[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox musical artist](/wiki/Template:Infobox_musical_artist) **Gorillaz** are an English [virtual band](/wiki/Virtual_band) created in 1998 by [Damon Albarn](/wiki/Damon_Albarn) and [Jamie Hewlett](/wiki/Jamie_Hewlett). The band consists of four animated members: [2D](/wiki/2D_(musician)) (lead vocals, keyboard), [Murdoc Niccals](/wiki/Murdoc_Niccals) (bass guitar, vocals), [Noodle](/wiki/Noodle_(Gorillaz)) (guitar, keyboard, and backing vocals) and [Russel Hobbs](/wiki/Russel_Hobbs) (drums and percussion). These members are completely fictional and are not personas of any "real life" musicians involved in the project.<ref name=Elliot>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Their fictional universe is explored through the band's website and music videos, as well as a number of other media, such as short cartoons. The music is a collaboration between various musicians, with Albarn being the only permanent musical contributor. Writers and critics have described their music as [alternative rock](/wiki/Alternative_rock),[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Britpop](/wiki/Britpop),[[2]](#cite_note-2) [trip hop](/wiki/Trip_hop),[[3]](#cite_note-3) [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music),[[4]](#cite_note-4) [electronica](/wiki/Electronica), [indie](/wiki/Indie_rock), [dub](/wiki/Dub_music), [reggae](/wiki/Reggae) and [pop](/wiki/Pop_music).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) The band's 2001 debut album [*Gorillaz*](/wiki/Gorillaz_(album)) sold over seven million copies and earned them an entry in the [*Guinness Book of World Records*](/wiki/Guinness_Book_of_World_Records) as the Most Successful Virtual Band.[[7]](#cite_note-7) It was nominated for the [Mercury Prize](/wiki/Mercury_Prize) in 2001, but the nomination was later withdrawn at the band's request.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Their second studio album, [*Demon Days*](/wiki/Demon_Days), released in 2005, went five times platinum in the UK,[[9]](#cite_note-9) [double platinum](/wiki/Music_recording_sales_certification) in the US,[[10]](#cite_note-10) earned five [Grammy Award](/wiki/Grammy_Award) nominations for 2006[[11]](#cite_note-11) and won one of them in the [Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals](/wiki/Best_Pop_Collaboration_with_Vocals) category.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The band [has won numerous other awards](/wiki/List_of_awards_and_nominations_received_by_Gorillaz), including two [MTV Video Music Awards](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Awards), an [NME Award](/wiki/NME_Award), three [MTV Europe Music Awards](/wiki/MTV_Europe_Music_Awards), and have been nominated for nine [Brit Awards](/wiki/Brit_Award).[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14) The combined sales of the *Gorillaz* and *Demon Days* albums had exceeded 15 million by 2007.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The band's third studio album, [*Plastic Beach*](/wiki/Plastic_Beach), was released in March 2010. Their latest album, [*The Fall*](/wiki/The_Fall_(Gorillaz_album)), was released in December 2010 as a free download for fan club members, then in April 2011 as a physical release. Gorillaz plan to release new material in 2017.[[16]](#cite_note-16)

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

### Formation and early years (1990–99)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Damon_Albarn_live29.07.2013_in_Rome_4.JPG)[Damon Albarn](/wiki/Damon_Albarn), co-creator of Gorillaz [Damon Albarn](/wiki/Damon_Albarn) and [Jamie Hewlett](/wiki/Jamie_Hewlett) first met in 1990 when [Graham Coxon](/wiki/Graham_Coxon), a fan of Hewlett's work, asked him to interview [Blur](/wiki/Blur_(band)), which was a band both Albarn and Coxon had only recently formed.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The interview was published in [Deadline magazine](/wiki/Deadline_(magazine)), home of Hewlett's comic strip, [*Tank Girl*](/wiki/Tank_Girl). Hewlett initially thought Albarn was "arsey, a wanker" and despite becoming one of the band's acquaintances, Hewlett often didn't get along with its members, especially after he started going out with Coxon's ex-girlfriend, Jane Olliver.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Despite this, Albarn and Hewlett started sharing a flat on [Westbourne Grove](/wiki/Westbourne_Grove) in London in 1997.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Hewlett had recently broken up with Olliver and Albarn was also at the end of his highly publicised relationship with [Justine Frischmann](/wiki/Justine_Frischmann) of [Elastica](/wiki/Elastica).[[17]](#cite_note-17) The idea to create Gorillaz came about when the two were watching [MTV](/wiki/MTV). Hewlett said, "If you watch MTV for too long, it's a bit like hell – there's nothing of substance there. So we got this idea for a cartoon band, something that would be a comment on that."[[19]](#cite_note-19) The band originally identified themselves as "Gorilla" and the first song they recorded was "Ghost Train"[[20]](#cite_note-20) which was later released as a [B-side](/wiki/B-side) on their single "[Rock the House](/wiki/Rock_the_House_(Gorillaz_song))" and the B-side compilation [*G Sides*](/wiki/G_Sides). The musicians behind Gorillaz' first incarnation included Albarn, [Del the Funky Homosapien](/wiki/Del_the_Funky_Homosapien), [Dan the Automator](/wiki/Dan_the_Automator) and [Kid Koala](/wiki/Kid_Koala), who had previously worked together on the track "Time Keeps on Slipping" for [Deltron 3030's](/wiki/Deltron_3030) [eponymous debut album](/wiki/Deltron_3030_(album)).[[21]](#cite_note-21) Although not released under the Gorillaz name, Albarn has said that 'one of the first ever Gorillaz tunes' was [Blur's](/wiki/Blur_(band)) 1997 single "[On Your Own](/wiki/On_Your_Own_(Blur_song))", which was released for their self-titled studio album [*Blur*](/wiki/Blur_(Blur_album)).[[22]](#cite_note-22)

### ''Phase One: Celebrity Take Down'' (2000–03)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Listen](/wiki/Template:Listen) The band's first release was the [EP](/wiki/Extended_play) [*Tomorrow Comes Today*](/wiki/Tomorrow_Comes_Today), released in 2000. The band's first [single](/wiki/Single_(music)) was "[Clint Eastwood](/wiki/Clint_Eastwood_(song))" and was released on 5 March 2001, reaching No. 4 in the UK.[[23]](#cite_note-23) It was produced by [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music) producer [Dan the Automator](/wiki/Dan_the_Automator) and originally featured Luton-based rap group [Phi Life Cypher](/wiki/Phi_Life_Cypher), but the version that appears on the album features American rapper [Del the Funky Homosapien](/wiki/Del_the_Funky_Homosapien),[[24]](#cite_note-24) known on the album as *Del tha' Ghost Rapper*, a spirit in the band's drummer [Russel Hobbs](/wiki/Russel_Hobbs).[[25]](#cite_note-25) The [Phi Life Cypher](/wiki/Phi_Life_Cypher) version of "Clint Eastwood" appears on the B-side album [*G Sides*](/wiki/G_Sides). Later that same month, their first full-length album, the [self-titled](/wiki/Eponym) [*Gorillaz*](/wiki/Gorillaz_(album)), was released, producing four singles: "Clint Eastwood", "[19-2000](/wiki/19-2000)", "[Tomorrow Comes Today](/wiki/Tomorrow_Comes_Today_(single))", and "[Rock the House](/wiki/Rock_the_House_(Gorillaz_song))". In June 2001, "19–2000" charted at No. 6 in the UK, and the song was used as the title theme for [EA Sports](/wiki/EA_Sports) [*FIFA*](/wiki/FIFA_(video_game_series)) video game [*FIFA Football 2002*](/wiki/FIFA_Football_2002).[[23]](#cite_note-23) The end of the year brought the song "[911](/wiki/911_(Gorillaz_song))", a collaboration between Gorillaz and hip-hop group [D12](/wiki/D12_(band)) (without [Eminem](/wiki/Eminem)) and [Terry Hall](/wiki/Terry_Hall_(singer)) about the [September 11 attacks](/wiki/September_11_attacks).[[26]](#cite_note-26) Meanwhile, [*G Sides*](/wiki/G_Sides), a compilation of the B-sides from the *Tomorrow Comes Today* EP and first three singles, was released in Japan on 12 December 2001 and quickly followed with international releases in early 2002. Gorillaz performed at the [2002 Brit Awards](/wiki/2002_Brit_Awards) in London on 22 February, appearing in [3D animation](/wiki/3D_animation) on four large screens along with rap accompaniment by [Phi Life Cypher](/wiki/Phi_Life_Cypher). The band was nominated for four [Brit Awards](/wiki/Brit_Awards), including Best British Group, Best British Album and Best British Newcomer,[[27]](#cite_note-27) but left the award show empty-handed.[[28]](#cite_note-28) In November 2002, a DVD titled [*Phase One: Celebrity Take Down*](/wiki/Phase_One:_Celebrity_Take_Down) was released, giving the phase its name. The DVD contains the four Phase One promos, the abandoned video for "5/4", the *Charts of Darkness* documentary, the five Gorilla Bitez (comedic shorts starring the band characters), a tour of the website by the MEL 9000 server and more. The DVD's menu was designed much like the band's website and depicts an abandoned Kong Studios.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Rumours were circulating at this time that the Gorillaz team were busy preparing a film, but Hewlett said that the film project had been abandoned: "We lost all interest in doing it as soon as we started meeting with studios and talking to these Hollywood executive types, we just weren't on the same page. We said, fuck it, we'll sit on the idea until we can do it ourselves, and maybe even raise the money ourselves."[[30]](#cite_note-30)

### ''Phase Two: Slowboat to Hades'' (2004–07)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Listen](/wiki/Template:Listen) On 8 December 2004, the band's website reopened with an exclusive video entitled "Rock It".[[31]](#cite_note-31) The album [*Demon Days*](/wiki/Demon_Days) was released on 11 May 2005 in Japan, 23 May in the United Kingdom and Australia, and on 24 May in the United States. The album debuted at No. 1 on the [UK Albums Chart](/wiki/UK_Albums_Chart).[[32]](#cite_note-32) The third single was "[Dirty Harry](/wiki/Dirty_Harry_(song))", which had already been released as a promotional single earlier that year. It was released in the United Kingdom on 21 November 2005. On its first week, it charted at No. 6. The release of the single raised the album once again back up to the top 10. The fourth and final single was the [double A-side](/wiki/Double_A-side), "[Kids with Guns](/wiki/Kids_with_Guns)"/"[El Mañana](/wiki/El_Mañana_(song))". It was released in the UK on 10 April 2006.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Unlike its Top 10 predecessors, "Kids With Guns" / "El Mañana" reached No. 27 upon its release in the UK. A week later, the single had fallen out of the Top 40 in the UK (see [2006 in British music](/wiki/2006_in_British_music)). By the end of 2005, *Demon Days* had sold over a million copies in the UK, making it the UK's fifth best selling album of 2005.[[34]](#cite_note-34) *Demon Days* has since gone five times platinum in the UK,[[9]](#cite_note-9) double platinum in the United States,[[10]](#cite_note-10) triple platinum in Australia[[35]](#cite_note-35) and has sold over 6 million copies worldwide.[[36]](#cite_note-36) At the [2005 MTV Video Music Awards](/wiki/2005_MTV_Video_Music_Awards) in Miami on 28 August, Gorillaz won two awards for "Feel Good Inc.", including the award for [Breakthrough Video](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Award_–_Breakthrough_Video).[[37]](#cite_note-37) [thumb|left|De La Soul performing "Feel Good Inc." with Gorillaz at the](/wiki/File:De_La_Soul_Demon_Days_Live.jpg) [Demon Days Live](/wiki/Demon_Days_Live) concert in Manchester, England. Gorillaz performed "Dirty Harry" at the [2006 Brit Awards](/wiki/2006_Brit_Awards) in London, and the band was nominated for Best British Group, and Best British Album (*Demon Days*).[[13]](#cite_note-13) Plans were unveiled for Gorillaz to go on a "holographic" world tour in 2007 and 2008.[[38]](#cite_note-38) The cartoon members would be shown as virtual characters on stage using [Musion Eyeliner](/wiki/Musion_Eyeliner) technology, giving them a lifelike appearance on stage. The virtual characters were first used at the [2005 MTV Europe Music Awards](/wiki/2005_MTV_Europe_Music_Awards) on 3 November 2005[[39]](#cite_note-39) and again at the [2006 Grammy Awards](/wiki/48th_Grammy_Awards) on 8 February 2006 with the addition of a virtual [Madonna](/wiki/Madonna_(entertainer)), where the band played a pre-recorded version of "Feel Good Inc."[[40]](#cite_note-40)[thumb|right|All the Kidrobot figures that were released. The black set, red set, special "](/wiki/File:GorillazKidrobot.jpg)[DARE](/wiki/Dare_(song))" [Noodle](/wiki/Noodle_(Gorillaz)), [CMYK](/wiki/CMYK_color_model) set, white set and 2-tone set.

In 2005, a set of Gorillaz figures were released by [Kidrobot](/wiki/Kidrobot) to coincide with the release of [*Demon Days*](/wiki/Demon_Days). Two variations of the set were released, known as the Red and Black editions, and a limited edition [Noodle](/wiki/Noodle_(Gorillaz)) from the music video for "[DARE](/wiki/DARE_(song))" was also released.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Three new sets of Gorillaz vinyl figures were released in 2006. The basic set which was limited to 60,000 was released on 16 October 2006, and on 2 November 2006 the two-tone set limited to 1,000 and the white edition which was limited to 4,000 were released.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The [*Phase Two: Slowboat to Hades*](/wiki/Phase_Two:_Slowboat_to_Hades) DVD was released on 30 October in the UK, and 31 October in the US. The official Gorillaz illustrated autobiography, titled [*Rise of the Ogre*](/wiki/Rise_of_the_Ogre), was released on 31 October 2006 in the UK, and 2 November in the US. [*D-Sides*](/wiki/D-Sides), a compilation of B-side and remixes, was released on 19 November 2007 in the UK and on 20 November 2007 in the US.[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44) Hopes for a Gorillaz film were revived in 2006 when Hewlett stated that they would be producing the film on their own. Film producer and [the Weinstein Company](/wiki/The_Weinstein_Company) co-chairman, [Harvey Weinstein](/wiki/Harvey_Weinstein), was said to be collaborating with Albarn and Hewlett.[[45]](#cite_note-45) In a September 2006 interview with [*Uncut*](/wiki/Uncut_(magazine)) magazine, Albarn was said that the band "has been a fantastic journey which isn't over, because we're making a film. We've got [Terry Gilliam](/wiki/Terry_Gilliam) involved. But as far as being in a big band and putting pop music out there, it's finished. We won't be doing that any more."[[46]](#cite_note-46) On 24 October 2007, the official Gorillaz fansite announced that a documentary film about Gorillaz, titled [*Bananaz*](/wiki/Bananaz), would be released. The film, directed by Ceri Levy, documents the previous seven years of the band.[[47]](#cite_note-47) The film was released online on the [Babelgum](/wiki/Babelgum) website on 20 April 2009 followed by the DVD release on 1 June 2009.[[48]](#cite_note-48)

### ''Phase Three: Escape to Plastic Beach'' (2007–13){{anchor|Third album|Phase three|Plastic Beach}}[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Listen](/wiki/Template:Listen) In late 2007, Albarn and Hewlett began working on *Carousel*, a new Gorillaz project which eventually evolved into the band's third studio album [*Plastic Beach*](/wiki/Plastic_Beach).[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) Albarn said "I'm making this the biggest and most pop record I've ever made in many ways, but with all my experience to try and at least present something that has got depth."[[50]](#cite_note-50) The album features guest performances by [Snoop Dogg](/wiki/Snoop_Dogg), [Lou Reed](/wiki/Lou_Reed), [Mos Def](/wiki/Mos_Def), [Bobby Womack](/wiki/Bobby_Womack), [Gruff Rhys](/wiki/Gruff_Rhys), [Mark E. Smith](/wiki/Mark_E._Smith), [Mick Jones](/wiki/Mick_Jones_(The_Clash)), [Paul Simonon](/wiki/Paul_Simonon), [Kano](/wiki/Kano_(rapper)), [Bashy](/wiki/Bashy), [De La Soul](/wiki/De_La_Soul), [Little Dragon](/wiki/Little_Dragon), [Hypnotic Brass Ensemble](/wiki/Hypnotic_Brass_Ensemble), [sinfonia ViVA](/wiki/Sinfonia_ViVA), and the Lebanese National Orchestra for Oriental Arabic Music.[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[51]](#cite_note-51)<ref name=Pitchfork>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

On 18 January 2010, it was announced that Gorillaz would be headlining the final night of the [Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival](/wiki/Coachella_Valley_Music_and_Arts_Festival) on 18 April 2010.[[52]](#cite_note-52)The first single from the album, "[Stylo](/wiki/Stylo_(song))", featuring Bobby Womack and Mos Def was made available for [download](/wiki/Music_download) 26 January 2010.[[53]](#cite_note-53) In October 2010, Damon Albarn announced to the media that he would not let the cast of [*Glee*](/wiki/Glee_(TV_series)) cover the band's songs, claiming that the music on the Fox network's TV show is a "very poor substitute for the real thing". This statement led most people to believe that Gorillaz had been asked by *Glee* producers to lend their music to the show, which they had not. Albarn responded to the confusion with a laugh and said "and now they definitely won't."[[54]](#cite_note-54) On 5 October 2010, Gorillaz announced their new single "[Doncamatic](/wiki/Doncamatic)" featuring [Daley](/wiki/Daley_(musician)).[[55]](#cite_note-55) On 8 December 2010, Albarn confirmed that a Gorillaz album recorded on the American leg of the Escape to Plastic Beach tour would be released to download for free exclusively to paying fan club members from the Gorillaz website on Christmas Day, 25 December 2010.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The video for "[Phoner to Arizona](/wiki/Phoner_to_Arizona)" was released on Gorillaz' official website for free on 24 December, and a day later, their new album was released entitled [*The Fall*](/wiki/The_Fall_(Gorillaz_album)).[[57]](#cite_note-57) On 18 April 2011, Gorillaz announced the release of their own version of the iPad app iElectribe, by [Korg](/wiki/Korg) – which features loops and samples taken from *The Fall* as well as other samples. The new version features a Gorillaz designed and styled interface, and is customized to generate Gorillaz samples from their album *The Fall* and includes 128 new sounds created by the band and 64 ready-to-use pre-programmed patterns from Gorillaz, Stephen Sedgwick (Gorillaz' engineer) and [Korg](/wiki/Korg). There have been noted problems with the app's availability outside of the UK. The app was based on Korg's Electribe: R device app.[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59)[[60]](#cite_note-60) On 5 October 2011, Gorillaz released their first "greatest hits" compilation, [*The Singles Collection 2001–2011*](/wiki/The_Singles_Collection_2001–2011).[[61]](#cite_note-61) On 9 February 2012, Gorillaz announced "[DoYaThing](/wiki/DoYaThing)", a single to promote the Gorillaz-branded [Converse](/wiki/Converse_(shoe_company)) shoes that were soon to be released. The song would be part of Converse's "Three Artists, One Song" projects, with the two collaborators being [James Murphy](/wiki/James_Murphy_(electronic_musician)) of [LCD Soundsystem](/wiki/LCD_Soundsystem) and [André 3000](/wiki/André_3000) of [Outkast](/wiki/Outkast). An explicit, 13 minute-long version of the song became available for listening shortly after on Gorillaz.com. Hewlett returned to direct the single's music video, featuring animated versions of the two collaborators on the track.[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63) In April 2012, Albarn told [*the Guardian*](/wiki/The_Guardian) that he and Hewlett had fallen out and that future Gorillaz projects were "unlikely". Tension between the two had been building during phase 3.[[64]](#cite_note-64) On 25 April 2012, in an interview with Metro, Albarn said he had worked out his differences with Hewlett, that he was confident that they would make another record.[[65]](#cite_note-65) On 24 June 2013, Hewlett stated that he and Albarn plan to someday record a follow-up to their 2010 album [*Plastic Beach*](/wiki/Plastic_Beach).[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67)

### ''Phase Four:'' untitled fifth studio album (2014–present)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

In April 2014, Albarn told [*the National Post*](/wiki/The_National_Post) that he "wouldn't mind having another stab at a Gorillaz record."[[68]](#cite_note-68) Two months later he reported that he had "been writing quite a lot of songs on the road for Gorillaz".[[69]](#cite_note-69) On 19 October 2014, Albarn told the [*The Sydney Morning Herald*](/wiki/The_Sydney_Morning_Herald) that he was planning to release new Gorillaz material in 2016.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Albarn has described the music that he's written for the next Gorillaz album as being very upbeat, humorous, and positive, stating that he plans on giving the tracks "a benchmark of 125 bpm and nothing underneath that", while also suggesting that it once again may have many collaborations.[[71]](#cite_note-71)[[72]](#cite_note-72)[[73]](#cite_note-73) On 16 July 2015, Albarn stated during an interview for ABC's [7.30](/wiki/7.30) in Australia that he would begin work on the next Gorillaz album: "I'm starting recording in September for a new Gorillaz record, I've just been really, really busy so I haven't had a chance. I'd love to just get back in to that routine of being at home and coming to the studio five days a week."[[74]](#cite_note-74) Speaking about his relationship with Hewlett, Albarn said that the pair's well publicised fall-out has helped their relationship in the long term: "There are points in every relationship where they fall out with people that they're close to and then they reconcile, hopefully, and actually, you know the relationship's probably in a healthier place as a result of that," he said.[[75]](#cite_note-75) In October 2015, Albarn revealed to [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone) that both he and Hewlett are working on a new Gorillaz album. Albarn said: "I'm in the very early days on a new Gorillaz record. So far, it's really fast, and it's got quite a lot of energy. I've been stuck on piano, somewhere off [Broadway](/wiki/Broadway_theatre), for years now. I want to go somewhere completely opposite of that."[[76]](#cite_note-76) In April of 2016, Hewlett uploaded two video clips onto his [Instagram](/wiki/Instagram) showing the continued work on the album. The first clip featured [Liam Bailey](/wiki/Liam_Bailey) and rumoured executive producer on the album The Twilite Tone. The second clip was a time-lapse video featuring Albarn, Bailey, Twilite Tone and [Jean Michel Jarre](/wiki/Jean_Michel_Jarre). Bailey had also implied in an Instagram post (which has since been deleted) that [Massive Attack](/wiki/Massive_Attack) had been in the studio with the band as well.[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[78]](#cite_note-78)[[79]](#cite_note-79) On 17 May 2016, it was revealed through Remi Kabaka's Instagram that Gorillaz were in the studio with Chicago-based hip-hop artist [Vic Mensa](/wiki/Vic_Mensa).[[80]](#cite_note-80)[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[82]](#cite_note-82)[[83]](#cite_note-83) On 11 June 2016, Hewlett revealed that the new Gorillaz album had been delayed and the release year was pushed to 2017.[[84]](#cite_note-84)

## Live performances[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

In March 2001, Gorillaz played their first show at the [Scala](/wiki/Scala_(club)) in London before embarking on a UK tour later that Summer, with one date in Paris and two in Japan. During this tour the live band played behind a giant projector screen which covered the whole stage, on which was projected various visuals and images created by Hewlett. After taking a short break over the holidays, the tour resumed with a North American leg in February 2002.[[85]](#cite_note-85) [thumb|Gorillaz played five sold out shows at the](/wiki/File:Apollo_Marquee_2006.jpg) [Apollo Theater](/wiki/Apollo_Theater), New York in April 2006 From 1–5 November 2005, Gorillaz played a five night residency at the [Manchester Opera House](/wiki/Manchester_Opera_House) in [Manchester](/wiki/Manchester), England. The event was filmed by an EMI film crew for a DVD release, [*Demon Days Live*](/wiki/Demon_Days_Live), in late March 2006. It was later announced that an American version of the event would take place from 2 to 6 April 2006 at the [Apollo Theater](/wiki/Apollo_Theater) in [Harlem](/wiki/Harlem), New York. Within an hour of release tickets were sold out.[[86]](#cite_note-86) The 6 April show was filmed for a live [webcast](/wiki/Webcast) at [MSN Video](/wiki/MSN_Video).[[87]](#cite_note-87) [Palladia](/wiki/Palladia) (then known as MHD) also broadcast an Apollo Theater show in [HDTV](/wiki/High-definition_television) on 31 December 2006.[[88]](#cite_note-88) In March 2010, Gorillaz began a short six date tour as "rehearsal" shows for their headlining slot at the [Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival](/wiki/Coachella_Valley_Music_and_Arts_Festival). The shows were open exclusively to Gorillaz Sub Division fan club members and featured no visuals whatsoever. These performances were the band's first public performances in four years. Gorillaz headlined the final night of the Coachella Festival on 18 April 2010 as their first proper, full show of Phase 3. On 27 April they were the main guests on [*Later... with Jools Holland*](/wiki/Later..._with_Jools_Holland) on the BBC. In addition, Gorillaz played a two-night residency at London's Camden Roundhouse (29 and 30 April 2010). [Mick Jones](/wiki/Mick_Jones_(The_Clash)) and [Paul Simonon](/wiki/Paul_Simonon) of [the Clash](/wiki/The_Clash) performed guitar and bass respectively with the band and more than once in the evening chords from the Clash song "[Guns of Brixton](/wiki/Guns_of_Brixton)" were heard as a subtle reference to their presence.[[89]](#cite_note-89) Gorillaz kicked off their first ever world tour in October 2010, with some preceding festival dates in the Summer, such as at the Byblos Festival in Lebanon, the [Roskilde Festival](/wiki/Roskilde_Festival) in Denmark, the [Glastonbury Festival](/wiki/Glastonbury_Festival) in England and one show at the [Citadel of Damascus](/wiki/Citadel_of_Damascus) in Syria.[[90]](#cite_note-90)[[91]](#cite_note-91) The [Escape to Plastic Beach Tour](/wiki/Escape_to_Plastic_Beach_Tour) took them across North America in October, Europe in November, and finally through Australia, New Zealand, and with one date in Hong Kong in December.[[92]](#cite_note-92) During the final show of the tour at the [Vector Arena](/wiki/Vector_Arena) in [Auckland](/wiki/Auckland), New Zealand on 21 December 2010, Albarn announced that it would be their final show with the [*Plastic Beach*](/wiki/Plastic_Beach) line up.[[93]](#cite_note-93) The band performed "[Clint Eastwood](/wiki/Clint_Eastwood_(song))" live for the first time with both Damon Albarn and [Del the Funky Homosapien](/wiki/Del_the_Funky_Homosapien) at Fader Fort in March, 2014,[[94]](#cite_note-94) and again shortly after at [Bonnaroo Music Festival](/wiki/Bonnaroo_Music_Festival) in [Manchester, Tennessee](/wiki/Manchester,_Tennessee), US.[[95]](#cite_note-95)

## Band members[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Col-begin](/wiki/Template:Col-begin) [Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

Actual members

* [Damon Albarn](/wiki/Damon_Albarn) – [vocals](/wiki/Singing), [keyboards](/wiki/Keyboard_instrument), [guitars](/wiki/Guitar), [bass guitar](/wiki/Bass_guitar), [drums](/wiki/Drum_kit), [percussions](/wiki/Percussion_instrument), [melodica](/wiki/Melodica) (1998–present)
* [Jamie Hewlett](/wiki/Jamie_Hewlett) – [illustration](/wiki/Illustration), [visuals](/wiki/VJing), [FX](/wiki/Special_effect) (1998–present)

Current live members

* [Mike Smith](/wiki/Mike_Smith_(saxophonist)) – keyboards (1998–present)
* [Cass Browne](/wiki/Cass_Browne) – drums, percussion (1998–present)
* [Jeff Wootton](/wiki/Jeff_Wootton) – lead guitar (2010–present)
* [Mick Jones](/wiki/Mick_Jones_(The_Clash)) – rhythm guitar (2010–present)
* [Paul Simonon](/wiki/Paul_Simonon) – bass guitar (2010–present)
* Jesse Hackett – keyboards (2010–present)
* Gabriel Wallace – drums, percussion (2010–present)

[Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

Virtual members

* [2D](/wiki/2D_(character)) – vocals, keyboards, melodica (1998–present)
* [Murdoc Niccals](/wiki/Murdoc_Niccals) – bass guitar, drum machine (1998–present)
* [Russel Hobbs](/wiki/Russel_Hobbs) – drums, percussion (1998–present)
* [Noodle](/wiki/Noodle_(Gorillaz)) – vocals, guitars, keyboards (1998–2006, 2010–present)

Former virtual members

* [Cyborg Noodle](/wiki/Noodle_(Gorillaz)) – guitars (2010–2011)

Former live members

* [Simon Katz](/wiki/Simon_Katz) – lead, rhythm guitar (1998–2002)
* Junior Dan – bass guitar (1998–2002)
* William Lyonell – lead, rhythm guitar (1998–2005)
* Roberto Occhipinti – bass guitar (2002)
* [Simon Tong](/wiki/Simon_Tong) – lead, rhythm guitar (2005–2010)
* [Simon Jones](/wiki/Simon_Jones_(musician)) – rhythm guitar (2005–2006)
* [Morgan Nicholls](/wiki/Morgan_Nicholls) – bass guitar (2005–2010)

[Template:Col-end](/wiki/Template:Col-end)

### Timeline[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

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id:LGuitar value:teal legend:Lead\_Guitar

id:Rguitar value:green legend:Rhythm\_Guitar

id:Bass value:blue legend:Bass\_guitar

id:Drums value:orange legend:Drums

id:Keyboard value:purple legend:Keyboards

id:Lines value:black legend:Albums

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at:05/11/2005 color:black layer:back

at:03/03/2010 color:black layer:back

at:04/18/2011 color:black layer:back

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bar:SK text:"Simon Katz"

bar:ST text:"Simon Tong"

bar:JW text:"Jeff Wootton"

bar:WL text:"William Lyonell"

bar:SJ text:"Simon Jones"

bar:MJ text:"Mick Jones"

bar:MS text:"Mike Smith"

bar:JHA text:"Jesse Hackett"

bar:JD text:"Junior Dan"

bar:RO text:"Roberto Occhipinti"

bar:MN text:"Morgan Nicholls"

bar:PS text:"Paul Simonon"

bar:CB text:"Cass Browne"

bar:GMW text:"Gabriel Wallace"

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bar:ST from:01/01/2005 till:end color:LGuitar

bar:JW from:01/01/2010 till:end color:LGuitar

bar:WL from:01/01/1998 till:01/01/2003 color:RGuitar

bar:SJ from:01/01/2005 till:01/01/2007 color:RGuitar

bar:MJ from:01/01/2010 till:end color:RGuitar

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bar:MN from:01/01/2005 till:01/01/2007 color:Bass

bar:PS from:01/01/2010 till:end color:Bass

bar:MS from:01/01/1998 till:end color:Keyboard

bar:JHA from:01/01/2010 till:end color:Keyboard

bar:CB from:01/01/1998 till:end color:Drums

bar:GMW from:01/01/2010 till:end color:Drums

</timeline>

## Discography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Studio albums

* [*Gorillaz*](/wiki/Gorillaz_(album)) (2001)
* [*Demon Days*](/wiki/Demon_Days) (2005)
* [*Plastic Beach*](/wiki/Plastic_Beach) (2010)
* [*The Fall*](/wiki/The_Fall_(Gorillaz_album)) (2011)

## Tours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

* Phase One Tour (2001–02)
* [Demon Days Live](/wiki/Demon_Days_Live) (2005–06)
* [Escape to Plastic Beach Tour](/wiki/Escape_to_Plastic_Beach_Tour) (2010)

## Awards and nominations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category)

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)

[Template:Gorillaz](/wiki/Template:Gorillaz) [Template:Damon Albarn](/wiki/Template:Damon_Albarn) [Template:Use British English](/wiki/Template:Use_British_English)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Gorillaz](/wiki/Category:Gorillaz) [Category:Animated musical groups](/wiki/Category:Animated_musical_groups) [Category:Recorded music characters](/wiki/Category:Recorded_music_characters) [Category:Musical groups established in 1998](/wiki/Category:Musical_groups_established_in_1998) [Category:English alternative rock groups](/wiki/Category:English_alternative_rock_groups) [Category:Britpop groups](/wiki/Category:Britpop_groups) [Category:English electronic music groups](/wiki/Category:English_electronic_music_groups) [Category:English hip hop groups](/wiki/Category:English_hip_hop_groups) [Category:Alternative hip hop groups](/wiki/Category:Alternative_hip_hop_groups) [Category:Trip hop groups](/wiki/Category:Trip_hop_groups) [Category:Grammy Award winners](/wiki/Category:Grammy_Award_winners) [Category:Parlophone artists](/wiki/Category:Parlophone_artists) [Category:Virgin Records artists](/wiki/Category:Virgin_Records_artists) [Category:Warner Bros. Records artists](/wiki/Category:Warner_Bros._Records_artists) [Category:1998 establishments in England](/wiki/Category:1998_establishments_in_England) [Category:Bands with fictional stage personas](/wiki/Category:Bands_with_fictional_stage_personas)