IRON MAIDEN:

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

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

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

STEVE HARRIS:

Stephen Percy "Steve" Harris (born 12 March 1956) is an English musician and songwriter, known as the bassist, occasional [keyboardist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keyboards), backing vocalist, primary songwriter and founder of the British [heavy metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music) band[Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden). He is the only member of Iron Maiden to have remained in the band since their inception and, along with guitarist [Dave Murray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Murray_(musician)), to have appeared on all of their albums.

Harris has a recognisable and popular style of bass playing, particularly the "gallop" which can be found on several Iron Maiden recordings, such as the singles "[Run to the Hills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Run_to_the_Hills)" and "[The Trooper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Trooper)". In addition to his role as the band's bass player, writer and backing vocalist, he has undertaken many other roles for the group, such as producing and co-producing their albums, directing and editing their live videos and performing studio keyboards and synthesizers. He has been cited as one of the greatest heavy metal bassists.

On 24 September 2012, Harris released his debut solo album, [British Lion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Lion_(album)).

DAVE MURRAY:

David Michael Murray (born 23 December 1956) is an English guitarist and songwriter best known as one of the earliest members of the British [heavy metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music) band [Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden). Along with the group's bassist and primary songwriter [Steve Harris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Harris_(musician)), Murray has appeared on all of the band's releases.

Growing up in various areas of London, Murray became a member of a [skinhead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skinhead) gang before he took an interest in rock music at 15 and formed his own band, Stone Free, with childhood friend [Adrian Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrian_Smith). After leaving school at 15, he regularly answered advertisements which appeared in [Melody Maker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melody_Maker) before auditioning for Iron Maiden in 1976. A short while later, Murray was sacked following an argument with the group's lead vocalist, Dennis Wilcock, and spent six months in Smith's band, [Urchin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urchin_(band)). In the Spring of 1978, Murray was asked to rejoin Iron Maiden following Wilcock's departure, in which he has remained to this day.

ADRIAN SMITH:

Adrian Frederick "H" Smith (born 27 February 1957) is an English guitarist, best known as a member of [Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden), for whom he writes songs and performs live backing vocals on some tracks.

Smith grew up in Camden, London and became interested in rock music at 15. He soon formed a friendship with future Iron Maiden guitarist [Dave Murray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Murray_(musician)), who inspired him to take up the guitar. After leaving school at 16, he formed a band called [Urchin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urchin_(band)), which he led until their demise in 1980. He joined Iron Maiden in November 1980, replacing [Dennis Stratton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Stratton). Following a short-lived solo project called [A.S.A.P](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASAP_(band)), he left Iron Maiden in 1990 and formed a group called [Psycho Motel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psycho_Motel). In 1997, Psycho Motel was put on hold and he joined the band of former Iron Maiden singer [Bruce Dickinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Dickinson). Smith and Dickinson returned to Iron Maiden in 1999, after which the band gained new success. Smith has a current side project called [Primal Rock Rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primal_Rock_Rebellion).

NICKO MCBRAIN:

Michael Henry "Nicko" McBrain (born 5 June 1952 in Hackney, London) is an English musician, best known as the drummer of the British heavy metal band [Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden), which he joined in 1982.

Having played in small pub bands from the age of 14, upon leaving school McBrain paid his bills with session work before he joined a variety of artists, such as [Streetwalkers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streetwalkers), [Pat Travers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Travers), and the French political band, [Trust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trust_(band)). He joined Iron Maiden in time to debut on their fourth album, [Piece of Mind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piece_of_Mind) (1983), and has remained with them since, contributing to a total of thirteen studio releases.

JANICK GERS:

Janick Robert Gers, born 27 January 1957, is an English musician, best known for being one of the three current guitarists in [Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden), along with [Dave Murray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Murray_(musician)) and [Adrian Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrian_Smith), as well as his earlier work with [Gillan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gillan_(band)) and [White Spirit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Spirit_(band)).

Janick Gers began his career as the lead guitarist of the [New Wave of British Heavy Metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Wave_of_British_Heavy_Metal) band [White Spirit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Spirit_(band)), before joining Gillan, a group formed by then-former [Deep Purple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_Purple) vocalist [Ian Gillan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Gillan). After Gillan disbanded, Gers undertook a Humanities degree before joining [Gogmagog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gogmagog_(band)" \o "Gogmagog (band)), which included former Iron Maiden vocalist [Paul Di'Anno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Di%27Anno) and drummer [Clive Burr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clive_Burr). The project came to nothing; however, Gers went on to work with[Marillion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marillion) vocalist [Fish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish_(singer)) before being asked to record a song called "[Bring Your Daughter... to the Slaughter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bring_Your_Daughter..._to_the_Slaughter)" with [Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden) vocalist [Bruce Dickinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Dickinson) for a soundtrack. The project expanded into an album, [Tattooed Millionaire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tattooed_Millionaire), and during its recording Gers was asked to join [Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden) in place of [Adrian Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrian_Smith). He has remained with the band ever since, even after Smith rejoined the band in 1999, contributing to a total of nine studio albums.

Gers' main influences are [Ritchie Blackmore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ritchie_Blackmore), [Jeff Beck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Beck) and Irish blues guitarist [Rory Gallagher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rory_Gallagher). He is noted for his energetic stage presence, which often involves performing tricks with his guitar, such as throwing it into the air and catching it. He is also left-handed although he plays guitar right-handed; he can be seen signing autographs with his left hand in the [Rock in Rio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_in_Rio_(album)) DVD.

He has two children with his wife Sandra, Sian and Dylan Gers,[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janick_Gers#cite_note-10) and lives in [Yarm, Teesside](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarm). His father, Bolesław, was an officer of the [Polish Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_Navy) before he came to England and joined the [Royal Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Navy). Gers is a fan of [Hartlepool United](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartlepool_United_F.C." \o "Hartlepool United F.C.) and often stands in the Millhouse Terrace at [Victoria Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Park_(Hartlepool)) on match-days. Gers is a graduate of the [English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Martyrs_School_and_Sixth_Form_College).

Gers had an uncredited part in the BBC drama [The Paradise Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Paradise_Club) in 1990, appearing as the lead guitarist of a band called Fraud Squad. He appeared in the 2010 fan-made Iron Maiden documentary Maiden Heaven.

BRUCE DICKINSON:

Paul Bruce Dickinson (born 7 August 1958), known professionally as Bruce Dickinson, is an English musician, airline pilot, and broadcaster. He is best known as the lead vocalist of the [heavy metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music) band [Iron Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden).

Born in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, Dickinson began his career in music fronting small pub bands in the 1970s while attending school in Sheffield and university in London. In 1979, he joined the [New Wave of British Heavy Metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Wave_of_British_Heavy_Metal) band [Samson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samson_(band)), with whom he gained some popularity under the stage name "Bruce Bruce" and performed on two studio records. He left Samson in 1981 to join Iron Maiden, replacing [Paul Di'Anno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Di%27Anno), and debuted on their 1982 album [The Number of the Beast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Number_of_the_Beast_(album)). During his first tenure in the band, they issued a series of US and UK platinum and gold albums in the 1980s, resulting in Dickinson gaining worldwide fame, and becoming one of the most acclaimed heavy metal vocalists of all time.

Dickinson quit Iron Maiden in 1993 (being replaced by [Blaze Bayley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaze_Bayley)) in order to pursue his solo career, which saw him experiment with a wide variety of heavy metal and [rock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_music) styles. He rejoined the band in 1999, along with guitarist [Adrian Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrian_Smith), with whom he has released five subsequent studio albums. Since his return to Iron Maiden, he issued one further solo record in 2005, [Tyranny of Souls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyranny_of_Souls). His younger cousin, [Rob Dickinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rob_Dickinson), is the former lead singer of British [alternative rock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternative_rock) band [Catherine Wheel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_Wheel), while his son, Austin, fronted the [metalcore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metalcore" \o "Metalcore) band [Rise to Remain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rise_to_Remain).

Outside his career in music, Dickinson is well known for his wide variety of other pursuits. Most notably, he undertook a career as a commercial pilot for [Astraeus Airlines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astraeus_Airlines), which led to a number of media-reported ventures such as captaining Iron Maiden's converted [Boeing 757](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_757) ([Ed Force One](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden#Ed_Force_One)) during their world tours. Following Astraeus' closure, he created his own aircraft maintenance and pilot training company in 2012, Cardiff Aviation. Dickinson presented his own radio show on [BBC Radio 6 Music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_Radio_6_Music) from 2002–2010, and has also hosted television documentaries, authored novels and film scripts, created a successful beer with [Robinsons Brewery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robinsons_Brewery) and competed at fencing internationally.