

= Soundgarden =

Soundgarden is an American rock band formed in Seattle , Washington , in 1984 by singer and rhythm guitarist Chris Cornell , lead guitarist Kim Thayil , and bassist Hiro Yamamoto . Matt Cameron became the band 's full @-@ time drummer in 1986 , while bassist Ben Shepherd became a permanent replacement for Yamamoto in 1990 .

Soundgarden was one of the seminal bands in the creation of grunge , a style of alternative rock that developed in Seattle , and was one of a number of grunge bands signed to the record label Sub Pop . Soundgarden was the first grunge band to sign to a major label (A & M Records in 1988) , though the band did not achieve commercial success until they popularized the genre in the early 1990s with Seattle contemporaries Pearl Jam , Nirvana , and Alice in Chains .

Soundgarden achieved its biggest success with the 1994 album *Superunknown* , which debuted at number one on the Billboard charts and yielded the Grammy Award @-@ winning singles " Black Hole Sun " and " Spoonman " . In 1997 , the band broke up due to internal strife over its creative direction . After more than a decade of working on projects and other bands , Soundgarden reunited in 2010 and their sixth studio album , *King Animal* , was released two years later .

As of 2012 , Soundgarden had sold more than 10 @.@ 5 million records in the United States , and an estimated 22 @.@ 5 million worldwide . VH1 ranked Soundgarden at number 14 in their special 100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock .

= = History = =

= = = Formation and early recordings (1984 ? 1988) = = =

Soundgarden 's origins can be found in a band called The Shemps , which performed around Seattle in the early 1980s , and featured bassist Hiro Yamamoto and drummer and singer Chris Cornell . Following Yamamoto 's departure , the band recruited guitarist Kim Thayil as its new bassist . Thayil had moved to Seattle from Park Forest , Illinois , with Yamamoto and Bruce Pavitt , who would later start the independent record label Sub Pop . Cornell and Yamamoto stayed in contact , and after The Shemps broke up Cornell and Yamamoto started jamming together , and were eventually joined by Thayil .

Soundgarden was formed in 1984 by Cornell (drums and vocals) , Yamamoto (bass) , and Thayil (guitar) . The band named themselves after a wind @-@ channeling pipe sculpture , " A Sound Garden " , located on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property at 7600 Sand Point Way next to Magnuson Park , Seattle . Cornell originally played drums while singing , but in 1985 the band enlisted Scott Sundquist to allow Cornell to concentrate on vocals . The band traveled around playing various concerts with this line @-@ up for about a year . Their first recordings were three songs that appeared on the 1986 compilation album for C / Z Records called *Deep Six* . It also featured songs by fellow grunge pioneers Green River , Skin Yard , Malfunkshun , The U @-@ Men , and The Melvins . In 1986 , Sundquist left the band to spend time with his family , and was replaced by Matt Cameron , the drummer from Skin Yard .

KCMU DJ Jonathan Poneman was impressed after seeing Soundgarden perform one night , later saying , " I saw this band that was everything rock music should be . " Poneman offered to fund a release by the band , so Thayil told him to team up with Bruce Pavitt . Poneman offered to contribute \$ 20 @,@ 000 in funding for Sub Pop , effectively turning it into a full @-@ fledged record label . Soundgarden signed to Sub Pop , and the label released " Hunted Down " in 1987 as the band 's first single . The B @-@ side of the " Hunted Down " single , " Nothing to Say " , appeared on the KCMU compilation tape *Bands That Will Make Money* , which was distributed to record companies , many of whom showed interest in Soundgarden . Through Sub Pop , the band released the *Screaming Life* EP in 1987 , and the *Fopp* EP in 1988 . A combination of the two was issued as *Screaming Life / Fopp* in 1990 .

= = = Debut album , major label signing , and rift with audience (1988 ? 1990) = = =

Though the band was being courted by major labels , in 1988 it signed to the independent label SST Records for its debut album , Ultramega OK , released on October 31 , 1988 . Cornell said that the band " made a huge mistake with Ultramega OK " since they used a producer suggested by SST who " didn 't know what was happening in Seattle . " On that album , Soundgarden demonstrates , according to Steve Huey of AllMusic , a " Stooges / MC5 @-@ meets @-@ Zeppelin / Sabbath sound . " The band 's first music video , " Flower " , was directed by Mark Miremont , and aired regularly on MTV 's 120 Minutes . Soundgarden supported Ultramega OK with a tour in the United States in the spring of 1989 and a tour in Europe , which began in May 1989 and was the band 's first overseas tour . Ultramega OK earned the band a Grammy Award nomination for Best Metal Performance in 1990 .

After touring in support of Ultramega OK the band signed with A & M Records , which caused a rift between Soundgarden and its traditional audience . Thayil said , " In the beginning , our fans came from the punk rock crowd . They abandoned us when they thought we had sold out the punk tenets , getting on a major label and touring with Guns N ' Roses . There were fashion issues and social issues , and people thought we no longer belonged to their scene , to their particular sub @-@ culture . " The band subsequently began work on its first album for a major label , and personnel difficulties caused a shift in the band 's songwriting process , according to Cornell : " At the time Hiro [Yamamoto] had excommunicated himself from the band and there wasn 't a free @-@ flowing system as far as music went , so I ended up writing a lot of it . " On September 5 , 1989 , the band released its second album , Louder Than Love , which saw the band take " a step toward the metal mainstream , " according to Steve Huey of Allmusic , describing " a slow , grinding , detuned mountain of Sabbath / Zeppelin riffs and Chris Cornell wailing . " Because of some of the lyrics , most notably on " Hands All Over " and " Big Dumb Sex " , the band faced various retail and distribution problems upon the album 's release . Louder Than Love became the band 's first album to chart on the Billboard 200 , peaking at number 108 on the chart in 1990 .

A month before touring for Louder Than Love commenced , bassist Hiro Yamamoto , who was becoming frustrated that he wasn 't contributing much , left to go back to college . He was replaced by Jason Everman , formerly of Nirvana . The band toured North America from December 1989 to March 1990 , opening for Voivod , which was supporting their album Nothingface tour , with Faith No More and The Big F also serving as opening acts at the beginning and end of the tour . The band then went on to tour Europe . Bassist Jason Everman was fired immediately after Soundgarden completed its promotional tour for Louder Than Love in mid @-@ 1990 ; Thayil said that " Jason just didn 't work out . " Louder Than Love spawned the EP Loudest Love and the video compilation Louder Than Live , both released in 1990 .

= = = Established lineup , censorship , and rise in popularity (1991 ? 1993) = = =

Bassist Ben Shepherd replaced previous bassist Jason Everman and the new line @-@ up recorded Soundgarden 's third album in 1991 . Cornell said that Shepherd brought a " fresh and creative " approach to the recording sessions , and the band as a whole said that his knowledge of music and writing skills redefined the band . The resulting album , Badmotorfinger , was released on October 8 , 1991 . Steve Huey of Allmusic said that the songwriting on Badmotorfinger " takes a quantum leap in focus and consistency . " He added , " It 's surprisingly cerebral and arty music for a band courting mainstream metal audiences . " Thayil suggested that the album 's lyrics are " like reading a novel [about] man 's conflict with himself and society , or the government , or his family , or the economy , or anything . " The first single from Badmotorfinger , " Jesus Christ Pose " , garnered attention when MTV decided to ban its corresponding music video in 1991 . Many listeners were outraged by the song and its video , perceiving it as anti @-@ Christian . The band received death threats while on tour in the United Kingdom in support of the album . Cornell explained that the lyrics criticize public figures who use religion (particularly the image of Jesus Christ) to portray themselves as being persecuted . Although overshadowed at the time of its release by the sudden

popularity of Nirvana 's Nevermind , the focus of attention brought by Nevermind to the Seattle scene helped Soundgarden gain wider attention . The singles " Outshined " and " Rusty Cage " were able to find an audience at alternative rock radio and MTV . Badmotorfinger was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Metal Performance in 1992 . The album was among the 100 top selling albums of 1992 .

Following the release of Badmotorfinger , Soundgarden went on a tour in North America that ran from October 1991 to November 1991 . Afterward , the band took a slot opening for Guns N ' Roses in North America on the band 's Use Your Illusion Tour . Soundgarden was personally selected by Guns N ' Roses as its opening band . The band took a slot opening for Skid Row in North America in February 1992 on the band 's Slave to the Grind tour , and then headed to Europe for a month @-@ long headlining theater tour . The band returned for a tour in the United States and subsequently rejoined Guns N ' Roses in the summer of 1992 in Europe as part of the Use Your Illusion Tour along with fellow opening act Faith No More . Regarding the time spent opening for Guns N ' Roses , Cornell said , " It wasn 't a whole lot of fun going out in front of 40 @,@ 000 people for 35 minutes every day . Most of them hadn 't heard our songs and didn 't care about them . It was a bizarre thing . " The band would go on to play the 1992 Lollapalooza tour with the Red Hot Chili Peppers , Pearl Jam , Ministry and the Jim Rose Circus among others . In anticipation of the band 's appearance at Lollapalooza , a limited edition of Badmotorfinger was released in 1992 with a second disc containing the EP Satanoscillatemytmetallicsonatas (a palindrome) , featuring Soundgarden 's cover of Black Sabbath 's " Into the Void " , titled " Into the Void (Sealth) " , which was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Metal Performance in 1993 . The band later released the video compilation Motorvision , which was filmed at the Paramount Theatre in 1992 . The band also made an appearance in the movie Singles performing " Birth Ritual " . The song appeared on the soundtrack , as did a Cornell solo song , " Seasons " .

In 1993 , the band contributed the track " Show Me " to the AIDS @-@ Benefit Album No Alternative produced by the Red Hot Organization .

= = = Breakthrough album and mainstream success (1994 ? 1995) = = =

Soundgarden began working on its fourth album after touring in support of Badmotorfinger . Cornell said that while working on the album , the band members allowed each other more freedom than on past records , and Thayil observed that the band spent a lot more time working on the actual recording of the songs than on previous records . Released on March 8 , 1994 , Superunknown became the band 's breakthrough album , driven by the singles " Spoonman " , " The Day I Tried to Live " , " Black Hole Sun " , " My Wave " , and " Fell on Black Days " ; Superunknown debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 album chart .

The songs on Superunknown captured the creativity and heaviness of the band 's earlier works , while showcasing the group 's newly evolving style . Lyrically , the album was quite dark and mysterious , and it is often interpreted to be dealing with substance abuse , suicide , and depression . Cornell was inspired by the writings of Sylvia Plath at the time . The album was also more experimental than previous releases , with some songs incorporating Middle @-@ Eastern or Indian music . J. D. Considine of Rolling Stone said Superunknown " demonstrates far greater range than many bands manage in an entire career . " He also stated , " At its best , Superunknown offers a more harrowing depiction of alienation and despair than anything on In Utero . " The music video for " Black Hole Sun " became a hit on MTV and received the award for Best Metal / Hard Rock Video at the 1994 MTV Video Music Awards and in 1995 it received the Clio Award for Alternative Music Video . Soundgarden won two Grammy Awards in 1995 ; " Black Hole Sun " received the award for Best Hard Rock Performance and " Spoonman " received the award for Best Metal Performance . Superunknown was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Rock Album in 1995 . Superunknown has been certified five times platinum in the United States and remains Soundgarden 's most successful album .

The band began touring in January 1994 in Oceania and Japan , areas where the record came out early and where the band had never toured before . This round of touring ended in February 1994 ,

and then in March 1994 the band moved on to Europe . They began a theater tour of the United States on May 27 , 1994 , with the opening acts Tad and Eleven . In late 1994 , after touring in support of Superunknown , doctors discovered that Cornell had severely strained his vocal cords , and Soundgarden canceled several shows to avoid causing any permanent damage . Cornell said , " I think we kinda overdid it ! We were playing five or six nights a week and my voice pretty much took a beating . Towards the end of the American tour I felt like I could still kinda sing , but I wasn 't really giving the band a fair shake . You don 't buy a ticket to see some guy croak for two hours ! That seemed like kind of a rip off . " The band would make up the dates later in 1995 . Superunknown spawned the EP Songs from the Superunknown and the CD @-@ ROM Alive in the Superunknown , both released in 1995 .

= = = Down on the Upside , internal conflicts and breakup (1996 ? 1997) = = =

Following the worldwide tour in support of Superunknown , the band members began working on what would become their last studio album for over 15 years . The band chose to produce the record themselves . However , tensions within the group reportedly arose during the sessions , with Thayil and Cornell allegedly clashing over Cornell 's desire to shift away from the heavy guitar riffing that had become the band 's trademark . Cornell said , " By the time we were finished , it felt like it had been kind of hard , like it was a long , hard haul . But there was stuff we were discovering . " The band 's fifth album , Down on the Upside , was released on May 21 , 1996 . The album was notably less heavy than the group 's preceding albums , and marked a further departure from the band 's grunge roots ; Soundgarden explained at the time that it wanted to experiment with other sounds , which included acoustic instrumentation : David Browne of Entertainment Weekly said , " Few bands since Led Zeppelin have so crisply mixed instruments both acoustic and electric . " The overall mood of the album 's lyrics is less dark than on previous Soundgarden albums , with Cornell describing some songs as " self @-@ affirming . " The album spawned several singles , including " Pretty Noose " , " Burden in My Hand " , and " Blow Up the Outside World " . " Pretty Noose " was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Hard Rock Performance in 1997 . Despite favorable reviews and modest sales , the album did not match the sales or praise of Superunknown .

The band took a slot on the 1996 Lollapalooza tour with Metallica , who had insisted on Soundgarden 's appearance on the tour . After Lollapalooza , the band embarked on a worldwide tour , and already @-@ existing tensions increased during that tour . When asked whether the band hated touring , Cornell replied " We really enjoy it to a point , and then it gets tedious , because it becomes repetitious . You feel like fans have paid their money and they expect you to come out and play them your songs like the first time you ever played them . That 's the point where we hate touring . " At the tour 's final stop in Honolulu , Hawaii on February 9 , 1997 , Shepherd threw his bass into the air in frustration after suffering equipment failure , and subsequently stormed off the stage . The band retreated , with Cornell returning to conclude the show with a solo encore . On April 9 , 1997 , the band announced it was disbanding . Thayil said , " It was pretty obvious from everybody 's general attitude over the course of the previous half year that there was some dissatisfaction . " Cameron later said that Soundgarden was " eaten up by the business . " Soundgarden released a greatest hits collection entitled A @-@ Sides on November 4 , 1997 . The album was composed of 17 songs , including the previously @-@ unreleased " Bleed Together " , which had been recorded during the Down on the Upside recording sessions .

= = = Post @-@ breakup activities (1998 ? 2009) = = =

Cornell released a solo album in September 1999 , entitled Euphoria Morning , which featured Matt Cameron on the track " Disappearing One " . Later , in 2001 , Cornell formed the platinum @-@ selling supergroup Audioslave with Tom Morello , Tim Commerford and Brad Wilk , then @-@ former members of Rage Against the Machine , which recorded three albums (US : Triple @-@ Platinum) Audioslave (2002) , (US : Platinum) Out of Exile (2005) , and (US : Gold) Revelations (2006) . Cornell left Audioslave in early 2007 , resulting in the band 's break @-@ up

. His second solo album , Carry On , was released in June 2007 and his third solo album , Scream , produced by Timbaland , was released in March 2009 , both to mixed commercial and critical success . In 2009 Cornell also provided the vocals for " Promise " on Slash 's debut solo album Slash .

Thayil joined forces with former Dead Kennedys singer Jello Biafra and former Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic and drummer Gina Mainwal for one show , performing as The No WTO Combo during the WTO ministerial conference in Seattle on December 1 , 1999 . Thayil later contributed guitar tracks to Steve Fisk 's 2001 album , 999 Levels of Undo , as well as Dave Grohl 's 2004 side @-@ project album , Probot . In 2006 , Thayil played guitar on the album Altar , the collaboration between the bands Sunn O))) and Boris .

Cameron initially turned his efforts to his side @-@ project Wellwater Conspiracy , to which both Shepherd and Thayil have contributed . He then worked briefly with The Smashing Pumpkins on the band 's 1998 album , Adore . In 1998 , he stepped in on drums for Pearl Jam 's Yield Tour following Jack Irons 's health problems , and subsequently joined Pearl Jam as an official member ; he has recorded five albums as the band 's drummer (Binaural (2000) , Riot Act (2002) , Pearl Jam (2006) , Backspacer (2009) and Lightning Bolt (2013) . Cameron also played percussion on Geddy Lee 's album My Favourite Headache .

Shepherd was the singer on Wellwater Conspiracy 's 1997 debut studio album , Declaration of Conformity , but left the band in 1998 . He has toured with Mark Lanegan and played bass on two of Lanegan 's albums , I 'll Take Care of You (1999) and Field Songs (2001) . Shepherd and Cameron lent a hand with recording Tony Iommi 's album IOMMI (2000) ; they were part of the side @-@ project band Hater while they were members of Soundgarden and in 2005 Shepherd released the band 's long @-@ delayed second album , The 2nd .

In a July 2009 interview with Rolling Stone , Cornell shot down rumors of a reunion , saying that conversations between the band members had been limited to discussion about the release of a box set or B @-@ sides album of Soundgarden rarities , and that there had been no discussion of a reunion at all . The band 's interest in new releases emerged from a 2008 reunion regarding their shared properties , both financial and legal , where they realized Soundgarden lacked online presence such as a website or Facebook page . As Thayil summed up , " we kind of had neglected our merchandise over the last decade . " Eventually the musicians decided to create an official site handled by Pearl Jam 's Ten Club , relaunch their catalog , and according to Cameron , seek " a bunch of unreleased stuff we wanted to try to put out . ? On March 2009 , Thayil , Shepherd and Cameron got onstage during a concert by Tad Doyle in Seattle and played some Soundgarden songs . Cornell stated that the moment " sort of sparked the idea : If Matt , Kim , and Ben can get in a room , rehearse a couple songs , and play , maybe we all could do that as Soundgarden . ?

On October 6 , 2009 , all the members of Soundgarden attended Night 3 of Pearl Jam 's four @-@ night stand at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City , CA . During an encore , Temple of the Dog reunited for the first time since Pearl Jam 's show at the Santa Barbara Bowl on October 28 , 2003 . Chris Cornell joined the band to sing " Hunger Strike " . It was the first public appearance of Soundgarden together since their breakup in April 1997 . Consequently , rumors of an impending reunion were circulating on the internet .

= = = Reunion , Telephantasm and King Animal (2010 ? 2013) = = =

On January 1 , 2010 , Cornell alluded to a Soundgarden reunion via his Twitter , writing : " The 12 @-@ year break is over and school is back in session . Sign up now . Knights of the Soundtable ride again ! " The message linked to a website that features a picture of the group performing live and a place for fans to enter their e @-@ mail addresses to get updates on the reunion . Entering that information unlocks an archival video for the song " Get on the Snake " , from Soundgarden 's second studio album , 1989 's Louder Than Love . On March 1 , 2010 , Soundgarden announced to the people who signed their e @-@ mail subscribers that they are re @-@ releasing an old single " Hunted Down " with the song " Nothing to Say " on a 7 @-@ inch vinyl released on April 17 only at Record Store Day . Also , they released " Spoonman " live at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in San Diego

, California from 1996 . Soundgarden played its first show since 1997 on April 16 at the Showbox at the Market in the band 's hometown of Seattle . The band headlined Lollapalooza on August 8 .

Telephantasm : A Retrospective , a new Soundgarden compilation album , was packaged with initial shipments of the Guitar Hero : Warriors of Rock video game and released on September 28 , 2010 , one week before the CD 's availability in stores on October 5 , 2010 . An expanded version of Telephantasm consisting of two CDs and one DVD is currently available for sale . A previously unreleased Soundgarden song ? " Black Rain " ? debuted on the Guitar Hero video game and appears on the compilation album . The compilation album achieved platinum certification status after its first day of retail availability . " Black Rain " hit rock radio stations on August 10 , 2010 . It became the band 's first single since 1997 . In November 2010 , Soundgarden was the second musical guest on the show Conan , making it their first television appearance in 13 years , and issued a 7 @-@ inch vinyl , " The Telephantasm " , for Black Friday Record Store Day . In March 2011 , Soundgarden released their first live album , Live on I @-@ 5 .

In February 2011 it was announced on Soundgarden 's homepage that they had started recording a new album . On March 1 , 2011 , Chris Cornell confirmed that Adam Kasper would produce the new album . Four days later , the band stated it would consist of material that was " 90 percent new " and the rest consisting of updated versions of older ideas . They also noted that they had 12 to 14 songs that were " kind of ready to go " . Although Cameron claimed the album would be released in 2011 , the recording was prolonged as Thayil said that " the more we enjoy it , the more our fans should end up enjoying it . " . Thayil also reported that some songs sound " similar in a sense to Down on the Upside " and that the album would be " picking up where we left off . There are some heavy moments , and there are some fast songs . " The next day , Cornell reported that the new album would not be released until the spring of 2012 .

In April 2011 , Soundgarden announced a summer tour consisting of four dates in July , and was also headliner for Voodoo Experience at City Park in New Orleans Halloween weekend 2011 . It was announced in March 2012 via the band 's official Facebook page that they would be including a new song on the soundtrack of the upcoming movie The Avengers , based on the franchise by Marvel Comics . The song was titled " Live to Rise " and marked the first newly recorded song that the band have released since reforming in 2010 . " Live to Rise " was released as a free download on iTunes April 17 . Also in March it was announced that Soundgarden would headline the Friday night of the Hard Rock Calling Festival the following July . In April , Soundgarden announced the release of a box set titled " Classic Album Selection " for Europe , containing all of their studio albums (except for Ultramega OK) and live album Live on I @-@ 5 . On May 5 , just before The Offspring began playing their set , the band appeared as a special guest at the 20th annual KROQ Weenie Roast in Irvine , California . Later that month , Soundgarden told Rolling Stone they were eyeing an October release for their new album . That June , the band appeared at Download Festival in Donington , England . The band released " Been Away Too Long " , the first single from their new album King Animal on September 27 . King Animal was released on November 13 , 2012 . The band released a video for " By Crooked Steps " , directed by Dave Grohl , in early 2013 . " Halfway There " was the third single to be released from the album .

= = = Echo of Miles ... and upcoming seventh studio album (2014 ? present) = = =

On November 15 , 2013 , drummer Matt Cameron announced that he would not be touring with Soundgarden in 2014 , due to prior commitments promoting Pearl Jam 's album Lightning Bolt . On March 16 , 2014 , it was announced that Soundgarden and Nine Inch Nails , along with opening act Death Grips , were going to tour together in North America . On March 27 , 2014 , former Pearl Jam drummer Matt Chamberlain replaced Cameron for live shows in South America and Europe .

On October 28 , 2014 , Soundgarden announced that they would release the 3CD compilation box set , Echo of Miles : Scattered Tracks Across the Path , on November 24 . The set is a collection of rarities , live tracks , and unreleased material spanning the group 's history . It includes previously released songs , such as " Live to Rise " , " Black Rain " , " Birth Ritual " , and others , as well as a newly recorded rendition of a song from the band 's pre @-@ Matt Cameron 1985 demo , " The

Storm ", now simply titled " Storm ", which was produced by Jack Endino . One day prior to the announcement , on October 27 , the band posted a copy of " Storm " to YouTube unannounced .

Thayil had mentioned in several interviews that it was highly likely that the band would start working on material for a new album in 2015 . In August 2015 , Cornell stated that they were working on songs for the album . On January 19 , 2016 , it was announced that Soundgarden has returned to the studio to continue working on their new album .

= = Musical style and influences = =

Soundgarden were pioneers of the grunge music genre , which mixed elements of punk rock and metal into a dirty , aggressive sound . " Soundgarden are quite good ... " remarked Black Sabbath 's Tony Iommi , " It 's very much like the same sort of stuff that we would have done . " Soundgarden 's sound during the early years of the Seattle grunge scene has been described as consisting of " gnarled neo @-@ Zeppelinisms . " The influence of Led Zeppelin was evident , with Q magazine noting that Soundgarden were " in thrall to ' 70s rock , but contemptuous of the genre 's overt sexism and machismo . " According to Sub Pop , the band had " a hunky lead singer and fused Led Zeppelin and the Butthole Surfers . " The Butthole Surfers ' mix of punk , heavy metal and noise rock was a major influence on the early work of Soundgarden .

The name of the band , according to Thayil , was supposed to include the many roots of their style : that included " a virtual plethora of cutting edge rock that spans Velvet Underground , Meat Puppets and Killing Joke " . They also mentioned " Metallica ; Gothicism and sublime poetry . The almost ethereal flavour of the name betrays the brutality of the music but never pins Soundgarden in one corner " .

Black Sabbath also had a huge impact on the band 's sound , especially on the guitar riffs and tunings . Joel McIver stated : " Soundgarden are one of the bands I 've heard closest to the original Sabbath sound " . Soundgarden , like other early grunge bands , were also influenced by British post @-@ punk bands such as Gang of Four and Bauhaus which were popular in the early 1980s Seattle scene . Cornell himself said : " When Soundgarden formed we were post @-@ punk ? pretty quirky . Then somehow we found this neo @-@ Sabbath psychedelic rock that fitted well with who we were " . Thayil described the band 's sound as a " Sabbath @-@ influenced punk " .

Soundgarden broadened its musical range with its later releases . By 1994 's Superunknown , the band began to incorporate more psychedelic influences into its music . As a member of Soundgarden , Cornell became known for his wide vocal range and his dark , existentialist lyrics .

Soundgarden often uses alternative tunings in its songs . Many Soundgarden songs are performed in drop D tuning , including " Jesus Christ Pose " , " Outshined " , " Spoonman " , " Black Hole Sun " and " Black Rain " . The E strings of the instruments were at times tuned even lower , such as on " Rusty Cage " , where the lower E is tuned all the way down to B. Some songs use more unorthodox tunings : " Been Away Too Long " , " My Wave " and " The Day I Tried to Live " are all in a E ? E ? B ? B ? B ? B tuning and " Burden in My Hand " , " Head Down " and " Pretty Noose " in a tuning of C @-@ G @-@ C @-@ G @-@ G @-@ E " .

Soundgarden also uses unorthodox time signatures ; while such songs as " Jesus Christ Pose " , " 4th of July " , and " Blow Up the Outside World " are in typical 4 / 4 time , " Outshined " is in 7 / 4 , " My Wave " is in 5 / 4 and 4 / 4 , " He Didn 't " is in 5 / 4 and 6 / 4 , " Black Hole Sun " is in 4 / 4 and 9 / 8 , " The Day I Tried to Live " is in 15 / 8 for its verses and switches to 4 / 4 for the second half of its choruses . " Fell on Black Days " and " Somewhere " are in 6 / 4 , " Never the Machine Forever " and " Black Rain " are in 9 / 8 , " Beyond the Wheel " , " Get on the Snake " and " New Damage " are in 9 / 4 , " Face Pollution " uses 9 / 8 and 6 / 4 , " Rusty Cage " is in 4 / 4 , 7 / 4 , 9 / 8 , and 19 / 8 , " Ugly Truth " is in 4 / 4 and 6 / 8 , " Limo Wreck " alternates between 12 / 8 , 15 / 8 , 9 / 8 , and 6 / 8 , " Half " is in 5 / 8 with a measure of 11 / 16 before a 4 / 4 section , and " Spoonman " alternates between 7 / 4 verses and 4 / 4 choruses with a section in 6 / 4 .

Thayil has said that Soundgarden usually did not consider the time signature of a song until after the band had written it , and said that the use of odd meters was " a total accident . " Thayil also used the meters as an example of the band 's anti @-@ commercial stance , saying that if

Soundgarden " were in the business of hit singles , we 'd at least write songs in 4 / 4 so you could dance to them . "

= = Legacy = =

Soundgarden was one of the early bands of the 1980s Seattle music scene and is regarded as being one of the originators of the genre later known as grunge . The development of the Seattle independent record label Sub Pop is tied closely to Soundgarden , since Sub Pop co @-@ founder Jonathan Poneman funded Soundgarden 's early releases , and the band 's success led to the expansion of Sub Pop as a serious record label . Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain was a fan of Soundgarden 's early music , and reportedly Soundgarden 's involvement with Sub Pop influenced Cobain to sign Nirvana with the label . Soundgarden was the first grunge band to sign to a major label when the band joined the roster of A & M Records in 1989 . Soundgarden , however , did not achieve initial success , and only with successive album releases did the band meet with increased sales and wider attention . Bassist Ben Shepherd has not been receptive to the grunge label , saying in a 2013 interview " That 's just marketing . It 's called rock and roll , or it 's called punk rock or whatever . We never were Grunge , we were just a band from Seattle . " They were ranked No. 14 on VH1 's 100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock .

Regarding Soundgarden 's legacy , in a 2007 interview Cornell said ,
I think , and this is now with some distance in listening to the records , but on the outside looking in with all earnestness I think Soundgarden made the best records out of that scene . I think we were the most daring and experimental and genre pushing really and I 'm really proud of it . And I guess that 's why I have trepidation about the idea of reforming . I don 't know what it would mean . I guess I just have this image of who we were and I had probably a lot of anxiety during the period of being Soundgarden , as we all did , that it was a responsibility and it was an important band of music and we didn 't want to mess it up and we managed to not , which I felt is a great achievement .

Soundgarden has been praised for its technical musical ability and the expansion of its sound as the band 's career progressed . " Heavy yet ethereal , powerful yet always @-@ in @-@ control , Soundgarden 's music was a study in contrasts , " said Henry Wilson of Hit Parader . Wilson proclaimed the band 's music as " a brilliant display of technical proficiency tempered by heart @-@ felt emotion . " Soundgarden is one of the bands credited with the development of the genre of alternative metal , with Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic stating that " Soundgarden made a place for heavy metal in alternative rock . " Ben Ratliff of Rolling Stone defined Soundgarden as the " standard @-@ bearers of stoner rock " during the 1990s . The band inspired and influenced a number of bands , such as metalcore bands like Between the Buried and Me and The Dillinger Escape Plan .

= = Band members = =

= = = Timeline = = =

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Ultramega OK (1988)

Louder Than Love (1989)

Badmotorfinger (1991)

Superunknown (1994)

Down on the Upside (1996)

King Animal (2012)

= = Awards and nominations = =

Grammy Awards