

= Wilco =

Wilco is an American alternative rock band based in Chicago , Illinois . The band was formed in 1994 by the remaining members of alternative country group Uncle Tupelo following singer Jay Farrar 's departure . Wilco 's lineup changed frequently during its first decade , with only singer Jeff Tweedy and bassist John Stirratt remaining from the original incarnation . Since early 2004 , the lineup has been unchanged , consisting of Tweedy , Stirratt , guitarist Nels Cline , multi @-@ instrumentalist Pat Sansone , keyboard player Mikael Jorgensen , and drummer Glenn Kotche . Wilco has released nine studio albums , a live double album , and four collaborations : three with Billy Bragg and one with The Minus 5 .

Wilco 's music has been inspired by a wide variety of artists and styles , including Bill Fay , The Beatles and Television , and has in turn influenced music by a number of modern alternative rock acts . The band continued in the alternative country of Uncle Tupelo on its debut album A.M. (1995) , but has since introduced more experimental aspects to their music , including elements of alternative rock and classic pop . Wilco 's musical style has evolved from a 1990s country rock sound to a current " eclectic indie rock collective that touches on many eras and genres . "

Wilco garnered media attention for their fourth album , Yankee Hotel Foxtrot (2002) , and the controversy surrounding it . After the recording sessions were complete , Reprise Records rejected the album and dismissed Wilco from the label . As part of a buy @-@ out deal , Reprise gave Wilco the rights to the album for free . After streaming Foxtrot on its website , Wilco sold the album to Nonesuch Records in 2002 . Both record labels are subsidiaries of Warner Music Group , leading one critic to say the album showed " how screwed up the music business is in the early twenty @-@ first century . " Yankee Hotel Foxtrot is Wilco 's most successful release to date , selling over 670 @,@ 000 copies . Wilco won two Grammy Awards for their fifth studio album , 2004 's A Ghost Is Born , including Best Alternative Music Album . Wilco 's released their ninth studio album , Star Wars , on July 16 , 2015 . On July 19 , 2016 Wilco set the release date for their tenth studio album , Schmilco , for September 9 , 2016 .

= = History = =

= = = Formation = = =

Wilco was formed following the breakup of the influential alternative country music group Uncle Tupelo . Singer Jay Farrar quit the band in 1994 because of a soured relationship with co @-@ singer Jeff Tweedy . Both Tweedy and Farrar sought to form bands immediately after the breakup . Tweedy was able to keep the entire Uncle Tupelo lineup sans Farrar , including bassist John Stirratt , drummer Ken Coomer , and multi @-@ instrumentalist Max Johnston . He even enlisted Uncle Tupelo guest guitarist Brian Henneman of the Bottle Rockets , who performed on many of the tracks for Wilco 's debut album , A.M. .. The band was tempted to keep the Uncle Tupelo name , but ultimately decided to rename the band . The group named itself " Wilco " after the military and commercial aviation radio voice abbreviation for " will comply " , a choice which Tweedy has called " fairly ironic for a rock band to name themselves . "

= = = A.M. and Being There = = =

After collaborating with Syd Straw on a cover version of the Ernest Tubb song " The T.B. is Whipping Me " (released in September 1994 on the Red Hot + Country compilation produced by the Red Hot Organization) , Wilco began recording tracks for A.M. , their first studio album , at Easley studio in June 1994 . A demo tape from these recordings was sent to executives at Reprise Records , a subsidiary of Warner Brothers , and the label signed Tweedy to a contract . Although Tweedy stated that he wanted a more collaborative project than Uncle Tupelo , only his name appeared on the Reprise contract . Tweedy requested songwriting submissions from other members , but only

one submission ? John Stirratt 's " It 's Just That Simple " ? appeared on A.M. .. It was the last song Wilco ever released that was lyrically solely written by a member besides Tweedy .

Stylistically similar to Uncle Tupelo , the music on A.M. was considered to be straightforward alternative country rock in what Tweedy later described as " trying to tread some water with a perceived audience . " A.M. peaked at number twenty @-@ seven on the Billboard Heatseekers chart , considerably lower than the debut album of Jay Farrar 's new band , Son Volt . The album was met with modest reviews though it would rank thirty @-@ fourth in the Village Voice 's 1995 Pazz & Jop critics poll . Critically and commercially paling in comparison to the reception of Son Volt 's album , the Wilco members perceived A.M. to be a failure . Shortly after the release of the album , multi @-@ instrumentalist Jay Bennett joined the band , providing the band with a keyboardist and another guitarist .

Wilco made its live debut on November 17 , 1994 to a capacity crowd at Cicero 's Basement Bar in St. Louis , Missouri (the band was billed for the occasion as " Black Shampoo ") .

During the two hundred @-@ date tour supporting A.M. , Tweedy began to write songs for a second album . The lyrical theme of the songs reflected a relationship between musical artist and a listener ; Tweedy chose this topic because he sought to eschew the alternative country fan base . Ken Coomer elaborated :

The whole No Depression thing was funny to us because people seemed to forget that Jeff was a bigger punk @-@ rock fan than a country fan . It led to things like us all switching instruments on " Misunderstood , " where I 'm playing guitar .

A number of songs were recorded with this theme , including " Sunken Treasure " and " Hotel Arizona " , however , Wilco also recorded a number of songs in the style of A.M. Wilco named the album Being There after a Peter Sellers film of the same name . The band went through some personnel changes during the recording sessions . Max Johnston left the band because he felt that his role in the band had diminished in favor of Bennett ; he had also been replaced by violinist Jesse Greene on one track because the band felt that Johnston was unable to play the part . Bob Egan of Freakwater briefly joined the band in the studio , playing pedal steel guitar on " Far , Far Away " and " Dreamer in My Dreams " , and then became an official member in September 1996 .

Unlike the A.M. recording sessions , the band had no vocation for producing a hit song from their second effort . The recording sessions produced nineteen songs , too many for a single album release . Tweedy was concerned about the high retail price that a double album would be sold for (at least \$ 30) , so he asked Reprise Records to release it as a double album at a single album price (\$ 17 @. @ 98 or less) . Reprise agreed to this on the terms that they received Wilco 's share of the album royalties . It was estimated in 2003 that the band lost almost \$ 600 @, @ 000 on the deal , but Tweedy was satisfied . Being There was well received by critics from several major media outlets , including Rolling Stone . The album reached No. 73 on the Billboard album charts , a significant improvement from A.M. , and placed fourteenth on the Pazz & Jop Critics Poll for 1996 . The album 's single " Outtasite (Outta Mind) " became the group 's first song to enter the Billboard charts , reaching No. 39 on the Modern Rock Tracks chart and No. 22 on the Mainstream Rock Tracks chart .

= = = Summerteeth and the Mermaid Avenue sessions = = =

In November 1997 , Wilco entered Willie Nelson 's recording studio in Spicewood , Texas to record a third studio album . The album was lyrically inspired by the marital problems of Tweedy and his wife , as well as by twentieth @-@ century literature . Tweedy relied heavily on Bennett to provide music for the singer 's " bold , but depressing " lyrics . Wilco recorded several songs , including " Via Chicago " and " She 's a Jar , " but began working on another project before assembling the tracks into an album .

Nora Guthrie contacted singer @-@ songwriter Billy Bragg in spring 1995 about recording some unreleased songs by her father , folk singer Woody Guthrie . Most of the songs were written late in Guthrie 's life when he was unable to record due to the motor impairments of Huntington 's disease . By the 1990s , Woody Guthrie had become a " relic " to the MTV generation , and Nora sought to

establish a different legacy for the musician . To Nora , Bragg was " the only singer I knew taking on the same issues as Woody . " Bragg was concerned , however , that his fans would not realize that the songs were written by Guthrie when he performed them on tour , so he decided to record the album with another band .

Bragg contacted Tweedy and Bennett about co -@-@ recording the album while Wilco was on the European segment of their Being There tour . Bragg was particularly fond of Being There because their influences extended farther back than the 1950s . Although Tweedy was indifferent to the offer , Bennett was enthused about recording songs of one of his idols ? Bennett 's previous band Titanic Love Affair was named after a Billy Bragg lyric . A recording contract between Bragg and Wilco was signed after a show at Shepherd 's Bush Empire . Bragg mostly recorded the politically charged lyrics , while Tweedy preferred to record lyrics that showcased Guthrie as a " freak weirdo " . The recording of Mermaid Avenue began on December 12 , 1997 , and was the topic of BBC 's Man in the Sand documentary film .

Tempers flared between Bragg and Wilco after the album was completed . Bennett believed that Bragg was overproducing his songs , a sharp contrast to Wilco 's sparser contributions . Bennett called Bragg about the possibility of remixing Bragg 's songs , to which Bragg responded " you make your record , and I 'll make mine , fucker . " Eventually Bragg sent copies of his recordings to Chicago for Bennett to remix , but Bragg refused to use the new mixes on the album . The two parties were unable to establish a promotional tour and quarreled over royalties and guest musician fees .

Despite these conflicts , the album was released on June 23 , 1998 , and sold over 277 @,@ 000 copies . The album received rave reviews from Robert Christgau and Rolling Stone , and was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Folk Album . It also placed fourth on the Pazz & Jop critics poll for 1998 . After the album was released , Bob Egan was replaced by multi @-@ instrumentalist Leroy Bach .

After the completion of the Mermaid Avenue sessions , Wilco returned to Spicewood to complete their third studio album , Summerteeth . Unlike previous Wilco and Uncle Tupelo recordings , the album featured a lot of overdubbing with Pro Tools . Stirratt and Coomer were concerned with the production , since it reduced their involvement in the music . According to Stirratt :

The story of Summerteeth is Jay bought a Mellotron and he was going to use it , no matter what . It was lovely , but it was overdone . Once they got going on the overdubs , they didn 't stop . And nobody in the band stepped up to stop the madness ... It reminds me of Heart of Darkness , where you knowingly extend the creative process for the purpose of exploration or redemption , or whatever it is you 're looking for .

During 1999 , Warner Brothers was looking to help repay a \$ 16 billion debt acquired during the recent merger of parent company Warner Communications with Time Inc . . As a result , Warner 's imprints were under pressure to produce musical acts that would yield hit records . The head of Reprise , Howie Klein , who had previously authorized the release of Being There as a double album , was willing to let Wilco produce Summerteeth without label input . When Klein played the album for Reprise 's A & R department , however , they demanded a radio single for the album . Wilco agreed to do this " once and once only " and recorded a radio @-@ friendly version of " Can 't Stand It " at the request of David Kahne , the head of the A & R department . The single version of " Can 't Stand It " failed to cross over from Triple @-@ A radio to alternative rock stations . Consequently , the album sold only 200 @,@ 000 copies , significantly less than Being There . This was despite critical acclaim ; the album placed eighth on the Pazz & Jop critics ' poll for 1999 .

After the release of Summerteeth , the band resumed the Mermaid Avenue sessions . Although they had recorded enough material for a second release in 1998 , Wilco recorded a few new songs for Mermaid Avenue Vol . II . " Someday Some Morning Sometime , " featuring a vibraphone filtered through a space echo , was identified by Tweedy as being the " piece to the puzzle " towards the creation of their fourth studio album . The album was released on May 30 , 2000 , and was the last release from the sessions . The remainder of the sessions were released in 2012 as Mermaid Avenue Vol . III , also part of Mermaid Avenue : The Complete Sessions .

== Yankee Hotel Foxtrot ==

Shortly after the recording sessions for Mermaid Avenue Vol . II , Wilco purchased a studio on Irving Park Road in Chicago , which they named the Wilco Loft . The band recorded some tracks in the studio in early 2000 for a fourth studio album . In May 2000 , Jeff Tweedy requested to perform with Jim O 'Rourke at a festival in Chicago ; Tweedy was a fan of O 'Rourke 's Bad Timing . O 'Rourke introduced Tweedy to drummer Glenn Kotche , and the trio enjoyed working together so much that they decided to record an album as a side project named Loose Fur . Wilco had recorded an entire album of music at this point , but Tweedy was unhappy with the drum parts . He enjoyed Kotche 's contributions to Loose Fur so much that Tweedy brought him into the studio to re @-@ record some demos . Some believe that Tweedy sought to make Wilco sound like Loose Fur after officially replacing Ken Coomer with Kotche in January 2001 .

Although Bennett sought to act as both mixer and engineer for Yankee Hotel Foxtrot , Tweedy was unsure of Bennett 's abilities against those of O 'Rourke . Tweedy and Bennett frequently argued over whether the album should be accessible to a general listener , or attempt to cover new musical ground . Unbeknownst to Bennett , Tweedy invited O 'Rourke to remix " I Am Trying to Break Your Heart " , and the results impressed the other band members ? even Bennett . Tensions grew between Bennett and O 'Rourke because Bennett wanted to mix every song on the album . O 'Rourke cut the contributions of other members on several of the songs ; some songs , such as " Poor Places " , only featured the Loose Fur trio . The album was completed in 2001 , and Bennett was dismissed from the band immediately afterwards . The recording of the album was documented by Sam Jones and released in 2002 as the film I Am Trying to Break Your Heart : A Film About Wilco .

Time Warner , which owned Warner Bros. Records , merged with America Online in 2001 , leading to more pressure on Warner 's record labels to cut costs . Over 600 employees of Warner Music Group were fired , including Howie Klein , the president of Reprise Records . In absence of Klein , David Kahne became the interim head of Reprise . Kahne assigned Mio Vukovic to monitor the progress of Yankee Hotel Foxtrot and to offer suggestions . Music journalist Greg Kot claims that Vukovic disdained the album and was unhappy that Wilco ignored his suggestions . He brought the album to Kahne , who felt that there was no single on the album . In June 2001 , the album was rejected by Reprise and Wilco was asked to leave the label .

Wilco managed to negotiate terms to a buy @-@ out from Reprise . Music journalist Greg Kot claims that instead of financial compensation , the band agreed to leave the label with the master tapes of Yankee Hotel Foxtrot . The label was already receiving bad publicity for its treatment of the band and were willing to accommodate Wilco 's request . However , Allmusic claims that Wilco " bought the finished studio tapes from Warner / Reprise for a reported \$ 50 @,@ 000 and left the label altogether " after Wilco was " [u] nwilling to change the album to make it more ' commercially viable ' " To curb the negative publicity , Reprise began to invest more in bands such as The Flaming Lips . Lead singer Wayne Coyne once remarked :

We are benefiting from the label 's regret over Wilco . We are living in the golden age of that being such a public mistake . The people on Warners said , " we 'll never have a band like Wilco feel we don 't believe in them again . " They 'd tell me that it would never happen to us . And what a great day for me !

As the band searched for a new label to release the album , they decided to stream it at their official website to discourage illegal trading of low @-@ quality MP3s . The band signed with Nonesuch Records , another Time Warner subsidiary , and the album was released in the spring of 2002 . When it was released , Yankee Hotel Foxtrot reached number thirteen on the Billboard 200 , Wilco 's highest chart position to that date . Yankee Hotel Foxtrot sold over 590 @,@ 000 copies , and to date remains Wilco 's best selling album . Yankee Hotel Foxtrot was met with wide critical acclaim : it topped 2002 's Pazz & Jop critics ' poll , was named one of the 100 greatest albums of all time by Q Magazine .

Rolling Stone rated it one of the top 500 albums of all time in May 2012 .

= = = Down with Wilco , A Ghost Is Born , and Kicking Television : Live in Chicago = = =

While waiting for the commercial release of Yankee Hotel Foxtrot , Wilco agreed to support R.E.M. collaborator Scott McCaughey for an album release by The Minus 5 . They scheduled a recording session for September 11 , 2001 , but were distraught about the 9 / 11 terrorist attacks that day . Later that day , Wilco and McCaughey agreed to " create something good in the world right now " and record some material . Influenced by Bill Fay 's Time of the Last Persecution , The Minus 5 's Down with Wilco was released in 2003 . Keyboardist Mikael Jorgensen , who had engineered Down with Wilco , joined Wilco in 2002 as they toured in support of Yankee Hotel Foxtrot .

In November 2003 , Wilco traveled to New York City to record their fifth album . The album was produced by Jim O 'Rourke , who mixed Foxtrot and was a member of Wilco side project Loose Fur . Unlike Summerteeth and Yankee Hotel Foxtrot , A Ghost Is Born featured songs that were created with Pro Tools before ever performing them live . The album featured the song " Less Than You Think " , which included a fifteen @-@ minute track of electronic noises and synthesizers , which Tweedy called " the track that everyone will hate " . Tweedy justified the inclusion of the song :

I know ninety @-@ nine percent of our fans won 't like that song , they 'll say it 's a ridiculous indulgence . Even I don 't want to listen to it every time I play through the album . But the times I do calm myself down and pay attention to it , I think it 's valuable and moving and cathartic . I wouldn 't have put it on the record if I didn 't think it was great ... I wanted to make an album about identity , and within that is the idea of a higher power , the idea of randomness , and that anything can happen , and that we can 't control it .

Leroy Bach left the band immediately after the album 's completion to join a music theatre operation in Chicago . Like Yankee Hotel Foxtrot , Wilco streamed the album online before its commercial release . Instead of using their own web page , the band streamed it in MPEG @-@ 4 form on Apple 's website . Wilco sought to substantially change their lineup after Bach 's departure , and added Pat Sansone of The Autumn Defense , and avant @-@ garde guitarist Nels Cline to the lineup . Just as the band was about to tour to promote the album , Tweedy checked himself into a rehabilitation clinic in Chicago for an addiction to opioids . As a result , tour plans for Europe were canceled , and the release date for the album was set back several weeks . A Ghost Is Born was released on June 22 , 2004 , and became Wilco 's first top ten album in the U.S. The album earned Wilco Grammy Awards for Best Alternative Music Album and Best Recording Package in 2005 . It also placed thirteenth on 2004 's Pazz & Jop Critics Poll .

In 2004 , the band released The Wilco Book , a picture book detailing the creation of A Ghost Is Born . The book also contains writings and drawings from band members , as well as a CD with demos from the A Ghost Is Born recording sessions . Also that year , Chicago Tribune music critic Greg Kot released a biography of the band entitled Wilco : Learning How to Die . The new six @-@ piece Wilco lineup debuted on Kicking Television : Live in Chicago , a two disc live album recorded at The Vic Theater in Chicago . Released on November 15 , 2005 , the album received high accolades from Spin , Billboard , and Entertainment Weekly . As of 2007 , it has sold over 114 @,@ 000 copies .

= = = Sky Blue Sky = = =

Wilco returned to their loft in Chicago to record a sixth studio album in 2006 . Influenced by The Byrds and Fairport Convention , the band considered Sky Blue Sky to be less experimental than previous releases . Also unlike previous albums , the songs were created as collaborations .

Wilco streamed the album online on March 3 , 2007 , and offered the song " What Light " as a free MP3 download . To further publicize the album , Wilco licensed several songs from the Sky Blue Sky recording sessions for use in a Volkswagen advertising campaign . The move was criticized by both critics and fans ; Wilco responded by noting that they had previously done advertising campaigns with Apple Inc. and Telefónica Móviles (Movistar) . The album was released on May 15 , 2007 , and was a commercial success : it sold over 87 @,@ 000 copies in its first week and peaked in the top five in the U.S. album charts . It also was a top forty hit in seven other countries .

Reviewer James Brubaker states that Wilco " shine [s] on a handful of the songs " on Sky Blue Sky , such as the " light , and straightforward " songs . While he calls the album " great traditional rock and folk album at times " , he states that " once you get past the handful of masterful and lovely performances ... the rest of the record comes off at times as dull , and forced . " The allaboutjazz review also had mixed comments . While praising the album as " deceptively insinuating , almost intoxicating to listen to " and noting its " impeccable sound quality , " the reviewer claimed that " Sky Blue Sky becomes the first Wilco album that sounds too careful for its own good . "

Pabs Hernandez , a reviewer for Lost at Sea praised the album 's " breezy atmosphere and pacing , " and noted that it is not " easily judged upon first listen . " Overall , Hernandez stated that it " may be no masterpiece , but at worst it 's a more than worthy entry into Wilco 's laudable catalogue . " Reviewer Greg Locke praised the record as " one of the best albums of the year , " calling it a " timeless record , full of sweet , hopeful sophistication and class " and " a lean , mean , soulful album . " Like Hernandez , Locke acknowledged that the album could not be properly judged just on the first listening . The NPR review also had a positive take on the record . While the NPR reviewer stated that the recording " isn 't groundbreaking , " they praised its " coherent musical expression " and emphasis on " solid songcraft without pretense " which created a " satisfying and melodically sound album . "

In anticipation of the 2008 US presidential election , Wilco released a downloadable version of Bob Dylan 's " I Shall Be Released " that they performed with Fleet Foxes . The MP3 was available as a free download from the band 's website in exchange for a promise to vote in the election . The band also made an appearance on The Colbert Report to support presidential candidate Barack Obama . Wilco released a live performance DVD , Ashes of American Flags , on April 18 , 2009 , to celebrate Record Store Day .

In December 2008 , Jeff Tweedy , Pat Sansone , Glenn Kotche and John Stirratt traveled to Auckland , New Zealand to participate in Neil Finn 's 7 Worlds Collide sequel project , The Sun Came Out , joined by Ed O 'Brien , Phil Selway , Johnny Marr , KT Tunstall , Liam Finn , and Lisa Germano . They wrote and recorded several new tracks for the Oxfam @-@ benefiting album including " You Never Know " , " What Could Have Been " , " Over and Done " and " Don 't Forget Me " . Jeff Tweedy co @-@ wrote " Too Blue " with Johnny Marr , and Glenn , John and Pat play on most tracks on the album .

Having enjoyed their time in New Zealand and the vibe of Finn 's own Roundhead Studios , the four members stayed in Auckland through January to record the foundation tracks for their next album . Jim Scott , who acted as engineer and mixer for the Neil Finn project , stayed on in the same capacity for the Wilco sessions . Nels Cline and Mikael Jorgensen would later add overdubs to these tracks at the band 's Chicago Loft .

= = = Wilco (The Album) = = =

Wilco released their seventh album , Wilco (The Album) , on June 30 , 2009 . In March 2009 , it was announced that singer @-@ songwriter Feist would make a guest appearance on the new album , on the track " You and I " . Like their previous three albums , Wilco streamed the entirety of the album on its website prior to release . The album hit the charts at a career @-@ high No. 4 with sales of 99 @ , @ 000 on the Billboard Top 200 Album chart as well as the No. 2 spot on Billboard 's Top Rock Albums chart . It marked Wilco 's third top 10 album on the U.S. pop chart . The album 's first single " You Never Know " reached the No. 1 spot on the AAA Chart , their first No. 1 in twelve years .

Beginning in April 2009 , the band freely distributed a cover of Woody Guthrie 's " The Jolly Banker " , downloadable from their website . It was recorded at the Wilco loft in February of that year , at the suggestion of Guthrie 's daughter , Nora . Downloaders were encouraged to donate to the Woody Guthrie Foundation . Feist returned to accompany on the track , playing the Garden Weasel . The track eventually became unavailable for download . In October 2011 , the website began streaming the track via a plugin .

On May 25 , 2009 , former band member Jay Bennett died in his home in Urbana , Illinois . In a

prepared statement , Jeff Tweedy remarked that he was " deeply saddened " by Bennett 's death .

Feist and Wilco performed " You and I " on Late Show with David Letterman on July 14 , 2009 . In June during their West Coast tour , Wilco joined Beck , Feist , Jamie Lidell and James Gadson in the studio to take part in Beck 's Record Club project , covering Skip Spence 's Oar album . The first song " Little Hands " was posted on Beck 's website on November 12 , 2009 .

On April 6 , 2010 , Wilco announced during their Boston performance that they would be headlining and curating a festival in North Adams , Massachusetts , dubbed Solid Sound Festival . The event ran at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art from August 13 ? 15 , and featured various Wilco side projects , including The Autumn Defense , Pronto , The Nels Cline Singers , and Jeff Tweedy solo . Other bands who appeared included Mavis Staples , Avi Buffalo , Outrageous Cherry , Richard Bishop , The Books , and Vetiver . It also featured non @-@ musical media , such as the Bread and Puppet Theater and comedians Todd Barry , Kristen Schaal , John Mulaney , and Hannibal Buress as well as interactive musical installations by Cline and Kotche .

Wilco 's contract with Nonesuch ended in 2010 and they formed their own label . Wilco announced via their web site and Twitter page on January 27 , 2011 that the new label will be called dBpm Records (Decibels per Minute) and will be run out of the offices of their manager , Tony Margherita , in Easthampton , Massachusetts .

= = = The Whole Love = = =

Wilco 's eighth studio album , The Whole Love , was released on September 27 , 2011 . The first single of the album is titled " Art of Almost " . The B @-@ Side to " I Might " is a cover of Nick Lowe 's 1977 song " I Love My Label " . The single was shown at the Wilco 's 2011 Solid Sound Festival at MassMoca and was met by positive reviews . The entire album was streamed live on Wilco 's official website for 24 hours between September 3 and 4 , 2011 .

= = = Star Wars and Schmilco = = =

Wilco 's ninth studio album , Star Wars , was released on July 16 , 2015 , as a surprise free download . In October 2015 , Wilco announced that they would embark on a US tour beginning in early 2016 in support of the album . In December 2015 , Star Wars was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Alternative Music Album .

On July 14 , 2016 , the band released a new single , titled " Locator " , as a free download . Four days later , the band released another new single , titled " If I Ever Was a Child " , and announced that their tenth album , Schmilco , would be released on September 9 .

= = Musical style and influence = =

Wilco 's music is typically categorized as alternative rock and alternative country . Despite their career @-@ long association with a major record label , they are generally associated with indie rock . Wilco draws influence from bands from a variety of musical genres , but primarily from music created between 1966 and 1974 . John Cale 's Paris 1919 was credited by the band as providing a musical parallel . According to Tweedy , " It was eye @-@ opening that I wasn 't the only person that felt like these worlds had a lot more in common than they 'd been given credit for ? that experimentation and avant @-@ garde theory was not directly opposed to beauty , y 'know ? "

Other recording artists from that timespan appreciated by the band include John Lennon , Neil Young , and Brian Wilson . For his thirty @-@ fourth birthday , Tweedy received a private guitar lesson from Richard Lloyd of Television ; Tweedy was a fan of the group and was particularly fond of the guitar work , which he wanted to incorporate into his music . Uncle Tupelo was inspired by bands such as Jason & the Scorchers and The Minutemen , influencing the recording of Wilco 's A.M . Tweedy and O 'Rourke enjoyed free jazz artists such as Ornette Coleman , Albert Ayler , and Derek Bailey ; they also listen to mainstream jazz by artists such as Miles Davis and John Coltrane . The lyrical structure of Wilco 's songs was dictated by classic literature and cadavre exquis ? an

exercise where band members take turns writing lines on a typewriter , but are only allowed to see the previously written line . Among the books that the band has cited as being stylistically influential include William H. Gass 's In the Heart of the Heart of the Country , Henry Miller 's Tropic of Cancer , and Harold Bloom 's The Anxiety of Influence : A Theory of Poetry .

Some critics have dubbed Wilco the " American Radiohead " , due to their stylistically diverse catalog . A critic from the New York Times argues that Wilco has a " roots @-@ rock ... [sound which] reached back to proven materials : the twang of country , the steady chug of 1960s rock , the undulating sheen of the Beach Boys , the honky @-@ tonk hymns of the Band and the melodic symmetries of pop . "

Rolling Stone described Wilco as " one of America 's most consistently interesting bands " and " America 's foremost rock impressionists . " Bands that have been influenced by Wilco include Derek Webb (of Caedmon 's Call) , The National , and Grace Potter and the Nocturnals . English indie rock band Cherry Ghost took its name from a lyric from the Wilco song " Theologians " (from A Ghost Is Born) ? lead singer Simon Aldred is a self @-@ proclaimed " massive Wilco fan " . Other notable artists who have covered Wilco live include Norah Jones performing " Jesus , Etc . " which took place at the 2008 Bridge School Benefit where they both performed , a version of which was released as a bonus track on her 2009 release The Fall , Widespread Panic , and Counting Crows and the Wallflowers performing " California Stars . "

= = Band members = =

Current members

Jeff Tweedy - lead vocals , rhythm , acoustic and lead guitars , bass , harmonica (1994 ? present)

John Stirratt - bass , backing vocals (1994 ? present)

Glenn Kotche - drums , percussion (2000 ? present)

Mikael Jorgensen - Samples and Sound Manipulation (2002 ? 2004) , keyboards , synthesizers , effects , piano , organ (2004 ? present)

Nels Cline - lead guitar , loops , lap steel (2004 ? present)

Pat Sansone - keyboards , rhythm and lead guitars , backing vocals , synthesizers , maracas , tambourine (2004 ? present)

Former members

Ken Coomer - drums , percussion (1994 ? 2000)

Max Johnston - dobro , fiddle , banjo , mandolin , backing vocals (1994 ? 1996)

Brian Henneman - lead guitar (1994 ? 1995)

Jay Bennett - rhythm and lead guitars , keyboards , backing vocals (1995 ? 2001)

Bob Egan - pedal steel , slide guitar (1995 ? 1998)

Leroy Bach - rhythm guitar , keyboards , backing vocals (1998 ? 2004)

= = = Timeline = = =

= = Discography = =

A.M. (1995)

Being There (1996)

Summerteeth (1999)

Yankee Hotel Foxtrot (2001)

A Ghost Is Born (2004)

Sky Blue Sky (2007)

Wilco (The Album) (2009)

The Whole Love (2011)

Star Wars (2015)

Schmilco (2016)

= = = Collaborations with Billy Bragg = = =

Mermaid Avenue (1998)

Mermaid Avenue Vol . II (2000)

Mermaid Avenue : The Complete Sessions (2012)

= = Awards and nominations = =

= = = Grammy Awards = = =

= = = Shortlist Music Prizes = = =

= = = Wired Rave Awards = = =