastic Four in 2005 , which peaked at number 14 on the Mainstream Rock Chart . " Fall to Pieces " then re @-@ entered the charts , peaking at number twenty @-@ five on the Adult Top 40 the same year .

Velvet Revolver toured extensively for nineteen months in support of Contraband . They toured both the United States and Europe twice , while also performing in Australia , New Zealand , and Japan . They performed at Live 8 and various festivals including Download Festival and Ozzfest . It was during the tour that the band members , with the exception of Kushner , began to relapse on alcohol and drugs . Though they managed to get clean in time for the recording of their new album , Slash felt that " [the band] lost [Weiland] " and " thought the overall spirit of everything was declining at that point . "

= = = Libertad and departure of Scott Weiland (2005 ? 2008) = = =

Weiland announced in 2005 that Velvet Revolver 's next album would be titled Libertad and would be a concept album . When they started writing material , they decided against the concept idea . Initially , the band started working with producer Rick Rubin on the album . However , due to his methods , such as having a crew to do the work and engineering while only popping in occasionally , and due to the fact that he was also working with other bands at the same time , they decided against continuing with Rubin . At the suggestion of Weiland , Velvet Revolver began working with Brendan O 'Brien . Slash stated that O 'Brien " brought more than just discipline to the equation , he brought a musicality that stems from the fact that he plays guitar , bass and drums . At any given moment he could play along [with the band] and it really helped the process . " He also said that the " sessions were consistent , everyone was there , everyone contributed , and everyone appreciated what each player was doing " and that the " mutual participation surpassed the first Guns sessions . " While writing for the album , Weiland believed that his band mates were going to reunite with Guns N ' Roses when the band 's manager was talking to Axl Rose about switching management companies , and were not going to record their second album . He was later convinced by the band that this was not the case .

Following the completion of the album , Velvet Revolver performed for and inducted Van Halen into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame , with Weiland and Slash speaking on the band 's behalf , on March 12 , 2007 . The band played a medley of " Ain 't Talkin ' ' bout Love " and " Runaround " . Shows in South America with Aerosmith followed in April . They released the EP Melody and the Tyranny on June 1 to serve as a precursor to the release of their new album , which featured two songs from Libertad , a cover of Talking Heads song " Psycho Killer " and a video documentary about the making of Libertad as well as a live video of the band performing " Do It for the Kids " .

Libertad was released on July 3 , 2007 , peaking at number five on the Billboard 200 . The album 's

first single " She Builds Quick Machines " peaked at 74 on the Hot Canadian Digital Singles . The second and third singles , " The Last Fight " and " Get Out the Door " , both peaked at number 16 and 34 on the Mainstream Rock Chart , respectively . Critical reception to the album was mixed . Though some critics praised the album and felt that Libertad gave the band an identity of their own , outside of the Guns N ' Roses and Stone Temple Pilots comparisons , others described the album as " bland " and noted that the band have still to gel with them " play [ing] to their strengths instead of finding a collective sound . "

In support of Libertad , Velvet Revolver toured North America with Alice in Chains from August 2007 to October . They also performed at the Virgin Festival , Gods of Metal , and Download in 2007 . A November tour of Japan was canceled after they were denied visas , and in 2008 , a tour of Australia was postponed , due to health issues , and later canceled following Weiland 's decision to voluntarily enter a rehab facility . On November 21 , 2007 , Weiland was arrested after crashing his car while driving on an L.A. highway . He was charged with driving under the influence of drugs with a prior conviction and later released on \$ 40 @, @ 000 bail . Velvet Revolver then toured both the US and the UK , as well as some European shows , on the Rock n ' Roll as It Should Be tour from January 24 to April 1 , 2008 . They also played at the Dubai Desert Rock Festival on March 8 the same year . It was during the tour that Weiland " got back into his old ways " , which started to take their toll on the rest of the band with the cancellation of the Australian tour seen as the " final blow " .

On the UK tour , the band members never spoke with Weiland , with the exception of a few arguments around the stage . Tensions came to a head during Velvet Revolver 's Glasgow show on March 20 , 2008 , where Weiland announced to the crowd that it was the band 's last tour , unaware that the band were already planning on firing him . After Sorum posted a message about the show on his website , Weiland issued a statement through Blabbermouth.net in response , saying he " made many attempts to remain cordial with the members of [Velvet Revolver] , but mainly , the likes of [Sorum] " and that " [the band] were a gang . But ego and jealousy can get the better of anyone . " Slash later stated that it would not be Velvet Revolver 's last tour . Weiland 's departure was announced on April 1 . Weiland also departed the cover band Camp Freddy , which also featured Sorum , and has since reunited with Stone Temple Pilots , before being fired in 2012 .

= = = Search for a new singer and solo careers (2008 ? 2015) = = =

After Weiland 's departure , the band began recording and searching for a new singer . The search was sporadic with the band spending some time auditioning singers , then turning into solo projects , returning to the band , then abandoning it again . Several names were rumoured to be auditioning for the band through the years . Myles Kennedy (Alter Bridge) was strongly rumoured due to his collaborations with Slash ; Lenny Kravitz , Chester Bennington of Linkin Park , Steve Isaacs formerly of Skycycle and The Panic Channel , Royston Langdon of Spacehog , Donovan Leitch of Camp Freddy , Ours singer Jimmy Gnecco and Scars on Broadway guitarist Franky Perez , as well as previous auditonee Sebastian Bach . Slipknot and Stone Sour singer Corey Taylor reportedly recorded an album with the band , which was shelved .

Slash , McKagan , and Sorum all contributed to the song " Kissed It " for the Macy Gray album The Sellout , which was released on June 22 , 2011 . Despite not featuring Kushner , the trio were credited as Velvet Revolver on the album . The band released their first concert DVD on November 16 , 2010 entitled Live In Houston , which was filmed June 18 , 2004 at the Verizon Wireless Theater while the band was touring in support of Contraband . Slash , McKagan and Sorum made a performance at the Road Recovery benefit concert on September 13 with a guest appearance from Kushner .

Instigated by Kushner 's wife , Velvet Revolver reunited for a one @-@ off performance with Scott Weiland at a benefit concert for the late John O 'Brien , on January 12 , 2012 . Following a benefit show for the Road Recovery in 2011 with the other VR members , each one agreed to a one @-@ off reunion before Kushner invited Weiland , who also agreed . Kushner also stated it is currently unknown what Velvet Revolver 's plans are for the future after the reunion show ; " I know everyone

? s got other commitments , but I think everyone ? s like , ' Let ? s get this thing done and get through this and then we ? ll see . ' " .

In April 2012 , Scott Weiland remarked that he would like to reunite permanently with Velvet Revolver , saying that " if Maynard James Keenan can do it with A Perfect Circle and Tool , then there ? s no reason why I shouldn ? t go and do it with both bands " . Further in May in an interview with ABC Radio Weiland said that he has reunited with the band permanently for a tour and an album , which however was denied a few days later by Slash in an interview with 93X .

On May 12 , 2014 , in an interview at the MusiCares benefit concert , Slash told journalist Lucas H. Gordon that he " think [s] [they 're] gonna audition a singer " in the future . However , he also stated that he would be touring with his solo band " for the next year and a half . "

On June 29 , 2014 , in an interview to Totalrock radio Duff McKagan talked to Hayley Leggs in Clisson France about the subject of a new lead vocalist for Velvet Revolver and revealed that there has been at least one audition for the role of lead vocalist , but said that the person that they auditioned did not properly impress the remaining members of the band . He also ruled himself out of being the lead vocalist of Velvet Revolver due to the experiences he has had of being the vocalist of his own band Loaded , saying that being the lead vocalist and being a bass player at the same time was not as appealing to him because of the fact that it would require him to be a lot more static in his stage presence , saying that he prefers moving around on stage during live performances . In the same interview , Duff McKagan talked about his new book which is currently in the writing stages .

On December 3 , 2015 Scott Weiland was found dead on his tour bus around 9 pm , one day before he was to perform in Minnesota with his band The Wildabouts . Both Slash and Duff have since rejoined Guns N ' Roses .

= = Musical style = =

Velvet Revolver 's first album Contraband was described by Johnny Loftus of Allmusic as an " updated version of Guns N ' Roses swagger behind Scott Weiland 's glammy , elastic vocals . " David Browne of Entertainment Weekly stated that " [a] nyone expecting Use Your Illusion III , though , will be in for a slight buzzkill " and that " [t] he songs suggest the pop grunge of Weiland 's old band more than the careening overdrive of GN 'R . " A number of reviewers made some comparisons to the members previous bands with PopMatters reviewer David Powell stating that " Contraband is a pretty good record of unpretentious rock and roll that suffers from inevitable comparison with the best efforts of its parent bands . " He went on to state that while Velvet Revolver 's " heritage is evident on most of the songs " , Contraband " improves with repeat listening , which is encouraging . " Velvet Revolver 's second album Libertad saw the band 's style change with the presence of producer Brendan O 'Brien , noted by Allmusic reviewer Stephen Thomas Erlewine . Erlewine also stated that " too often , there are concessions between Weiland and the others during the course of a song . " Tom Sinclair of Entertainment Weekly stated that Libertad " feels both comfortingly familiar and vaguely exotic . " Songs such as " Let it Roll " and " She Mine " have seen some comparisons to The Doors , The Rolling Stones and The Stooges , as noted by San Francisco Chronicle reviewer Jaan Uhelszki . The New York Post commented that " Slash 's guitar riffs throughout this new record are as aggressive as a caged cat " and " singer Scott Weiland 's vocals are crisp and controlled yet passionate . "

= = Band members = =

Slash ? lead guitar (2002 ? 2008 , 2012)

Dave Kushner ? rhythm guitar (2002 ? 2008 , 2012)

Duff McKagan ? bass , backing vocals (2002 ? 2008 , 2012)

Matt Sorum ? drums , backing vocals (2002 ? 2008 , 2012)

Scott Weiland ? lead vocals , keyboard (2003 ? 2008 , 2012 ; died 2015)

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Contraband (2004)

Libertad (2007)

= = Awards and nominations = =

Velvet Revolver have received one Grammy Award . The band won the Grammy when " Slither " was nominated for Best Hard Rock Performance in 2005 . The song " Fall to Pieces " received a nomination for Song of the Year / Rock Radio Radio Music Award in 2005 . The band won the Best International Newcomer Kerrang ! Award in 2004 while they were nominated for a Rock Artist of the Year Billboard Music Award in 2005 .

Billboard Music Awards

The Billboard Music Awards were awarded annually by Billboard magazine .

Grammy Awards

The Grammy Awards are awarded annually by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences .

Kerrang ! Awards

The Kerrang ! Awards are awarded annually by Kerrang ! Magazine .

Radio Music Awards

The Radio Music Awards were awarded annually honoring the most successful songs on mainstream radio .