

311 (band)

311 (pronounced "three eleven") is an American rock band from Omaha, Nebraska. The band was formed in 1988 by vocalist and guitarist Nick Hexum, lead guitarist Jim Watson, bassist Aaron "P-Nut" Wills,^[1] and drummer Chad Sexton. Watson was replaced by Tim Mahoney in 1990. In 1992, Doug "SA" Martinez joined to sing and provide turntables for 311's later albums.

311 has released thirteen studio albums, two live albums, four compilation albums, four EPs and four DVDs. After a series of independent releases, 311 was signed to Capricorn Records in 1992 and released the albums *Music* (1993) and *Grassroots* (1994) to moderate success. They achieved greater success with their 1995 triple platinum^[2] self-titled album, which reached number 12 on the *Billboard* 200 on the strength of the singles "Down" and "All Mixed Up", the former of which topped the *Billboard* Hot Modern Rock Tracks in 1996.^[3] The band's next three albums—*Transistor* (1997), *Soundsystem* (1999) and *From Chaos* (2001)—were also successful, with the first going platinum and the last two going gold.^[2] Their 2004 compilation album *Greatest Hits '93-'03* was also certified platinum. The band's most recent studio album is 2019's *Voyager*. As of 2011, 311 has sold over 8.5 million records in the United States.^[4]

The band's name originates from the police code for indecent exposure in Omaha, Nebraska, after the original guitarist for the band was arrested for streaking.^[5]

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311 performing on August 14, 2011

Background information

Origin	<u>Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.</u>
Genres	<u>Alternative rock</u> · <u>reggae rock</u> · <u>rap rock</u> · <u>funk rock</u> · <u>nu metal</u> · <u>alternative metal</u>
Years active	1988–present
Labels	311 · <u>ATO</u> · <u>Volcano</u> · <u>Capricorn</u> · <u>MapleMusic</u> · <u>BMG</u> · <u>Cleopatra</u>
Associated acts	<u>The Dirty Heads</u> · <u>The Offspring</u> · <u>Red Hot Chili Peppers</u> · <u>Ghostwolf</u> · <u>Los Stellarians</u> · <u>Hollows Follow</u> · <u>Ontologics</u> · <u>Zack Hexum</u>
Website	<u>www.311.com</u> (<u>http://www.311.com</u>)
Members	<u>Nick Hexum</u> Aaron "P-Nut" Wills Chad Sexton Tim Mahoney Doug "SA" Martinez
Past members	<u>Jim Watson</u>

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History

Early recordings (1988–1992)

311's first independent release was the *Downstairs* EP, which was recorded in 1989 in Nick Hexum's basement. Unlike many of their releases, it had no cover art. It features the song "Feels So Good," which was recreated/remastered in the album *Music* and is a staple of most of 311's live shows.

In 1990, 311 produced 300 cassettes of their second independent release, *Dammit!*, recorded at IEV Studios in Papillion, Nebraska.

In 1991, Tim Mahoney replaced Jim Watson on guitar and 311 released their third independent release, *Unity*, recorded at Rainbow Recording Studios in Omaha. 1000 CDs and 500 cassettes of *Unity* were printed; they were distributed through consignment and sold at shows.^[6] The band began to headline shows in local clubs, such as The Ranch Bowl and *Sokol Auditorium*.

In 1992, S.A. Martinez, who had been making various appearances with 311 over the past years as a vocalist, was officially asked to join the band. 311 recorded a six-track demo, called *Hydroponic*, also recorded at Rainbow Recording Studios, and moved to *Los Angeles*. Within their first few months, 311 was signed to *Capricorn Records*.

311 considers their first show to have been held on June 10, 1990, opening for *Fugazi* in Omaha, Nebraska, at the *Sokol Auditorium*.

Music and Grassroots (1993–1994)

Their first major record, *Music*, was released in 1993. The single "Do You Right" received airplay on modern rock stations and reached No. 27 on *Billboard*'s Modern Rock Tracks chart.^[7] However, the album failed to chart at the time. The album was produced by *Eddie Offord*, who famously produced *Yes* and *Emerson, Lake & Palmer*.

Financing their own tour, the band drove around in an old RV borrowed from Sexton's father and towed a Volkswagen bus which held their equipment. After tackling a steep incline while en route to an Omaha show, the RV caught fire. The only door out of the vehicle was surrounded by flames so the band jumped through the fire. All of their equipment and possessions were lost, though no one was seriously injured. The band continued their tour using borrowed equipment.

The following year, they released their second studio album, *Grassroots*.

Mainstream breakthrough (1995–2001)

In 1995, 311 released the self-titled 311 (also known as *The Blue Album*). Produced by Ron St. Germain, the album was recorded live in contrast to their previous two albums in which all instruments were recorded separately. The first single "Don't Stay Home" was a modest success, reaching No. 29 on *Billboard's* Modern Rock Tracks chart.^[8] But the follow-up single "Down", which was released 14 months after the album, received heavy airplay on mainstream radio, and the accompanying music video was on MTV's rotation. The song hit No. 1 on the Modern Rock chart.^[9] The band made their network television debut on Late Night with Conan O'Brien on August 23. The third single, "All Mixed Up", enjoyed almost identical success, reaching No. 4 on the Modern Rock chart.^[9] They also appeared on Late Show with David Letterman playing "Down".

In the following years, 311 continued touring and on August 5, 1997, they released Transistor which debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200,^[10] their highest position on that chart. The album went platinum.^[11]

In 1998, 311 released Live, a live album from a 1997 performance in New Orleans, Louisiana. 311 also released Omaha Sessions, a compilation album from their early independent releases.

In 1999, 311 released their fifth major album, Soundsystem. The song "Come Original" reached No. 6 on *Billboard's* Modern Rock Tracks chart.^[12] The second single, "Flowing", had American Pie's Eddie Kaye Thomas featured in the music video.

In 1995, the band purchased a recording studio in North Hollywood, California, called The Hive. The band has recorded every album at The Hive since 2000, beginning with the sessions for From Chaos, 311's sixth major record release.

From Chaos was released in late 2001. Its first single, "You Wouldn't Believe" featured basketball star Shaquille O'Neal in the video.

Evolver and Don't Tread on Me (2002–2006)

Their seventh major release, Evolver (produced By Ron Saint Germain), came in 2003. In Summer 2003, 311 launched their inaugural Unity Tour. The tour included openers G. Love & Special Sauce, OAR and Something Corporate.

In 2004, 311 covered The Cure's "Love Song" which became a No. 1 hit on the Modern Rock Tracks chart. It also reached No. 59 on the Billboard Hot 100,^[9] their first single to reach that chart. It was featured on the soundtrack for the motion picture 50 First Dates and then a few months later on their own Greatest Hits '93-'03. The compilation featured two new songs: "How Do You Feel?" and "First Straw".

In Summer 2004, 311 played a free show at a city park in Omaha for that city's 175th Anniversary Celebration, where they changed all the weed lyrics in the songs they played for the show, then the band kicked off their second annual Unity Tour with openers The Roots and Medeski Martin & Wood.

On August 16, 2005, 311 released their eighth studio album, titled Don't Tread on Me. "Don't Tread on Me", the first single, reached No. 2 on the *Billboard* Modern Rock chart and No. 7 at Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles.^{[13][14]}

In mid-2005, 311 kicked off their third annual Unity Tour with openers Papa Roach and Unwritten Law.

On July 20, 2006, 311 kicked off their Summer Unity Tour, playing 37 shows in 27 states and featuring opening bands Pepper and Wailers. After completion of the tour, 311 announced they would be taking a break, their first official one in over eight years.

Uplifter and Universal Pulse (2007–2011)

In January 2007, 311 stepped back into their Hive Studios with Nick's younger brother Zack Hexum. They recorded a cover of Toots & the Maytals song "Reggae Got Soul" for the soundtrack from the film Surf's Up, which was released on June 5, 2007.

Their Summer Unity Tour in 2007 included supporting acts Matisyahu and The English Beat. In 2008, they featured opening acts Snoop Dogg and Fiction Plane.

In 2009, they had another Summer Unity Tour which featured opening acts Ziggy Marley and The Expendables^[15] while in 2010, supporting act The Offspring and opening act Pepper were featured.^[16] In 2011, Sublime With Rome and DJ Soulman & DJ Trichrome were the openers on the Unity Tour.^[17]

Uplifter, 311's ninth studio album, was released on June 2, 2009. The album, produced at 311's Hive Recording Studios in Los Angeles by Bob Rock, debuted at No. 3 on the *Billboard* 200, the band's highest chart position in the U.S. to date.^[18] The band followed up the release of the album with tours in Summer and Fall 2009. They have completed their Spring 2010 tour, which included 311 Day 2010, held in Las Vegas, Nevada. A Summer tour with The Offspring began in June 2010. 311 also held a 2010 fall tour.

In early 2011, 311 finished recording their tenth studio album called Universal Pulse at the Hive in Los Angeles, with producer Bob Rock. The album was released July 19, 2011. The album's first single, "Sunset in July" was released on June 3, 2011.^[19] Universal Pulse is their shortest album yet, only having 8 songs.

Stereolithic, Archive Compilation and Mosaic (2012–2017)

In Summer 2012, 311 embarked on their tenth annual Unity Tour with Slightly Stoopid, SOJA, and The Aggrolites.

On August 24, 2012, Doug "SA" Martinez told Phoenix's Up on the Sun that an eleventh 311 studio album was in the works and planned for release in 2013.^{[20][21]} However, on July 15, 2013, their eleventh album was announced to be released on March 11, 2014, to coincide with 311 Day 2014.^[22] According to P-Nut, the album is to have "darker themes", and was produced by Scotch Ralston.^[23]

On July 2, 2013, 311 started their eleventh annual Unity Tour with Cypress Hill and G. Love & Special Sauce. The tour ended on August 4, 2013.^[24]

Stereolithic, the band's first independently released studio album since 1991's Unity, was released on March 11, 2014.^[25]

On November 18, 2014, 311 released a live album, *311 with the Unity Orchestra – Live from New Orleans – 311 Day 2014*. The album documents part of the 311 Day 2014 concert wherein the band was accompanied onstage by a symphony orchestra for nine songs.^[26]

311 Archive, a four disc compilation album featuring 81 previously unreleased songs, b-sides and demos, was released on June 30, 2015.^[27]

As of February 2016, according to [Nick Hexum](#), 311 was working on a new album,^[28] and in February 2017, the band revealed the new album's title, *Mosaic*, on their PledgeMusic update feed. Six song titles were released to the public, "Hey Yo", "Island Sun", "Extension", "Too Much to Think", "Syntax Error", and "Too Late"; with the first two being debuted at 311 Day 2016.^[29] 311 invited their fan base to submit a photo of themselves to be featured on the album artwork. *Mosaic* was released on June 23, 2017, and was met with positive reviews. It was their 12th studio album and their 10th consecutive to debut in the Top 10 of US *Billboard* 200. It debuted at number six, with 39,000 [album-equivalent units](#), of which 37,000 were pure album sales.^[30]

On March 9, 2017, the band released "Too Much to Think", the first single from *Mosaic*.^[31] Following that, 311 released singles "Too Late"^[32] and "Perfect Mistake"^{[33][34]}

Voyager and next album (2018–present)

In 2018, 311 and [The Offspring](#) toured together on the Never-Ending Summer tour. That summer, The Offspring released a cover of 311's "[Down](#)" and 311 released a "reggaefied" cover of The Offspring's "[Self Esteem](#)". Hexum states that 311 has "the bulk of an album written" and is working with producer/co-writer [John Feldmann](#) of [Goldfinger](#) on some tracks.^[35] Later that summer, Mahoney confirmed that they were working with both [Scotch Ralston](#) and [John Feldmann](#) on *Voyager*.^{[36][37]} *Voyager* released on July 12, 2019.^{[38][39]} The documentary *Enlarged to Show Detail 3* was released to theaters for one day only on March 11, 2019.^[40]

When asked in an interview with [PRS Guitars](#), conducted on March 11, 2020 (311 Day), if 311 were planning to make a new live album or follow-up to *Voyager*, guitarist Tim Mahoney said, "This year is all about playing live and celebrating 30 years. Although we do have a few blocks of time set aside for new music writing and recording, the soonest for any new release would be 2021."^[41] As part of their 30th anniversary tour, the band was scheduled to co-headline a North American trek with [Incubus](#) in the summer of 2020, but it was cancelled because of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).^[42]

311 Day

On March 11, 2000, 311 began celebrating an unofficial holiday of their own creation, which they called 311 Day.^[43] The band chose the date because March 11 is written in the United States as 3/11. Every other year on March 11, the band performs an extended concert for thousands of their fans.

311 Day Events^[44]

Date	Location	Venue	Songs Played	Show Notes
March 11, 2000	<u>New Orleans</u>	<u>State Palace Theatre</u>	47	
March 11, 2002	<u>New Orleans</u>	<u>UNO Lakefront Arena</u>	59	
March 11, 2004	<u>New Orleans</u>	<u>UNO Lakefront Arena</u>	68	The band played entire albums, rarities, and covers. Later that year, a DVD was released of the performance that contained 64 of the 68 songs. ^[45]
March 11, 2006	<u>Memphis</u>	<u>Mid-South Coliseum</u>	65	The intended set list was cut short from 69 songs because of a strict midnight curfew. The band recorded the entire show in high definition, and a 2-hour edit of the show aired on HDTV on December 10.
March 11, 2008	<u>New Orleans</u>	<u>New Orleans Arena</u>	63	Sold-out crowd of 14,000 fans, who represented all 50 states and 13 countries.
March 11, 2010	<u>Las Vegas</u>	<u>Mandalay Bay Events Center</u>	60	All 60 songs, 32 of which were different from 311 Day in 2008, ^[46] were broadcast live on the web in a video on demand format described as a "professional multi-camera HD production." ^[47]
March 10/11, 2012	<u>Las Vegas</u>	<u>MGM Grand Garden Arena</u>	Night 1: 39 Night 2: 40	For the first time, was split into two days.
March 11, 2014	<u>New Orleans</u>	<u>New Orleans Arena</u>	66	On July 3, 2013, the band

				announced at the Unity Tour show in Chicago that 311 Day 2014 would be returning to New Orleans.
March 11/12, 2016	<u>New Orleans</u>	<u>Smoothie King Center</u>	Night 1: 42 Night 2: 42	
March 10/11, 2018	<u>Las Vegas</u>	<u>Park Theater</u>	Night 1: 42 Night 2: 44	86 total songs were played, including a cover of Pink Floyd's " <u>Wish You Were Here</u> " with an In Memoriam video tribute to late musicians and 311 fans Renee O'Neal, Meredith Hight, and Hexum's youngest brother Patrick.
March 11/12/13, 2020	<u>Las Vegas</u>	<u>Park Theater</u>	Night 1: 35 Night 2: 34 Night 3: 34	Celebrated 30 years of 311. 103 songs performed over 3 nights, including Bob Marley's " <u>Lively Up Yourself</u> " (311's first cover song) and the <u>Rolling Stones'</u> " <u>Waiting on a Friend</u> ". Nick Hexum on guitar and his daughter, Echo, on piano performed an instrumental cover of Asia's " <u>Only Time Will Tell</u> ".
2022	TBA	TBA		

311 Caribbean Festival Cruises and 311 Pow Wow Festival

In March 2011, 311 began hosting a Festival Cruise. The environment is similar to an outdoor music festival involving camping.^[48]

The 2011 Caribbean Festival Cruise departed on March 3, 2011 from Miami, FL aboard the Carnival Destiny for Grand Turk, Turk and Caicos. The festival cruise featured three shows, over four days leaving from Miami to Turks and Caicos, and featured guest bands: The Movement, DJ Soulman and Nocturnal Arts, Full Service, Pepper and The Expendables.

On May 10, 2012, 311 hosted their second Caribbean Festival Cruise on the Carnival Destiny, departing from Miami and landing on a private island, Half Moon Cay, in the Bahamas for three consecutive nights and featured guest bands including: The Dirty Heads, Shwayze, 2 Skinnee J's, DJ Soulman, Outlaw Nation, Shootyz Groove, BALLYHOO!, Passafire, Cisco, Full Service, DJ Trichrome, Exes Of Evil, Trailer Park Ninjas, Moral Defect among others.^{[49][50]}

311's 2013 Caribbean Festival Cruise departed Miami on March 1, 2013 on its new home, the Norwegian Pearl, but this time went to a different private island in the Bahamas, Great Stirrup Cay. The 2013 Caribbean Cruise featured guest bands and comedians including: Rebelution, Less Than Jake, Exes of Evil, DJ ABD, The Urge, Tom Green, Doug Benson, SA Martinez and Exes of Evil performing in their side project Ghostwolf. DJ Kilmore (From Incbus), BALLYHOO!, Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime, Bad Rabbits, The Aggrolites, DJ Soulam, Full Service, J Randy, Krooked Treez, Beat Squad, Trailer Park Ninjas, Hey Monea, DJ Trichome, DJ ABD ^{[51][50]}

311's 2015 Caribbean Festival departed from Miami on February 25, 2015 aboard the Norwegian Pearl. It made port in Jamaica. The line up included 311 with three sets, Dirty Heads, Pepper, Chali 2na, RX Bandits, The Green, RDGLDGRN, Full Service, The Funk Hunters, Doug Benson, DJ Soulman, J Randy, Andy Haynes, Papafish, Beatcake, Singles, Tony Hinchcliffe, DJ Native Wayne, DJ Trichrome, The Unity All Stars, Headphone Disco among others.^{[50][52][53]}

2017 marked the fifth 311 Caribbean Cruise! Departed from Tampa to Cozumel, March 2–6, 2017, on board the Norwegian Jade as the Pearl was in drydock. Lineup of bands, DJs and comedians, including Rebelution, Reel Big Fish, Stick Figure, People Under the Stairs, Ballyhoo!, RDGLDGRN, Los Stellarians (side project of 311 member SA Martinez) and ILL Communication. The band headlined set lists as usual and hosted other bands as well. 311 played their hit songs plus debuting two new tracks; "Extension" and "Too Late" while also covering Prince's "Let's Go Crazy".^{[54][55][56]}

311 hosted their first "Pow Wow" Festival from August 4 to 6, 2011, at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak, FL. Along with 311, it featured DJ Trichome, Murs, SOJA, Deftones, DJ Soulman, The Movement, Full Service, Streetlight Manifesto, The Dirty Heads, Sublime with Rome, Shinobi Ninja, Ballyhoo!, The Supervillains, Ozomatli, G. Love & Special Sauce, and comedians Doug Benson and Graham Elwood. Along with fire performances by Nocturnal Arts. 311 played four sets and the album *Transistor* in its entirety.^[57]

311 business collaborations

Since 2015, the band has collaborated with Nebraska Brewing Company and Rock Brother Brewing on 311 Amber Ale.^[58] The beer is currently available in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Nebraska, and southern California with more midwest locations coming soon.^[59] Many varieties of the beer are now available for at-home delivery.^[60] In 2017, they also released a cannabis vapor pen dubbed the "Grassroots Uplifter."^[61] The pen is available in Colorado, Washington, Oregon and California. In 2018, Grassroots Uplifter v2 was released in California. 311 are also official media sponsors for BK Racing on the NASCAR Sprint Cup series. The 311 logo appears on all BK Racing cars^[62]



311 sponsored the NASCAR stock car of Jeb Burton in 2015

Musical style and influences

311's music is a blend of rock, reggae, hip hop and funk.^[63] 311 has been described as alternative rock,^{[64][65][66]} reggae rock,^{[67][68][69]} rap rock,^{[70][71][72][73]} funk metal,^{[74][75][76]} funk rock,^{[77][78][79]} rap metal,^[80] post-grunge,^[81] alternative metal^[82] and nu metal.^[83] 311's influences include The Clash, The Cure, Descendents, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Cypress Hill, De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, Led Zeppelin, Bob Marley, Fishbone, and Bad Brains.^[84]

Members

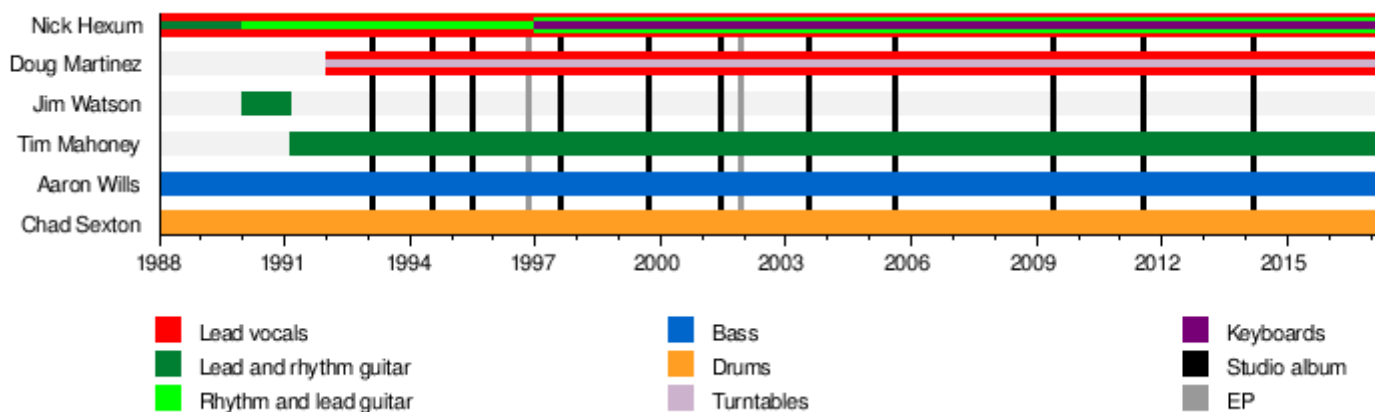
Current members

- Nick Hexum – lead vocals, rhythm and lead guitar, keyboards (1988–present)
- Doug "SA" Martinez – lead vocals, turntables (1992–present)
- Aaron "P-Nut" Wills – bass (1988–present)
- Chad Sexton – drums (1988–present)
- Tim Mahoney – lead and rhythm guitar (1991–present)

Former members

- Jim Watson – lead and rhythm guitar (1990–1991)

Timeline



Side projects

- Nick Hexum – The Nick Hexum Quintet (2013), DJ Leisure (Sean Perry) vs DJ Lofton (Nick Hexum) – 'Battlestations' (1997),
- Doug "SA" Martinez – Ghostwolf – vocals – 'Lunar Halos' (2012), Los Stellarians – vocals^[85]
- Aaron "P-Nut" Wills – Ghostwolf – bass – 'Lunar Halos' (2012), Hollows Follow – 'First Birthday' (2006) (https://archive.today/20130411220053/http://www.taiyedbrodels.com/wiki/index.php?title=First_Birthday)
- Chad Sexton – 'Introducing Zack Hexum...' (1998) – drums

Discography

- Music (1993)

- Grassroots (1994)
- 311 (1995)
- Transistor (1997)
- Soundsystem (1999)
- From Chaos (2001)
- Evolver (2003)
- Don't Tread on Me (2005)
- Uplifter (2009)
- Universal Pulse (2011)
- Stereolithic (2014)
- Mosaic (2017)
- Voyager (2019)

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.311.com>) 
- 311 (<https://www.discogs.com/artist/26921>) discography at Discogs
- Live311 (<http://www.live311.com>) website
- 311 Cruise (<http://www.311cruise.com>) website
- Tim Mahoney (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120517123750/http://guitarinternational.com/2011/07/19/interview-with-311-guitarist-tim-mahoney>) interview by Brad Conroy

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