[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Pp-move](/wiki/Template:Pp-move) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox musical artist](/wiki/Template:Infobox_musical_artist)

**Brian Patrick Carroll** (born May 13, 1969), known professionally as **Buckethead**, is an American [guitarist](/wiki/Guitarist) and multi-instrumentalist who has worked within many genres of music. He has released 264 studio albums, four special releases and one EP. He has also performed on more than 50 other albums by other artists. His music spans such diverse areas as [progressive metal](/wiki/Progressive_metal), [funk](/wiki/Funk), [blues](/wiki/Blues), [jazz](/wiki/Jazz), [bluegrass](/wiki/Bluegrass_music), [ambient](/wiki/Ambient_music), and [avant-garde music](/wiki/Avant-garde_music).

Buckethead is famous for wearing a [KFC](/wiki/KFC) bucket on his head, emblazoned with an orange [bumper sticker](/wiki/Bumper_sticker) reading *FUNERAL* in capital black block letters, and an expressionless plain white mask, which, according to Buckethead, was inspired by his seeing [*Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers*](/wiki/Halloween_4:_The_Return_of_Michael_Myers).[[1]](#cite_note-1) At one point, he changed to a plain white bucket that no longer bore the KFC logo, but subsequently reverted to his trademark KFC bucket. He also incorporates [nunchaku](/wiki/Nunchaku) and [robot dancing](/wiki/Robot_(dance)) into his stage performances.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3)<ref name=mtv>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

As an instrumentalist, Buckethead has received critical acclaim for his [electric guitar](/wiki/Electric_guitar) playing, and is considered one of today's more innovative guitarists.[[4]](#cite_note-4) He has been voted number 8 on a list in *GuitarOne* magazine of the "Top 10 Fastest Guitar Shredders of All Time"[[5]](#cite_note-5) as well as being included in [*Guitar World*](/wiki/Guitar_World)[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') lists of the "25 all-time weirdest guitarists"[[6]](#cite_note-6) and the "50 fastest guitarists of all time".[[7]](#cite_note-7)He performs primarily as a solo artist, though he has collaborated extensively with a wide variety of high-profile artists such as [Bill Laswell](/wiki/Bill_Laswell), [Bootsy Collins](/wiki/Bootsy_Collins), [Bernie Worrell](/wiki/Bernie_Worrell), [Iggy Pop](/wiki/Iggy_Pop), [Les Claypool](/wiki/Les_Claypool), [Serj Tankian](/wiki/Serj_Tankian), [Bill Moseley](/wiki/Bill_Moseley), [Mike Patton](/wiki/Mike_Patton), [Viggo Mortensen](/wiki/Viggo_Mortensen), [That 1 Guy](/wiki/That_1_Guy), [Bassnectar](/wiki/Bassnectar), and was a member of [Guns N' Roses](/wiki/Guns_N'_Roses) from 2000 to 2004. Buckethead has also written and performed music for major motion pictures, including: [*Saw II*](/wiki/Saw_II_(soundtrack)), [*Ghosts of Mars*](/wiki/Ghosts_of_Mars), [*Beverly Hills Ninja*](/wiki/Beverly_Hills_Ninja#Music), [*Mortal Kombat*](/wiki/Mortal_Kombat_(soundtrack)), [*Mortal Kombat: Annihilation*](/wiki/Mortal_Kombat:_Annihilation_(soundtrack)), [*Last Action Hero*](/wiki/Last_Action_Hero_Official_Movie_Soundtrack), and contributed lead guitar to the track "Firebird" featured on the [*Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie* soundtrack](/wiki/Mighty_Morphin_Power_Rangers_The_Movie:_Original_Soundtrack_Album).

## Contents

* 1 Early life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 Career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 1988–94: Early solo career and Praxis[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 1995–99: Collaboration work, movie soundtracks and Praxis[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 2.3 2000–2004: Guns N' Roses and other projects[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.4 2005–06: Buckethead & Friends[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.5 2007–10: Continued solo work and Michael Jackson tribute[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.6 2010–13: Departure from all bands and projects, and early ''Pikes''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 2.7 2014–2015: 178 ''Pikes'' released[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

## Early life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[thumbnail|left|A young Carroll and his father. This is one of the very few photos of Buckethead unmasked.](/wiki/File:Pike_13.png) Carroll was born on May 13, 1969 to Tom and Nancy Carroll and is one of five siblings along with Lynn, Lisa, Lori, and John.[[8]](#cite_note-8) He grew up in a Southern California suburb not far from Disneyland. In his youth, he was a shy kid and spent most of his time in his room, which was filled with comic books, games, martial-arts movie memorabilia, and toys. He also spent a lot of time at Disneyland.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Brian began playing guitar at the age of 12. He had been quoted as saying, however, that he did not become serious until a year later when he moved from Huntington Beach, CA to Claremont, CA. His playing began improving by taking private lessons from various teachers at a local music store, Styles Music. His early teachers included Max McGuire, Johnny Fortune, Mark Hammond, Pebber Brown and [Paul Gilbert](/wiki/Paul_Gilbert). Buckethead played a tribute to all his early teachers when the Deli Creeps played a show at Styles Music's 25th anniversary. He then began making demo recordings of both his playing as well as his writing styles, which would later be released in 2007-2008.

The Buckethead persona came to be when Carroll saw the 1988 [horror movie](/wiki/Horror_movie) [*Halloween 4*](/wiki/Halloween_4:_The_Return_of_Michael_Myers) and was inspired by the film. He went right out after seeing it and bought a Michael Myers-like white mask. The bucket idea came later that night while eating Kentucky Fried Chicken:

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## Career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

### 1988–94: Early solo career and Praxis[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

In 1988 after leaving the band Class-X, Carroll entered a song called "Brazos" into a [*Guitar Player*](/wiki/Guitar_Player) magazine contest. It was a runner-up, with editors raving:

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In the same year, the magazine's editor, Jas Obrecht, came to know of Buckethead when Carroll and his parents left a demo recording at the magazine's reception desk for Obrecht. Impressed with this demo, he rushed into the restaurant where Buckethead and his parents were having lunch and encouraged him to make the most of his talent.[[9]](#cite_note-9) They soon became friends. In 1989 a song called "Soowee" by Buckethead got honorable mention in another song contest. In 1991, Buckethead moved into Obrecht's basement. The song "Brazos" was eventually released on the 1991 demo tape of his band [Deli Creeps](/wiki/Deli_Creeps), titled "Tribal Rites," and again as bonus material in Buckethead's [*Secret Recipe*](/wiki/Secret_Recipe_(Buckethead_DVD)) DVD in 2006. Luke Sacco was his teacher.

In 1991 Buckethead contributed to [Derek Bailey's](/wiki/Derek_Bailey_(guitarist)) [Company](/wiki/Company_(free_improvisation_group)) project alongside, among others, [John Zorn](/wiki/John_Zorn) and [Alexander Bălănescu](/wiki/Alexander_Bălănescu), resulting in a triple album called *Company 91*.

After his first two demo tapes, called *Giant Robot* and [*Bucketheadland Blueprints*](/wiki/Bucketheadland_Blueprints), Buckethead released [*Bucketheadland*](/wiki/Bucketheadland) on [John Zorn's](/wiki/John_Zorn) Japanese Avant record label in 1992. Though available only as a pricey import, the record received positive reviews and earned some attention. At about this time, Buckethead fell into the orbit of prolific bassist/producer [Bill Laswell](/wiki/Bill_Laswell), himself an occasional Zorn collaborator; Buckethead (as a performer, producer, or composer) was introduced to Laswell with the help of Limbomaniacs drummer [Bryan "Brain" Mantia](/wiki/Bryan_Mantia), who gave Laswell a video of Buckethead playing in his room.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Buckethead soon became Laswell's second staple guitar player, besides [Nicky Skopelitis](/wiki/Nicky_Skopelitis).

In 1992, Buckethead, with Bill Laswell, [Bernie Worrell](/wiki/Bernie_Worrell), [Bootsy Collins](/wiki/Bootsy_Collins), and [Bryan "Brain" Mantia](/wiki/Bryan_Mantia), formed the [supergroup](/wiki/Supergroup_(music)) [Praxis](/wiki/Praxis_(band)). Their first album, [*Transmutation (Mutatis Mutandis)*](/wiki/Transmutation_(Mutatis_Mutandis)), released the same year, was well received. The project was Bill Laswell's concept, and has since involved other guests such as [Serj Tankian](/wiki/Serj_Tankian) of [System of a Down](/wiki/System_of_a_Down), among many others. Buckethead did participate in all releases except the initial [*1984*](/wiki/1984_(Praxis_album)) release and [*Mold*](/wiki/Mold_(Praxis_album)) (1998).

In 1993, Buckethead auditioned to play for the [Red Hot Chili Peppers](/wiki/Red_Hot_Chili_Peppers). The band eventually ended up with [Arik Marshall](/wiki/Arik_Marshall).[[11]](#cite_note-11) and later [Dave Navarro](/wiki/Dave_Navarro). After some legal complications with [Sony Music Entertainment](/wiki/Sony_Music_Entertainment), Buckethead decided to release his 1994 album [*Dreamatorium*](/wiki/Dreamatorium) under the name of **Death Cube K** (an [anagram](/wiki/Anagram)).

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Buckethead released a second studio album, that year [*Giant Robot*](/wiki/Giant_Robot_(Buckethead_album)), which features many guest appearances by artists such as [Iggy Pop](/wiki/Iggy_Pop) and [Bill Moseley](/wiki/Bill_Moseley). The name of the album came from the Japanese series [*Johnny Sokko and his Flying Robot*](/wiki/Giant_Robo_(tokusatsu)), of which Buckethead is a fan.[[12]](#cite_note-12) He also released two other albums with [Praxis](/wiki/Praxis_(band)), their second and third studio efforts: [*Sacrifist*](/wiki/Sacrifist) and [*Metatron*](/wiki/Metatron_(Praxis_album)).

### 1995–99: Collaboration work, movie soundtracks and Praxis[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

In 1995, Buckethead did not release any solo albums but collaborated with several artists like [Jonas Hellborg](/wiki/Jonas_Hellborg) and [Michael Shrieve](/wiki/Michael_Shrieve) ([*Octave of the Holy Innocents*](/wiki/Octave_of_the_Holy_Innocents)). He also contributed to several movie soundtracks, such as [*Johnny Mnemonic*](/wiki/Johnny_Mnemonic_(film)) and [*Mortal Kombat*](/wiki/Mortal_Kombat_(soundtrack)).

Later, in 1996, Buckethead released his solo album [*The Day of the Robot*](/wiki/The_Day_of_the_Robot) with the help of English producer *DJ Ninj* and Laswell, plus another album with [Brain](/wiki/Bryan_Mantia) and keyboardist [Pete Scaturro](/wiki/Pete_Scaturro) on the small Japanese label NTT Records, called [*Giant Robot*](/wiki/Giant_Robot_(Giant_Robot_album)). Both albums were printed only in small quantities and are collectors' items now. A second demo tape by the [Deli Creeps](/wiki/Deli_Creeps) was also recorded.

Also in 1996 several Sega Saturn television ads featuring a screaming mask-like face pressing through the blue orb of the Saturn logo was released, with music by Buckethead.

In 1997, Buckethead began working on the album *Buckethead Plays Disney*, but the album has not yet been released. According to his Web page:

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Also in 1997, Buckethead continued to contribute to movie soundtracks, appearing on [*Beverly Hills Ninja*](/wiki/Beverly_Hills_Ninja#Music) and [*Mortal Kombat: Annihilation*](/wiki/Mortal_Kombat:_Annihilation_(soundtrack)), the sequel to *Mortal Kombat*.

Further releases were [Arcana's](/wiki/Arcana_(jazz_band)) second and final studio album [*Arc of the Testimony*](/wiki/Arc_of_the_Testimony) and the one-off project [*Pieces*](/wiki/Pieces_(band)), with [Brain](/wiki/Bryan_Mantia). Two live albums by Praxis, called [*Transmutation Live*](/wiki/Transmutation_Live) and [*Live in Poland*](/wiki/Live_in_Poland_(Praxis_album)) (featuring recordings from European concerts) were also issued.

Death Cube K released an album that year called [*Disembodied*](/wiki/Disembodied_(Buckethead_album)).

In 1998, Buckethead released [*Colma*](/wiki/Colma_(album)), an album dedicated to his mother, who at the time was suffering from [colon cancer](/wiki/Colon_cancer).[[13]](#cite_note-13) The same year saw a compilation album by Praxis called [*Collection*](/wiki/Collection_(Praxis_album)).

In 1999, Buckethead released his fifth album, a collaboration with [Les Claypool](/wiki/Les_Claypool) from the band [Primus](/wiki/Primus_(band)), titled [*Monsters and Robots*](/wiki/Monsters_and_Robots) — currently the best-selling album of his career. This album includes the song "[The Ballad of Buckethead](/wiki/The_Ballad_of_Buckethead)," for which his first music video ever was made.[[14]](#cite_note-14)Buckethead began three new projects that year. the first being the band [Cornbugs](/wiki/Cornbugs), a collaboration with actor [Bill Moseley](/wiki/Bill_Moseley), drummer [Pinchface](/wiki/Pinchface), and later keyboardist [Travis Dickerson](/wiki/Travis_Dickerson). Another project, **Cobra Strike** with an album called **The 13th Scroll**, featured Pinchface, [Bryan "Brain" Mantia](/wiki/Bryan_%22Brain%22_Mantia), [DJ Disk](/wiki/DJ_Disk), and [Bill Laswell](/wiki/Bill_Laswell). Buckethead also began a collaboration with actor [Viggo Mortensen](/wiki/Viggo_Mortensen), whom he first met through a recording project called *Myth: Dreams of the World*[[15]](#cite_note-15) in 1996. Together they released [*One Man's Meat*](/wiki/One_Man's_Meat_(Viggo_Mortensen)), [*One Less Thing to Worry About*](/wiki/One_Less_Thing_to_Worry_About), and [*The Other Parade*](/wiki/The_Other_Parade).

### 2000–2004: Guns N' Roses and other projects[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

Buckethead achieved a higher public profile as lead guitarist for [Guns N' Roses](/wiki/Guns_N'_Roses) from 2000 to 2004.[[16]](#cite_note-16) He recorded the often-delayed album [*Chinese Democracy*](/wiki/Chinese_Democracy) with the band and appeared live on stage in 2001 and 2002, including [*Rock in Rio 3*](/wiki/Rock_in_Rio_3), [MTV's](/wiki/MTV) [*Video Music Awards*](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Awards#2000s), and parts of the [Chinese Democracy Tour](/wiki/Chinese_Democracy_Tour).

Despite being a member of GN'R, Buckethead released his sixth studio album, called [*Somewhere Over the Slaughterhouse*](/wiki/Somewhere_Over_the_Slaughterhouse) in 2001, and also his only [EP](/wiki/Extended_play), called [*KFC Skin Piles*](/wiki/KFC_Skin_Piles). He also released two albums with his band [Cornbugs](/wiki/Cornbugs), and a [third](/wiki/Tunnel_(album)) under his 'Death Cube K' pseudonym. In 2000, Buckethead released the second and last album by **Cobra Strike**, called [*Cobra Strike II - Y, Y+B, X+Y*](/wiki/Cobra_Strike_II_-_Y,_Y+B,_X+Y). He joined two new projects, the first being [Thanatopsis](/wiki/Thanatopsis_(band)), with Dickerson, releasing [a self-titled](/wiki/Thanatopsis_(album)) debut album; the other one with Laswell and Japanese producer [Shin Terai](/wiki/Shin_Terai), released as [*Unison*](/wiki/Unison_(Shin_Terai_album)).

In 2002, Buckethead released three studio albums: [*Funnel Weaver*](/wiki/Funnel_Weaver_(album)), a collection of 49 short tracks, [*Bermuda Triangle*](/wiki/Bermuda_Triangle_(album)), and finally, [*Electric Tears*](/wiki/Electric_Tears), a calming album that is similar to his earlier release, *Colma*. When Laswell was not able to play with Praxis at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts festival, Les Claypool asked to jam with Brain, Bernie Worrell, and Buckethead, forming a new [supergroup](/wiki/Supergroup_(music)) called [Colonel Claypool's Bucket of Bernie Brains](/wiki/Colonel_Claypool's_Bucket_of_Bernie_Brains). The [jamband](/wiki/Jamband) experiment was successful enough to do some further live dates.

Later, in 2003, marking the release of his tenth studio album, Buckethead released the sequel of his debut [*Bucketheadland*](/wiki/Bucketheadland), simply called [*Bucketheadland 2*](/wiki/Bucketheadland_2). Together with actor [Viggo Mortensen](/wiki/Viggo_Mortensen), he did [*Pandemoniumfromamerica*](/wiki/Pandemoniumfromamerica), and with [Thanatopsis](/wiki/Thanatopsis_(band)), its second release, called [*Axiology*](/wiki/Axiology_(album)).

Buckethead's relationship with Guns N' Roses was somewhat erratic in its last year, despite contractual obligations. According to an interview with Rose, he seemingly 'left' the band in early 2004 without telling anyone, and 'rejoined' in a similar manner in February. "His transient lifestyle has made it impossible for even his closest friends to have nearly any form of communication with him whatsoever."[[17]](#cite_note-17) In March 2004 Buckethead left Guns N' Roses. His manager cited Guns' inability to complete an album or tour.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Since that time, his [cult following](/wiki/Cult_following) in the [underground music](/wiki/Underground_music) communities has steadily increased. He frequently performs at festivals and in clubs nationwide and often tours as the feature performer.[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20) The year 2004 saw the release of three new studio albums: [*Island of Lost Minds*](/wiki/Island_of_Lost_Minds), which was his first tour-only album being later re-released by [TDRS Music](/wiki/TDRS_Music) [*Population Override*](/wiki/Population_Override), a blues-rock tour de force with Dickerson; and [*The Cuckoo Clocks of Hell*](/wiki/The_Cuckoo_Clocks_of_Hell), considered his heaviest effort to date. The latter includes "[Spokes for the Wheel of Torment](/wiki/Spokes_for_the_Wheel_of_Torment)," for which Syd Garon and Eric Henry made a music video based on the famous [triptychs](/wiki/Triptych) by [Hieronymus Bosch](/wiki/Hieronymus_Bosch). Buckethead also recorded the final two albums by the [Cornbugs](/wiki/Cornbugs), [*Brain Circus*](/wiki/Brain_Circus) and [*Donkey Town*](/wiki/Donkey_Town_(album)) as well as another release with [Viggo Mortensen](/wiki/Viggo_Mortensen) called [*Please Tomorrow*](/wiki/Please_Tomorrow) and a second with [Shin Terai](/wiki/Shin_Terai), titled [*Heaven & Hell*](/wiki/Heaven_&_Hell_(Shin_Terai_album)). [C2B3](/wiki/C2B3) also released their only album, [*The Big Eyeball in the Sky*](/wiki/The_Big_Eyeball_in_the_Sky), and toured it in North America.

In an interview with [*Revolver*](/wiki/Revolver_(magazine)), [Ozzy Osbourne](/wiki/Ozzy_Osbourne) stated that he had offered to have Buckethead play guitar in his band at [Ozzfest](/wiki/Ozzfest), but changed his mind after meeting with him and realizing that Buckethead would not remove his costume to be accepted by Ozzy: [Template:Quote box](/wiki/Template:Quote_box)

### 2005–06: Buckethead & Friends[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumbnail|Buckethead and *That 1 Guy*, performing as *The Frankenstein Brothers* in 2006.](/wiki/File:Belly_up_2006_with_that_1_guy.jpg) In 2005, Buckethead released the album [*Enter the Chicken*](/wiki/Enter_the_Chicken) through [Serj Tankian's](/wiki/Serj_Tankian) record label, [Serjical Strike](/wiki/Serjical_Strike). The album features Tankian himself, [Maximum Bob](/wiki/Maximum_Bob_(singer)) (of the [Deli Creeps](/wiki/Deli_Creeps)), [Death by Stereo](/wiki/Death_by_Stereo) singer [Efrem Shulz](/wiki/Efrem_Shulz), [Bad Acid Trip](/wiki/Bad_Acid_Trip) and others.[[21]](#cite_note-21) It is marked by its leaning toward more traditional song structures while still featuring typical Buckethead guitar skills. "[We Are One](/wiki/We_Are_One_(Buckethead_song))" was released as a single and also appeared on the soundtrack of [*Masters of Horror*](/wiki/Masters_of_Horror_(soundtrack)). "[Three Fingers](/wiki/Enter_the_Chicken#Three_Fingers)" was used for the soundtrack of the horror movie [*Saw II*](/wiki/Saw_II). The final track, "Nottingham Lace," was first made public via his home page and soon became a concert staple and one of his most popular songs. Buckethead also released two further solo albums in 2005, [*Kaleidoscalp*](/wiki/Kaleidoscalp) and [*Inbred Mountain*](/wiki/Inbred_Mountain) — the latter being the first album as a solo artist released on the label [TDRS Music](/wiki/TDRS_Music). Both albums originally were sold exclusively at concerts and only later got an official release through the label's website.

Buckethead released albums with other bands that year: with [Cornbugs](/wiki/Cornbugs), he released two compilation albums, called [*Rest Home for Robots*](/wiki/Rest_Home_for_Robots) and [*Skeleton Farm*](/wiki/Skeleton_Farm). Gorgone's [*self titled album*](/wiki/Gorgone_(album)) was released that year' itself based upon recording sessions from the album [*Population Override*](/wiki/Population_Override) that Buckethead released in 2004.

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In 2006 the cross-console video game [*Guitar Hero II*](/wiki/Guitar_Hero_II) was launched, featuring Buckethead's song "[Jordan](/wiki/Jordan_(song))" as an unlockable bonus track. Although the song has been performed live in the past, the video game version is the only known studio recording of the song. When playing it live, Buckethead would almost always simply perform the verse and chorus of "Jordan" before transitioning into the next song. However, the *Guitar Hero II* version contains a special solo created specifically for the game.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Also the same year, Buckethead released two DVDs, titled [*Young Buckethead Vol. 1*](/wiki/Young_Buckethead_Vol._1) and [*Young Buckethead Vol. 2*](/wiki/Young_Buckethead_Vol._2), featuring rare footage from 1990 and 1991. The DVD also contains three complete [Deli Creeps](/wiki/Deli_Creeps) shows, a sound check, backstage footage, and solo footage of just Buckethead. He also released the albums [*The Elephant Man's Alarm Clock*](/wiki/The_Elephant_Man's_Alarm_Clock) and [*Crime Slunk Scene*](/wiki/Crime_Slunk_Scene), both sold on his tours but later sold on the [TDRS Music](/wiki/TDRS_Music) website. The last album has the song "Soothsayer (Dedicated to Aunt Suzie)"; this song (along with "Jordan" and "Nottingham Lace") is one of his most popular songs and is often played live. Buckethead released his final compilation album with the band [Cornbugs](/wiki/Cornbugs), called [*Celebrity Psychos*](/wiki/Celebrity_Psychos). He also released an album with [Travis Dickerson](/wiki/Travis_Dickerson), called [*Chicken Noodles*](/wiki/Chicken_Noodles), a move that would see the start of a four-year long collaboration with the keyboardist. Buckethead's band [Thanatopsis](/wiki/Thanatopsis_(band)) would also release [*Anatomize*](/wiki/Anatomize) that year.

### 2007–10: Continued solo work and Michael Jackson tribute[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[left|thumb|190px|The massive](/wiki/File:Insearchofthe910.JPG) [*In Search of The*](/wiki/In_Search_of_The) box set, a set of 13 albums by Buckethead, along with each copy's cover being hand-drawn differently.

In 2007, Buckethead released an unprecedented amount of new material. In February, a box set titled [*In Search of The*](/wiki/In_Search_of_The), containing 13 albums of original material, was released. It was handcrafted, numbered, and monogrammed by Buckethead and contained over nine hours of music. A regular solo album, called [*Pepper's Ghost*](/wiki/Pepper's_Ghost_(Buckethead_album)), was released in March. A disc of acoustic improvisations called [*Acoustic Shards*](/wiki/Acoustic_Shards) was also released, becoming the twentieth studio album that the artist had released so far in his solo career. In midyear, he reissued his demo tape [*Bucketheadland Blueprints*](/wiki/Bucketheadland_Blueprints), with two alternative album covers: a special edition with a hand-drawn cover made by him, or a standard edition with the original cover art. In October, he released his final two albums of the year, called [*Decoding the Tomb of Bansheebot*](/wiki/Decoding_the_Tomb_of_Bansheebot) and [*Cyborg Slunks*](/wiki/Cyborg_Slunks). The latter again came in both a hand-drawn limited edition and (some weeks later) as a normal CD.

As *Death Cube K*, Buckethead released two albums in 2007: an album called [DCK](/wiki/DCK_(Buckethead_album)), limited to 400 hand-numbered copies and released in August; and in December, the 5-CD box set [*Monolith*](/wiki/Monolith_(Death_Cube_K_album)), which consisted of one unbroken track per CD.[[23]](#cite_note-23) During 2007, Buckethead also collaborated and appeared on numerous albums with other artists. The sequel to [*Chicken Noodles*](/wiki/Chicken_Noodles) (a collaboration with [Travis Dickerson](/wiki/Travis_Dickerson)), simply called [*Chicken Noodles II*](/wiki/Chicken_Noodles_II), was issued by TDRS in December.[[24]](#cite_note-24) A live record by [Praxis](/wiki/Praxis_(band)), titled [*Tennessee 2004*](/wiki/Tennessee_2004); the third album with [Shin Terai](/wiki/Shin_Terai), called [*Lightyears*](/wiki/Lightyears_(Shin_Terai_album)); and another album with drummer [Bryan Mantia](/wiki/Bryan_Mantia), called [*Kevin's Noodle House*](/wiki/Kevin's_Noodle_House), were also released through the year.

That same year, it was revealed that Buckethead joined a project by the name of [Science Faxtion](/wiki/Science_Faxtion), a band featuring bassist [Bootsy Collins](/wiki/Bootsy_Collins) and drummer [Bryan "Brain" Mantia](/wiki/Bryan_Mantia), with [Greg Hampton](/wiki/Greg_Hampton) supplying lead vocals. Their first album, called [*Living on Another Frequency*](/wiki/Living_on_Another_Frequency), was delayed several times and was finally released in November 2008. [thumbnail|right|Buckethead live at](/wiki/File:Wakarusa_2008.jpg) [Wakarusa](/wiki/Wakarusa_Music_and_Camping_Festival), 2008 On January 1, 2008, the band [Praxis](/wiki/Praxis_(band)) released the long-awaited album [*Profanation (Preparation for a Coming Darkness)*](/wiki/Profanation_(Preparation_for_a_Coming_Darkness)) in Japan. The album had actually been recorded in 2005, but had to be put on hold when the original label went bankrupt. That year Buckethead released [*From the Coop*](/wiki/From_the_Coop) through the label Avabella (where he released *Acoustic Shards*), consisting of the demos Buckethead gave to Jas Obrecht back in 1988. This CD also included the first ever "official" biography of/by the artist. Later that same year, he announced the release of the album called [*Albino Slug*](/wiki/Albino_Slug) (a tour-only CD until official release on December of the same year). Along with this album, he appeared on the album [*The Dragons of Eden*](/wiki/The_Dragons_of_Eden_(album)), with Dickerson and Mantia, and in collaboration with [That 1 Guy](/wiki/That_1_Guy) as the *Frankenstein Brothers*, an album called [*Bolt on Neck*](/wiki/Bolt_on_Neck) was released. [That 1 Guy](/wiki/That_1_Guy) and Buckethead toured together through fall 2008, playing songs from this album.

Buckethead also appeared in the [documentary](/wiki/Documentary_film) [*American Music: Off the Record*](/wiki/American_Music:_Off_the_Record), in which he appears only playing.[[25]](#cite_note-25) [Serj Tankian's](/wiki/Serj_Tankian) label, [Serjical Strike](/wiki/Serjical_Strike), reissued the album [*Enter the Chicken*](/wiki/Enter_the_Chicken) with an extra song. Furthermore, Buckethead contributed to one track of actor [Viggo Mortensen's](/wiki/Viggo_Mortensen) album [*At All*](/wiki/At_All), and with Travis Dickerson and filmmaker Alix Lambert on the album [*Running After Deer*](/wiki/Running_After_Deer).

Buckethead appeared with [Bootsy Collins](/wiki/Bootsy_Collins) in [Cincinnati](/wiki/Cincinnati), [Ohio](/wiki/Ohio), to promote the vote for the [United States presidential election, 2008](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2008) for the organization [Rock the Vote](/wiki/Rock_the_Vote).[[26]](#cite_note-26)He also joined Collins on *Fallen Soldiers Memorial*, an album with proceeds going to the *National Fallen Heroes Foundation*.[[27]](#cite_note-27) More than four years after his departure from the band [Guns N' Roses](/wiki/Guns_N'_Roses), [*Chinese Democracy*](/wiki/Chinese_Democracy) was made available. Buckethead appears on all but two songs and was given writing credits on "Shackler's Revenge" (which appeared in the popular video game [*Rock Band 2*](/wiki/Rock_Band_2)); "Scraped"; and "Sorry," which features guest singer [Sebastian Bach](/wiki/Sebastian_Bach). The album features eleven of Buckethead's guitar solos.

On December 30, 2008, Buckethead released two new tracks via his website to honor the 24th birthday of basketball player [LeBron James](/wiki/LeBron_James).[[28]](#cite_note-28)[[29]](#cite_note-29) These tracks were later made available on the album, [*Slaughterhouse on the Prairie*](/wiki/Slaughterhouse_on_the_Prairie), which was released a month later through [TDRS Music](/wiki/TDRS_Music). In 2009 he released the albums [*A Real Diamond in the Rough*](/wiki/A_Real_Diamond_in_the_Rough), and [*Forensic Follies*](/wiki/Forensic_Follies), which was first sold at some of his tour dates but later released on TDRS. That year he also released the track [*The Homing Beacon*](/wiki/The_Homing_Beacon), a tribute to [Michael Jackson](/wiki/Michael_Jackson), who had been an early influence on him. The song was later included on his 2012 album [*Electric Sea*](/wiki/Electric_Sea_(album)).

On February 5, 2010, Buckethead released an album called [*Shadows Between the Sky*](/wiki/Shadows_Between_the_Sky) and later that month, [Gibson](/wiki/Gibson_Guitar_Corporation) released the Buckethead Signature [Les Paul](/wiki/Gibson_Les_Paul).[[30]](#cite_note-30) On April 29, 2010, Buckethead's website was updated[[31]](#cite_note-31) with a picture with the message "Greetings from Bucketheadland... Buckethead wants you to know he appreciates your support all these years, it means so much to him. Buckethead is having some animatronic parts replaced, Slip Disc snuck into the park and caused some mayhem." The mention of Slip Disc is a reference to a Bucketheadland nemesis found on the [*Bucketheadland*](/wiki/Bucketheadland) album. Bootsy Collins continued to update his Twitter Web site about Buckethead's condition, stating that he had recently gone into therapy for a few months.

Nevertheless, after return from injury, on July 15, 2010, Buckethead, along with Brain and Melissa Reese, has released the first volume out of three 5-CD box sets called [*Best Regards*](/wiki/Best_Regards_(Buckethead_album)). On August 25, 2010, Buckethead announced his 28th studio album titled [*Spinal Clock*](/wiki/Spinal_Clock), which showcases his banjo skills. In October, two albums in collaboration with Brain were released, the first called [*Brain as Hamenoodle*](/wiki/Brain_as_Hamenoodle), and the second installment of the "Regards" series with Brain and Melissa Reese called, [*Kind Regards*](/wiki/Kind_Regards_(album)). Eventually, both projects were released on October 13. That month also saw a new solo album entitled [*Captain EO's Voyage*](/wiki/Captain_EO's_Voyage) first available only on [iTunes](/wiki/ITunes). It was later announced that a physical edition will be released on December 1.[[32]](#cite_note-32) This, along with Buckethead's final Travis Dickerson album were released on November 29.[[33]](#cite_note-33)

### 2010–13: Departure from all bands and projects, and early ''Pikes''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumbnail|right|Buckethead live in Syracuse, 2011](/wiki/File:Buckethead_Syracuse.jpg)

After his 2010 departure from Travis Dickerson's project, Buckethead left Praxis in 2011, the Frankenstein Brothers in 2012, and Brain in 2013. He contributed to two tracks on [Lawson Rollins's](/wiki/Lawson_Rollins) album *Elevation* in 2011.[[34]](#cite_note-34) He contributed two tracks to [Viggo Mortensen's](/wiki/Viggo_Mortensen) album *Acá* in 2013; his last work outside of his solo career to date. He also departed from his live touring schedule, with his final performance taking place on December 31, 2012.[[35]](#cite_note-35) During his absence from touring and other projects, Buckethead's solo release schedule increased speed dramatically. Throughout 2013 he released a further thirty-one albums, followed by another sixty in 2014.

In May 2010, Buckethead started to release albums under the concept of a kiosk within Buckethead's fictional "abusement" park called "Buckethead Pikes". The albums released within this concept were to resemble a comic book style and be shorter in length than his previous works at around half an hour in length. Under this concept, Buckethead released *It's Alive* and quickly followed this with a second album entitled [*Empty Space*](/wiki/Empty_Space_(Buckethead_album)). With the exception of 2012's [*Electric Sea*](/wiki/Electric_Sea_(album)), all solo releases since 2011 have been made as part of the Pikes series.

On August 17, Buckethead released the next three installments of the Pikes series. The first one was the regular edition of the previously "Untitled" album released on 2010 now titled [*3 Foot Clearance*](/wiki/3_Foot_Clearance). The other two albums were titled [*Underground Chamber*](/wiki/Underground_Chamber) and [*Look Up There*](/wiki/Look_Up_There), which became the fourth and fifth installments of the Pikes series.

The first twelve Pikes of 2013 were originally released as limited edition, untitled albums with hand drawn covers and signed by Buckethead himself. The albums were only recognizable by their designation within the Pikes chronology at the moment of their announcement. Notably, the cover of *Pike 13* contains a photograph of Buckethead unmasked; the first such image released to the public. The cover of *Pike 13* does not feature the common elements of the Pikes series, and is simply a photograph of Buckethead during his teenage years, carrying an acoustic guitar and hugging a man assumed to be his father. The release of the picture came at a time when Buckethead's father had been sick for a few months. Buckethead continued released albums throughout the year, breaking the numerical order occasionally. Notably, Pike 34 *Pikes* was released some three weeks after Pike 35 [*Thank you Ohlinger's*](/wiki/Thank_you_Ohlinger's). The final album of the year [*Wishes*](/wiki/Wishes_(Buckethead_album)) was released on December 24, free of charge for a limited time.

### 2014–2015: 178 ''Pikes'' released[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Bar graph](/wiki/Template:Bar_graph)

During 2014 Buckethead continued releasing albums at an even faster pace. Sixty albums were released throughout the year (a rough average of one every six days). On June 26, the sixty-fifth installment in the series entitled [*Hold Me Forever (In memory of my mom Nancy York Carroll)*](/wiki/Hold_Me_Forever_(In_memory_of_my_mom_Nancy_York_Carroll)) was released to honor the death of Buckethead's mother. The final release of the year took place on December 31, Pike 101 entitled *In the Hollow Hills*.

Buckethead's release schedule increased in speed again over 2015. One hundred and eighteen albums were released throughout the year (a rough average of one every three days). Pike 119 was initially released as a limited edition CD only but then was also released as a download edition on May 9.[[36]](#cite_note-36)Pikes 130 and 131 represent a two-part album entitled *Down in the Bayou*, with part one and two released in reverse order.[[37]](#cite_note-37) His 180th release and 150th album in the series, *Heaven is your Home (For my Father, Thomas Manley Carroll)*, was released for free on [Father's Day](/wiki/June_21) and in dedication to his late father.

That October, Buckethead released one album per day, starting with Pike 176, *31 Days Til Halloween: Visitor From The Mirror*. Each subsequent album continued the countdown to Halloween.[[38]](#cite_note-38) The ninth album in this countdown series, *22 Days Til Halloween: I Got This Costume From The Sears Catalog*, was released as a free digital download.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The countdown ended on October 31 with *Happy Halloween: Silver Shamrock*,[[40]](#cite_note-40)