

= The Cure =

The Cure are an English rock band formed in Crawley , West Sussex , in 1976 . The band has experienced several line @-@ up changes , with vocalist , guitarist and principal songwriter Robert Smith being the only constant member . The Cure first began releasing music in the late 1970s with their debut album Three Imaginary Boys ; this , along with several early singles , placed the band as part of the post @-@ punk and new wave movements that had sprung up in the wake of the punk rock revolution in the United Kingdom . During the early 1980s , the band 's increasingly dark and tormented music was a staple of the emerging gothic rock genre .

After the release of 1982 's Pornography , the band 's future was uncertain and Smith was keen to move past the gloomy reputation his band had acquired . With the single " Let 's Go to Bed " released the same year , Smith began to place a pop sensibility into the band 's music and their popularity increased as the decade wore on , with songs like " Just Like Heaven " , " Lovesong " and " Friday I 'm in Love " . The band is estimated to have sold 27 million albums as of 2004 and have released thirteen studio albums , ten EPs and over thirty singles during their career .

= = History = =

= = = Formation and early years (1973 ? 79) = = =

The first incarnation of what became the Cure was the Obelisk , a band formed by students at Notre Dame Middle School in Crawley , Sussex . The band made their public debut in a one @-@ off performance in April 1973 , and featured Robert Smith on piano , Michael " Mick " Dempsey on guitar , Laurence " Lol " Tolhurst on percussion , Marc Ceccagno on lead guitar and Alan Hill on bass guitar . In January 1976 the band took a more substantial form when Ceccagno formed Malice with Smith and Dempsey along with two other classmates from St Wilfrid 's Catholic Comprehensive School , with Ceccagno on lead , Smith on guitar and Dempsey switching to bass . Ceccagno soon left , however , to form a jazz @-@ rock fusion band called Amulet . Increasingly influenced by the emergence of punk rock , Malice 's remaining members became known as Easy Cure in January 1977 . By this time , Smith and Dempsey had been joined by Lol Tolhurst from the Obelisk on drums and new lead guitarist Porl Thompson . Both Malice and Easy Cure auditioned several vocalists before Smith finally assumed the role of Easy Cure 's frontman in September 1977 .

That year , Easy Cure won a talent competition with German label Hansa Records , and received a recording contract . Although the band recorded tracks for the company , none were ever released . Following disagreements in March 1978 over the direction the band should take , the contract with Hansa was dissolved . Smith later recalled , " We were very young . They just thought they could turn us into a teen group . They actually wanted us to do cover versions and we always refused . " Thompson was dropped from the band in May , and the remaining trio were soon renamed " The Cure " by Smith . Later that month , the band recorded their first sessions as a trio at Chestnut Studios in Sussex , which were distributed as a demo tape to a dozen major record labels . The demo found its way to Polydor Records scout Chris Parry , who signed the Cure to his newly formed Fiction label ? distributed by Polydor ? in September 1978 . The Cure released their debut single " Killing an Arab " in December 1978 on the Small Wonder label as a stopgap until Fiction finalised distribution arrangements with Polydor . " Killing an Arab " garnered both acclaim and controversy : while the single 's provocative title led to accusations of racism , the song is actually based on French existentialist Albert Camus 's novel The Stranger . The band placed a sticker label that denied the racist connotations on the single 's 1979 reissue on Fiction . An early NME article on the band wrote that the Cure " are like a breath of fresh suburban air on the capital 's smog @-@ ridden pub @-@ and @-@ club circuit " , and noted , " With a John Peel session and more extensive London gigging on their immediate agenda , it remains to be seen whether the Cure can retain their refreshing joie de vivre . "

The Cure released their debut album Three Imaginary Boys in May 1979 . Because of the band 's

inexperience in the studio , Parry and engineer Mike Hedges took control of the recording . The band , particularly Smith , were unhappy with the album ; in a 1987 interview , he admitted , " a lot of it was very superficial ? I didn 't even like it at the time . There were criticisms made that it was very lightweight , and I thought they were justified . Even when we 'd made it , I wanted to do something that I thought had more substance to it " . The band 's second single , " Boys Don 't Cry " , was released in June . The Cure then embarked as the support band for Siouxsie and the Banshees ' Join Hands promotional tour of England , Northern Ireland and Wales between August and October . The tour saw Smith pull double duty each night by performing with the Cure and as the guitarist with the Banshees when John McKay quit the group . That musical experience had a strong impact on him : " On stage that first night with the Banshees , I was blown away by how powerful I felt playing that kind of music . It was so different to what we were doing with the Cure . Before that , I 'd wanted us to be like the Buzzcocks or Elvis Costello ; the punk Beatles . Being a Banshee really changed my attitude to what I was doing . "

The Cure 's third single , " Jumping Someone Else 's Train " , was released in early October 1979 . Soon afterwards , Dempsey was dropped from the band because of his cold reception to material Smith had written for the upcoming album . Dempsey joined the Associates , while Simon Gallup (bass) and Matthieu Hartley (keyboards) from the Magspies joined the Cure . The Associates toured as support band for the Cure and the Passions on the Future Pastimes Tour of England between November and December ? all three bands were on the Fiction Records roster ? with the new Cure line @-@ up already performing a number of new songs for the projected second album . Meanwhile , a spin @-@ off band comprising Smith , Tolhurst , Dempsey , Gallup , Hartley and Thompson , with backing vocals from assorted family and friends and lead vocals provided by their local postman Frankie Bell , released a 7 @-@ inch single in December under the assumed name of Cult Hero .

= = = Early gothic phase (1980 ? 82) = = =

Due to the band 's lack of creative control on the first album , Smith exerted a greater influence on the recording of the Cure 's second album Seventeen Seconds , which he co @-@ produced with Mike Hedges . The album was released in 1980 and reached number 20 on the UK charts . A single from the album , " A Forest " , became the band 's first UK hit single , reaching number 31 on the singles chart . The album was a departure from the Cure 's sound up to that point , with Hedges describing it as " morose , atmospheric , very different to Three Imaginary Boys . " In its review of Seventeen Seconds the NME said , " For a group as young as the Cure , it seems amazing that they have covered so much territory in such a brief time . " At the same time , Smith was pressed concerning the concept of an alleged " anti @-@ image " . Smith told the press he was fed up with the anti @-@ image association that some considered to be " elaborately disguising their plainness " , stating , " We had to get away from that anti @-@ image thing , which we didn 't even create in the first place . And it seemed like we were trying to be more obscure . We just didn 't like the standard rock thing . The whole thing really got out of hand . " That same year Three Imaginary Boys was repackaged for the American market as Boys Don 't Cry , with new artwork and a modified tracklist . The Cure set out on their first world tour to promote both releases . At the end of the tour , Matthieu Hartley left the band . Hartley said , " I realised that the group was heading towards suicidal , sombre music ? the sort of thing that didn 't interest me at all . "

The band reconvened with Hedges to produce their third album , Faith (1981) , which furthered the dour mood present on Seventeen Seconds . The album peaked at number 14 on the UK charts . Included with cassette copies of Faith was an instrumental soundtrack for Carnage Visors , an animated film shown in place of an opening act for the band 's 1981 Picture Tour . In late 1981 , the Cure released the non @-@ album single " Charlotte Sometimes " . By this point , the sombre mood of the music had a profound effect on the attitude of the band . The band would refuse requests for older songs in concert , and sometimes Smith would be so absorbed by the persona he projected onstage he would leave at the end in tears .

In 1982 , the Cure recorded and released Pornography , the third and final album of an "

oppressively dispirited " trio that cemented the Cure 's stature as purveyors of the emerging gothic rock genre . Smith has said that during the recording of Pornography he was " undergoing a lot of mental stress . But it had nothing to do with the group , it just had to do with what I was like , my age and things . I think I got to my worst round about Pornography . Looking back and getting other people 's opinions of what went on , I was a pretty monstrous sort of person at that time " . Gallup described the album by saying , " Nihilism took over [...] We sang ' It doesn 't matter if we all die ' and that is exactly what we thought at the time . " Parry was concerned that the album did not have a hit song for radio play and instructed Smith and producer Phil Thornalley to polish the track " The Hanging Garden " for release as a single . Despite the concerns about the album 's uncommercial sound , Pornography became the band 's first UK Top 10 album , charting at number eight . The release of Pornography was followed by the Fourteen Explicit Moments tour , where the band finally dropped the anti @-@ image angle and first adopted their signature look of big , towering hair and smeared lipstick on their faces . The tour also saw a series of incidents that prompted Simon Gallup to leave the Cure at the tour 's conclusion . Gallup and Smith did not talk to each other for eighteen months following his departure .

= = = Early commercial success (1983 ? 86) = = =

With Gallup 's departure from the Cure and Smith 's work with Siouxsie and the Banshees , rumours spread that the Cure had broken up . In December 1982 , Smith remarked to Melody Maker , " Do the Cure really exist any more ? I 've been pondering that question myself [...] it has got to a point where I don 't fancy working in that format again . " He added , " Whatever happens , it won 't be me , Laurence and Simon together any more . I know that . "

Parry was concerned at the state of his label 's top band , and became convinced that the solution was for the Cure to reinvent its musical style . Parry managed to convince Smith and Tolhurst of the idea ; Parry said , " It appealed to Robert because he wanted to destroy the Cure anyway . " With Tolhurst now playing keyboards instead of drums , the duo released the single " Let 's Go to Bed " in late 1982 . While Smith wrote the single as a throwaway , " stupid " pop song to the press , it became a minor hit in the UK , reaching number 44 on the singles chart , but entered the Top 20 in Australia and New Zealand . It was followed in 1983 by two more successful songs : the synthesiser @-@ based " The Walk " (number 12) , and " The Love Cats " , which became the band 's first British Top 10 hit , reaching number seven . The group released these studio singles and their B @-@ sides as the compilation album Japanese Whispers , designed by Smith for the Japanese market only , but released worldwide on the decision of the record company . The same year , Smith also recorded and toured with Siouxsie and the Banshees , contributing as guitarist on their Nocturne live album and video and their Hyaena studio album . Meanwhile , he recorded the Blue Sunshine album with Banshees bassist Steven Severin as the Glove , while Lol Tolhurst produced the first two singles and debut album of the English band And Also the Trees .

In 1984 , the Cure released The Top , a generally psychedelic album on which Smith played all the instruments except the drums ? played by Andy Anderson ? and the saxophone ? played by returnee Porl Thompson . The album was a Top 10 hit in the UK , and was their first studio album to break the Billboard 200 in the US , reaching number 180 . Melody Maker praised the album as " psychedelia that can 't be dated " , while pondering , " I 've yet to meet anyone who can tell me why the Cure are having hits now of all times . " The Cure then embarked on their worldwide Top Tour with Thompson , Anderson and producer @-@ turned @-@ bassist Phil Thornalley on board . Released in late 1984 , the Cure 's first live album , Concert consisted of performances from this tour . Near the tour 's end , Anderson was fired for destroying a hotel room and was replaced by Boris Williams . Thornalley also left because of the stress of touring . However , the bassist slot was not vacant long , for a Cure roadie named Gary Biddles had brokered a reunion between Smith and former bassist Simon Gallup , who had been playing in the band Fools Dance . Soon after reconciling , Smith asked Gallup to rejoin the band . Smith was ecstatic about Gallup 's return and declared to Melody Maker , " It 's a group again . "

In 1985 , the new line @-@ up of Smith , Tolhurst , Gallup , Thompson and Williams released The

Head on the Door , an album that managed to bind together the optimistic and pessimistic aspects of the band 's music between which they had previously shifted . The Head on the Door reached number seven in the UK and was the band 's first entry into American Top 75 at number 59 , a success partly due to the international impact of the LP 's two singles , " In Between Days " and " Close to Me " . Following the album and world tour , the band released the singles compilation Standing on a Beach in three formats (each with a different track listing and a specific name) in 1986 . This compilation made the US Top 50 , and saw the re @-@ issue of three previous singles : " Boys Don 't Cry " (in a new form) , " Let 's Go to Bed " and , later , " Charlotte Sometimes " . This release was accompanied by a VHS and LaserDisc called Staring at the Sea , which featured videos for each track on the compilation . The Cure toured to support the compilation and released a live concert VHS of the show , filmed in the south of France called The Cure in Orange . During this time , the Cure became a very popular band in Europe (particularly in France , Germany and the Benelux countries) and increasingly popular in the US

= = = Kiss Me , Kiss Me , Kiss Me and worldwide success (1987 ? 93) = = =

In 1987 , the Cure released the musically eclectic double LP Kiss Me , Kiss Me , Kiss Me , which reached number six in the UK , the Top 10 in several countries and was the band 's first entry into the US Top 40 at number 35 (where it was certified platinum) , reflecting the band 's rising mainstream popularity . The album 's third single , " Just Like Heaven " , was the band 's most successful single to date in the US , being their first to enter the Billboard Top 40 . The album produced three other singles . The song " Catch " was loosely based on a speech written by Sylvester Stallone in the film Rocky II when the character of Adrian as played by Talia Shire lay in a coma while Rocky reads a poem he wrote for her . After the album 's release , the band embarked on a successful tour . During the European leg of the tour , Lol Tolhurst 's alcohol consumption was interfering with his ability to perform , so the Psychedelic Furs keyboardist Roger O 'Donnell was frequently called upon to stand in for him .

In 1989 , the Cure released the album Disintegration , which was critically praised and became their highest charting album to date , entering at number three in the UK and featuring three Top 30 singles in the UK and Germany : " Lullaby " , " Lovesong " and " Pictures of You " . Disintegration also reached number twelve on the US charts . The first single stateside , " Fascination Street " , reached number one on the American Modern Rock chart , but was quickly overshadowed when its third US single , " Lovesong " , reached number two on the American pop charts (the only Cure single to reach the US Top 10) . By 1992 , Disintegration had sold over three million copies worldwide .

During the Disintegration sessions , the band gave Smith an ultimatum that either Tolhurst would have to leave the band or they would . In February 1989 , Tolhurst 's exit was made official and announced to the press ; this resulted in Roger O 'Donnell becoming a full @-@ fledged member of the band and left Smith as the Cure 's only remaining founding member . Smith attributed Tolhurst 's dismissal to an inability to exert himself and issues with alcohol , concluding , " He was out of step with everything . It had just become detrimental to everything we 'd do . " Because Tolhurst was still on the payroll during the recording of Disintegration , he is credited in the album 's liner notes as playing " other instrument " (sic) and is listed as a co @-@ writer of every song ; however , it has since been revealed that he contributed nothing to the album in either performance or song writing . The Cure then embarked on a successful tour which saw the band playing stadiums in the US . On 6 September 1989 , the Cure performed " Just Like Heaven " at the 1989 MTV Video Music Awards at the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles .

In May 1990 , Roger O 'Donnell quit and was replaced with the band 's guitar technician Perry Bamonte . That November , the Cure released a collection of remixes called Mixed Up . The one new song on the collection , " Never Enough " , was released as a single . In 1991 the Cure were awarded the Brit Award for Best British Group . That same year , Tolhurst filed a lawsuit against Smith and Fiction Records in 1991 over royalties payments , and claimed joint ownership of the name " the Cure " with Smith ; the verdict was handed out in September 1994 in favour of Smith . In

respite from the lawsuit , the band returned to the studio to record their next album . Wish reached number one in the UK and number two in the US and yielded the international hits " High " and " Friday I 'm in Love " . The Cure also embarked on the " Wish Tour " with Cranes , and released the live albums Show (September 1993) and Paris (October 1993) . As a promotional exercise with the Our Price music chain in the UK , a limited edition EP was released consisting of instrumental outtakes from the Wish sessions . Entitled Lost Wishes , the proceeds from the four @-@ track cassette tape went to charity . In 1993 , the band were nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Alternative Music Album for Wish .

In the years between the release of Wish and the start of sessions for the Cure 's next album , the band 's line @-@ up shifted again . Thompson left the band once more during 1993 to play with Robert Plant and Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin , and Bamonte took over as lead guitarist . Boris Williams also left the band , and was replaced by Jason Cooper (formerly of My Life Story) .

= = = Period of transition (1994 ? 98) = = =

The sessions for the new album began in 1994 with only Smith and Bamonte present ; the pair were later joined by Gallup (who was recovering from physical problems) and Roger O 'Donnell , who had been asked to rejoin the band at the end of 1994 . The Cure performed " Burn " in the movie The Crow and " Dredd Song " , the theme song of the 1995 movie Judge Dredd starring Sylvester Stallone . It was not released on a Cure album until 2004 on Join the Dots : B @-@ Sides & Rarities 1978 ? 2001 (The Fiction Years) .

Wild Mood Swings , finally released in 1996 , was poorly received compared with previous albums and marked the end of the band 's commercial peak . Early in 1996 , the Cure played festivals in South America , followed by a world tour in support of the album . In 1997 the band released Galore , a compilation album containing all of the Cure 's singles released between 1987 and 1997 , as well as the new single " Wrong Number " , which featured longtime David Bowie guitarist Reeves Gabrels . Gabrels also accompanied the Cure on a brief American radio festival tour as an onstage guest guitarist for " Wrong Number " . In 1998 , the Cure contributed to the soundtrack album for The X Files feature film as well as the Depeche Mode tribute album For the Masses with their cover of " World in My Eyes " .

Another soundtrack appearance occurred with the song " Watching Me Fall " (later appearing in a different form on the Cure 's next album , Bloodflowers) , which was remixed by Underdog (of Massive Attack) for the 2000 American film American Psycho .

= = = Later years (1999 ? 2009) = = =

With only one album left in their record contract and with commercial response to Wild Mood Swings and the Galore compilation lacklustre , Smith once again considered that the end of the Cure might be near and thus wanted to make an album that reflected the more serious side of the band . The Grammy @-@ nominated album Bloodflowers was released in 2000 after being delayed since 1998 . According to Smith , the album was the third of a trilogy along with Pornography and Disintegration . The band also embarked on the nine @-@ month Dream Tour , attended by over one million people worldwide . In 2001 , the Cure left Fiction and released their Greatest Hits album and DVD , which featured the music videos for a number of classic Cure songs . In 2002 , the band headlined twelve major summer music festivals , and played three extended concerts (one in Brussels , two in Berlin) in which they performed the albums Pornography , Disintegration and Bloodflowers in their respective entirety each night . The Berlin performances were released on DVD as The Cure : Trilogy in 2003 .

In 2003 , the Cure signed with Geffen Records . In 2004 , they released a new four @-@ disc boxed set on Fiction Records titled Join the Dots : B @-@ Sides and Rarities , 1978 ? 2001 (The Fiction Years) . The compilation includes seventy Cure songs , some previously unreleased , and a 76 @-@ page full @-@ colour book of photographs , history and quotes , packaged in a hard cover . The album peaked at number 106 on the Billboard 200 album charts . The band released their

twelfth album *The Cure* on Geffen in 2004 , which was produced by Ross Robinson . It made a top ten debut on both sides of the Atlantic in July 2004 . To promote the album , the band headlined the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival that May . From 24 July to 29 August , the Cure headlined the Curiosa concert tour of North America . While attendances were lower than expected , Curiosa was still one of the more successful American summer festivals of 2004 . The same year the band was honoured with an MTV Icon award in a television special presented by Marilyn Manson .

In May 2005 , Roger O 'Donnell and Perry Bamonte were fired from the band . O 'Donnell claims Smith informed him he was reducing the band to a three @-@ piece . Previously O 'Donnell said he had only found out about the band 's upcoming tour dates via a fan site and added , " It was sad to find out after nearly twenty years the way I did , but then I should have expected no less or more . " The remaining members of the band ? Smith , Gallup and Cooper ? made several appearances as a trio before it was announced in June that Porl Thompson would be returning for the band 's 2005 Festival summer shows , as well as their set at Live 8 in Paris on 2 July . Later that year , the band recorded a cover of John Lennon 's " Love " for Amnesty International 's charity album *Make Some Noise* . It is available for download on the Amnesty website , while the album was released on CD in 2006 . On 1 April 2006 , the Cure appeared at the Royal Albert Hall on behalf of the Teenage Cancer Trust . It was their only show through to the end the year . In December a live DVD , entitled *The Cure : Festival 2005* , including thirty songs from their 2005 Festival tour , was released .

The Cure began writing and recording material for their thirteenth album in 2006 . Smith initially stated it would be a double album . The Cure announced a last @-@ minute postponement of their autumn 2007 North American 4Tour in August to continue working on the album , rescheduling the dates for spring 2008 . Titled *4 : 13 Dream* , the album was released in October 2008 . The group released four singles and an EP ? " The Only One " , " Freakshow " , " Sleep When I 'm Dead " , " The Perfect Boy " and *Hypnagogic States* respectively ? on or near to the 13th of each month , in the months leading up to the album 's release . In February 2009 , the Cure received the 2009 Shockwaves NME Award for Godlike Genius .

= = = Trilogy Tours and recent years (2010 ? present) = = =

In 2011 , the band played their first three studio albums in their entirety during two shows in Sydney . These " Reflections " shows notably featured Roger O 'Donnell and Lol Tolhurst , both in a keyboard and percussion role . Porl Thompson was absent from the performances . The shows were due to be released on DVD in 2012 . The band later headlined *Bestival* , which they recorded and released as *Bestival Live 2011* . Roger O 'Donnell again joined the band on stage . On 11 September 2011 , Roger O 'Donnell announced on his Facebook page that he had officially rejoined the band . The band announced seven more Reflections shows , one in London , three in New York City and three in Los Angeles . On 27 September , the Cure was announced as a nominee for 2012 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame .

In the NME 's cover article for March 2012 , the Cure announced that they would be headlining a series of summer music festivals across Europe , including the Leeds / Reading Festival . Smith said that the band were currently without a recording contract and that he had " absolutely no idea " when they would next record or release new material . " We 've been going for so long that I don 't feel that urge to capitalise on everything all the time . I mean we 're headlining pretty much every major European festival and we won 't have anything released . " Subsequent media reports quoting directly from the same article suggested that the Cure had ruled out recording any new material altogether .

On 1 May , following months of speculation , Porl Thompson , now going by the name of Pearl , confirmed via the Chain of Flowers blog that he would no longer be playing with the Cure , and apologised for upsetting fans with the decision . " [I] am working on a lot of new projects ... jewellery , music , art and mixed media [...] paint still flows and my mind state is better than it has been for [a] long while " . On 26 May , the Cure embarked on a 19 @-@ date summer festival tour of Europe , commencing at the Pinkpop Festival , joined by former the Cure / COGASM collaborator Reeves Gabrels on guitar . On the same day , it was announced that Gabrels would be standing in

for the remainder of the tour , but was not a fully @-@ fledged member of the band . Gabrels later revealed that Robert Smith had emailed him at the end of April to ask if he was free over summer , saying that he missed " having a wingman " on guitar . The SummerCure tour , featuring a five @-@ piece line @-@ up of Robert Smith , Simon Gallup , Roger O 'Donnell , Jason Cooper and Reeves Gabrels , included headlining appearances at the 2012 Reading and Leeds Festivals , and concluded in Ireland on 1 September with a headline slot at the Electric Picnic . After some shows in 2012 over Europe , and 2013 shows in Latin America , which included an acclaimed return visit to Argentina , after 26 years (and Robert Smith 's revoked " oath " of never going back to play in that country) , The Cure started The Great Circle Tour , headlining big festivals around North America and Asia .

The Cure paid tribute to Paul McCartney on the album titled The Art of McCartney , which was released on 18 November 2014 . The Cure covered the Beatles ' song " Hello , Goodbye " which featured guest vocals and keyboards from Paul 's son , James McCartney . A video of the band and James performing the song was released on 9 September 2014 filmed at Brighton Electric Studio in Brighton . Robert Smith also covered McCartney 's " C Moon " on the album 's bonus disc .

It was announced on 10 November 2015 that the Cure would embark on a 26 date North American tour in 2016 which will include their first shows in some cities in nearly a decade , and it will include their first shows at cities they have never played at yet . According to the press release the tour will feature " 37 years of Cure songs , mixing hits , rarities , favourites , and as yet unreleased tracks in a brand new stage production " . In 2016 they are scheduled to play across Europe , ending with three concerts at London ´ s Wembley Arena , in a tour that also includes the first Australian dates in years . At a concert in New Orleans on 10th May 2016 , the Cure played two new songs .

= = Musical style = =

The Cure are often identified with the gothic rock genre , and are viewed as one of the form 's definitive bands . However , the band has routinely rejected classification , particularly as a gothic rock band . Robert Smith said in 2006 , " It 's so pitiful when ' goth ' is still tagged onto the name the Cure " , and added , " We 're not categorisable . I suppose we were post @-@ punk when we came out , but in total it 's impossible [...] I just play Cure music , whatever that is . " Smith has also expressed his distaste for gothic rock , describing it as " incredibly dull and monotonous . A dirge , really . " While typically viewed as producers of dark and gloomy music , the Cure have also yielded a number of upbeat songs . Spin has said " the Cure have always been an either / or sort of band : either [...] Robert Smith is wallowing in gothic sadness or he 's licking sticky @-@ sweet cotton @-@ candy pop off his lipstick @-@ stained fingers . "

The Cure 's primary musical traits have been listed as " dominant , melodic bass lines ; whiny , strangled vocals ; and a lyric obsession with existential , almost literary despair . " Most Cure songs start with Smith and Gallup writing the drum parts and bass lines . Both record demos at home and then bring them into the studio for fine @-@ tuning . Smith said in 1992 , " I think when people talk about the ' Cure sound ' , they mean songs based on six @-@ string bass , acoustic guitar and my voice , plus the string sound from the Solina . " On top of this foundation is laid " towering layers of guitars and synthesisers " . Keyboards have been a component of the band 's sound since Seventeen Seconds , and their importance increased with the instrument 's extensive use on Disintegration . During Roger O 'Donnell 's absence between 2005 and 2011 , keyboards were not used at all during their live shows , and were not as prominent on their 2008 album 4 : 13 Dream .

= = Music videos = =

The band 's early music videos have been described as " dreadful affairs " and have been maligned for their poor quality , particularly by the band itself . Lol Tolhurst said , " Those videos were unmitigated disasters ; we weren 't actors and our personalities weren 't coming across . " The video for " Let 's Go to Bed " was their first collaboration with Tim Pope . The director added a playful

element to the band 's videos ; the director insisted in a 1987 Spin interview , " I think that side of them was always there , but was never brought out . "

Pope would go on to direct the majority of the Cure 's videos , which became synonymous with the band , and expanded their audience during the 1980s . Pope explained the appeal of working with the Cure by saying , " the Cure is the ultimate band for a filmmaker to work with because Robert Smith really understands the camera . His songs are so cinematic . I mean on one level there 's this stupidity and humour , right , but beneath that there are all [Smith 's] psychological obsessions and claustrophobia . "

= = Legacy = =

The Cure were one of the first alternative bands to have chart and commercial success in an era before alternative rock had broken into the mainstream . In 1992 , NME declared the Cure had during the 1980s become " a goth hit machine (19 to date) , an international phenomenon and , yep , the most successful alternative band that ever shuffled disconsolately about the earth " . Interpol lead singer Paul Banks was quoted as saying , " the Cure is the band that all of us in Interpol can say influenced us . When I was younger I listened to them a lot . Carlos as well . Actually , he took a straight influence from this band on the way he played the bass and the keys . To me , Robert Smith is also one of these examples : you can 't be Robert Smith if you 're not Robert Smith . It 's one of the bands with the deepest influence on Interpol , because we all like them . They 're legendary . " The Cure were also a formative influence on the Smashing Pumpkins . Frontman Billy Corgan has named the Cure as a primary influence , ' and drummer Mike Byrne described himself as a " huge Cure fan . "

Several references to the Cure and their music have been made in popular culture . A number of films have used the title of a Cure song as the film 's title , including Boys Don 't Cry (1999) and Just Like Heaven (2005) . The Cure 's gloomy image has been the subject of parody at times . In series two of The Mighty Boosh , the Moon sings " The Love Cats " over the credits . In the same episode , a powerful gothic hairspray , Goth Juice , is said to be " The most powerful hairspray known to man . Made from the tears of Robert Smith . " The Mary Whitehouse Experience often featured brief clips of the stars of the show performing comical songs and nursery rhymes as the Cure in a morose style . Robert Smith appeared in the final episode of the second series of The Mary Whitehouse Experience singing " The sun has got his hat on " before punching the character Ray (played by Robert Newman) whilst uttering Ray 's catchphrase " Oh no , what a personal disaster " . While not a parody , Robert Smith was the inspiration for the lead character of the film This Must Be the Place . Robert Smith was also portrayed on an episode of South Park (for which he himself provided the voice @-@ over) where he transforms into the form of Mothra and battles Mecha @-@ Streisand to save the day . As Smith leaves , the character of Kyle shouts , " Disintegration is the best album ever ! "

The band is estimated to have sold 27 million albums as of 2004 .

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Three Imaginary Boys (1979)

Seventeen Seconds (1980)

Faith (1981)

Pornography (1982)

The Top (1984)

The Head on the Door (1985)

Kiss Me , Kiss Me , Kiss Me (1987)

Disintegration (1989)

Wish (1992)

Wild Mood Swings (1996)

Bloodflowers (2000)
The Cure (2004)
4 : 13 Dream (2008)

= = Members = =

Current line @-@ up

Robert Smith ? lead vocals , guitar , six @-@ string bass , keyboards (1976 ? present)

Simon Gallup ? bass guitar , keyboards (1979 ? 1982 , 1985 ? present)

Roger O 'Donnell ? keyboards (1987 ? 1990 , 1995 ? 2005 , 2011 ? present)

Jason Cooper ? drums , percussion (1995 ? present)

Reeves Gabrels ? guitar , six @-@ string bass (2012 ? present)