

## **Late 1960's - Early 1970's**

The birth of heavy metal. Groups like Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple were the first heavy metal bands.

## **Late 1970's**

The rise of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal. Bands like Iron Maiden and Judas Priest become very popular.

## **1978**

Van Halen released their debut album. This began the Los Angeles/Sunset Strip scene, and many bands would come out of this era, including Motley Crue and Quiet Riot. The so called "hair bands" like Poison, Warrant and Ratt came from that scene as well.

The Who's Keith Moon died.

Bands formed this year: Dokken, Ratt, Whitesnake

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1978:

Black Sabbath - *Never Say Die*

Judas Priest - *Stained Class*

UFO - *Obsession*

## **1979**

The German band Accept releases their self-titled debut album. They are considered to be the first European power metal band. Ozzy Osbourne was fired from Black Sabbath and replaced by Ronnie James Dio.

Bands formed this year: Europe, Hanoi Rocks, Trouble and Venom.

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1979:

AC/DC - *Highway To Hell*

Judas Priest - *Hell Bent For Leather*

Led Zeppelin - *In Through The Out Door*

Kiss - *Dynasty*

Saxon - *Saxon*

Scorpions - *Lovedrive*

## **1980**

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1980: AC/DC - *Back In Black*

AC/DC lead singer Bon Scott dies and is replaced by Brian Johnson. Also Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham dies.

Bands formed this year: Manowar, Mercyful Fate, Overkill

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1980:

Angel Witch - *Angel Witch*

Black Sabbath - *Heaven And Hell*

Def Leppard - *On Through The Night*

Diamond Head - *Lightning To The Nations*

Iron Maiden - *Iron Maiden*

Judas Priest - *British Steel*

Motorhead - *Ace Of Spades*

Ozzy Osbourne - *Blizzard Of Ozz*  
Saxon - *Wheels Of Steel*

## 1981

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1981: Motley Crue - *Too Fast For Love*  
Venom's first album was released, beginning the genre of black metal.  
Bands formed this year: Anthrax, Dark Angel, Metallica, Pantera, Slayer

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1981:

Def Leppard - *High 'N Dry*  
Iron Maiden - *Killers*  
Judas Priest - *Point Of Entry*  
Ozzy Osbourne - *Diary Of A Madman*  
Saxon - *Denim And Leather*

## 1982

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1982: Iron Maiden - *The Number Of The Beast*  
Quiet Riot's *Metal Health* becomes the first heavy metal album to top the U.S. Billboard chart.  
Paul Di'Anno is replaced by Bruce Dickinson as the lead singer for Iron Maiden.

Ozzy Osbourne guitarist Randy Rhoads is killed in a plane crash.

Bands formed this year: Death Angel, Dio, Exodus, Kreator, Napalm Death, Sodom, Voivod, W.A.S.P.

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1982:

Accept - *Restless And Wild*  
Anvil - *Metal On Metal*  
Judas Priest - *Screaming For Vengeance*  
Motorhead - *Iron Fist*  
Twisted Sister - *Under The Blade*  
Venom - *Black Metal*

## 1983

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1983: Dio - *Holy Diver*  
Metallica releases *Kill 'Em All*, which would begin the rise of the genre of thrash metal.  
Queensryche's self-titled debut is released. They are considered the first progressive metalband, combining progressive rock and heavy metal. Later groups like Dream Theater and Fates Warning would help popularize the genre.  
Bands formed this year: Bathory, Death, Fates Warning, Helloween, Mayhem, Megadeth, Morbid Angel, Metal Church, Savatage, Testament

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1983:

Accept - *Balls To The Wall*  
Def Leppard - *Pyromania*  
Iron Maiden - *Piece Of Mind*  
Mercyful Fate - *Melissa*  
Motley Crue - *Shout At The Devil*  
Ozzy Osbourne - *Bark At The Moon*

## 1984

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1984: Metallica - *Ride The Lightning*

Def Leppard's Rick Allen loses an arm in a car accident. In another car accident, Hanoi Rocks drummer Nicholas "Razzle" Dingley was killed in a vehicle driven by Motley Crue's Vince Neil.

Bands formed this year: Annihilator, Candlemass, Celtic Frost, Iced Earth, Morbid Angel, Sepultura, Tesla

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1984:

Celtic Frost - *Morbid Tales*

Dio - *The Last In Line*

Iron Maiden - *Powerslave*

Judas Priest - *Defenders Of The Faith*

Mercyful Fate - *Don't Break The Oath*

## 1985

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1985: Exodus *Bonded By Blood*

Led Zeppelin reunites at Live Aid.

Bands formed this year: Blind Guardian, Candlemass, Carcass, Dream Theater, King Diamond, White Zombie

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1985:

Anthrax - *Spreading The Disease*

Celtic Frost - *To Mega Therion*

Megadeth - *Killing Is My Business...And Business Is Good*

Possessed - *Seven Churches*

Slayer - *Hell Awaits*

## 1986

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1986: Metallica - *Master Of Puppets*

Candlemass releases *Epicus Doomicus Metallicus*, the genre-defining doom metal album.

Metallica bassist Cliff Burton is killed in a bus accident and former Flotsam and Jetsam member Jason Newsted takes his place in the band.

Bands formed this year: Immolation, Pentagram, Terrorizer, Vader, Vio-Lence

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1986:

Bathory - *Under The Sign Of The Black Mark*

Iron Maiden - *Somewhere In Time*

Kreator - *Pleasure To Kill*

Megadeth - *Peace Sells...But Who's Buying?*

Slayer - *Reign In Blood*

## 1987

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1987: Guns 'N Roses - *Appetite For Destruction*

Headbangers Ball debuts on MTV.

Death releases *Scream Bloody Gore*, pioneering the death metal genre.

Napalm Death releases their debut album *Scum*. They are considered by many to be the first grindcore band.

Bands formed this year: Autopsy, Burzum, Danzig, Darkthrone, Deicide, Entombed, Primordial, Therion

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1987:

Anthrax - *Among The Living*  
Celtic Frost - *Into The Pandemonium*  
Helloween - *Keeper Of The Seven Keys Part I*  
King Diamond - *Abigail*  
Testament - *The Legacy*

## 1988

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1988: Queensryche - *Operation Mindcrime*

The movie *Decline Of Western Civilization II: The Metal Years* is released.

Bands formed this year: Amon Amarth, Cannibal Corpse, Dismember, Gamma Ray, Paradise Lost

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1988:

Helloween - *Keeper Of The Seven Keys Part II*  
Iron Maiden - *Seventh Son Of A Seventh Son*  
Megadeth - *So Far, So Good, So What*  
Slayer - *South Of Heaven*  
Voivod - *Dimension Hatross*

## 1989

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1989: Morbid Angel - *Altars Of Madness*

The first Grammy for hard rock/heavy metal performance is given. It was won by Jethro Tull.

Bands formed this year: Bal-Sagoth, Cathedral, Dark Tranquillity, Dissection, The Gathering, Immortal

A sample of heavy metal albums released this year:

Annihilator - *Alice In Hell*  
Exodus - *Fabulous Disaster*  
King's X - *Gretchen Goes To Nebraska*  
Sepultura - *Beneath The Remains*  
Voivod - *Nothingface*

## 1990

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1990: Megadeth - *Rust In Peace*

Bands formed this year: At The Gates, Fear Factory, In Flames, Kyuss, Opeth, Satyricon, Type O Negative

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1990:

Deicide - *Deicide*  
Entombed - *Left Hand Path*  
Judas Priest - *Painkiller*  
Pantera - *Cowboys From Hell*  
Slayer - *Seasons In The Abyss*

## 1991

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1991: Metallica - *Metallica*

Metallica's self-titled "black" album becomes the first thrash metal album to hit number one.

Nirvana releases *Nevermind*, beginning grunge music that would wipe the "hair bands" off the popular charts.

Def Leppard guitarist Steve Clark dies.

Bands formed this year: Angra, Behemoth, Cradle Of Filth, Emperor, Enslaved, Mercenary, Nevermore

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1991:

Death - *Human*  
Morbid Angel - *Blessed Are The Sick*  
Overkill - *Horrorscope*  
Ozzy Osbourne - *No More Tears*  
Sepultura - *Arise*

## 1992

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1992: Pantera - *Vulgar Display Of Power*

Bands formed this year: Black Label Society, Edguy, Gorgoroth, Machine Head, Moonspell, Necrophagist

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1992:

Black Sabbath - *Dehumanizer*  
Cannibal Corpse - *Tomb Of The Mutilated*  
Dream Theater - *Images And Words*  
Iron Maiden - *Fear Of The Dark*  
Megadeth - *Countdown To Extinction*

## 1993

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1993: Sepultura - *Chaos A.D.*

Rob Halford leaves Judas Priest and forms Fight.

Mayhem's Euronymous murdered by fellow band member Varg Vikernes.

Bands formed this year: Children Of Bodom, Dark Funeral, Dimmu Borgir, Hammerfall, Limbionic Art, Nile, Symphony X

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1993:

Angra - *Angels Cry*  
Anthrax - *Sound Of White Noise*  
Carcass - *Heartwork*  
Death - *Individual Thought Patterns*  
Life Of Agony - *River Runs Red*  
Morbid Angel - *Covenant*

## 1994

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1994 Emperor - *In The Nightside Eclipse*.

Korn releases their self-titled debut album, helping begin the genre of nu-metal. Other bands like Limp Bizkit would popularize the genre in the late '90s and early 2000's.

Bands formed this year: Down, Lacuna Coil, Limp Bizkit, Six Feet Under, Strapping Young Lad, Symphony X

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1994:

Amorphis - *Tales From The Thousand Lakes*  
Burzum - *Hvis Lyset Tar Oss*

Mayhem - *De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas*  
Megadeth - *Youthanasia*  
Pantera - *Far Beyond Driven*

## 1995

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1995: Death - *Symbolic*

Bands formed this year: Agalloch, Borknagar, Shadows Fall, Slipknot, System Of A Down

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1995:

Angra - *Holy land*  
At The Gates - *Slaughter Of The Soul*  
Dissection - *Storm Of The Light's Bane*  
Fear Factory - *Demanufacture*  
Gamma Ray - *Land Of The Free*  
Moonspell - *Wolfheart*

## 1996

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1996: Pantera - *The Great Southern Trendkill*

Ozzfest begins. The traveling summer metal tour was started by Ozzy Osbourne. The first year included bands like Slayer, Danzig, Sepultura, Fear Factory, and of course Ozzy.

Bands formed this year: Arch Enemy, Disturbed, God Forbid, Kittle, Nightwish, Sonata Arctica, Within Temptation

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1996:

Amorphis - *Elegy*  
In Flames - *The Jester Race*  
Metallica - *Load*  
Neurosis - *Through Silver In Blood*  
Opeth - *Morningrise*

## 1997

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1997: Emperor - *Anthems To The Welkin At Dusk*

Bands formed this year: Akercocke, Dillinger Escape Plan, Finntroll, Pig Destroyer

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1997:

Bruce Dickinson - *Accident Of Birth*  
Dimmu Borgir - *Enthroned: Darkness Triumphant*  
Gamma Ray - *Somewhere Out In Space*  
In Flames - *Whoracle*  
Therion - *Theli*

## 1998

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1998: Bruce Dickinson - *The Chemical Wedding*

Bands formed this year: Atreyu, Chimaira, Tyr, Underoath, Unearth

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1998:

Angra - *Fireworks*  
Blind Guardian - *Nightfall In Middle Earth*  
Death - *The Sound Of Perseverance*  
Fear Factory - *Obsolete*  
Metallica - *Garage Inc.*  
Opeth - *My Arms, Your Hearse*

## 1999

Best Heavy Metal Album Of 1999: Nevermore - *Dreaming Neon Black*

Bruce Dickinson rejoins Iron Maiden.

Bands formed this year: Avenged Sevenfold, Dragonforce, Mastodon

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 1999:

Cannibal Corpse - *Bloodthirst*

Dream Theater - *Metropolis Pt. 2: Scenes From A Memory*

In Flames - *Colony*

Opeth - *Still Life*

Testament - *The Gathering*

## 2000

Bands formed this year: 3 Inches Of Blood, Killswitch Engage, Trivium, Wolfmother

A sample of heavy metal CDs released in 2000:

Cradle Of Filth - *Midian*

Dio - *Magica*

In Flames - *Clayman*

Killswitch Engage - *Killswitch Engage*

Lamb Of God - *New American Gospel*

Nightwish - *Wishmaster*

## 2001

Death guitarist Chuck Schuldiner dies of brain cancer.

Jason Newsted leaves Metallica and joins Voivod.

Bands formed this year: As I Lay Dying, Black Dahlia Murder, Masterplan and Sirenia.

A sample of heavy metal albums released in 2001:

Angra - *Rebirth*

Dimmu Borgir - *Puritanical Euphoric Misanthropy*

Fear Factory - *Digimortal*

Judas Priest - *Demolition*

Opeth - *Blackwater Park*

Slayer - *God Hates Us All*

## 2002

Bands formed this year: Apocalypse, Eluveitie

A sample of heavy metal CDs released in 2002:

Blind Guardian - *A Night At The Opera*

Immortal - *Sons of Northern Darkness*

In Flames - *Reroute to Remain*

Opeth - *Deliverance*

Soilwork - *Natural Born Chaos*

## 2003

MTV2 brings back the heavy metal show "Headbanger's Ball."

Rob Halford rejoins Judas Priest.

Bands formed this year: Communic, DevilDriver, Epica, Korpiklaani

A sample of heavy metal CDs released in 2003:

Cannibal Corpse - *15 Year Killing Spree*  
Children of Bodom - *Hate Crew Deathroll*  
Cradle Of Filth - *Damnation And A Day*  
Lamb Of God - *As The Palaces Burn*  
Metallica - *St. Anger*  
Opeth - *Damnation*

## 2004

"Dimebag" Darrell Abbott of the band Damageplan and formerly Pantera was shot and killed while performing on stage in Ohio.

Bands formed this year: Job For A Cowboy, Scar Symmetry, Threat Signal, Wintersun

A sample of heavy metal CDs released in 2004:

Angra - *Temple of Shadows*  
Cradle Of Filth - *Nymphetamine*  
Dillinger Escape Plan - *Miss Machine*  
Iced Earth - *The Glorious Burden*  
In Flames - *Soundtrack to Your Escape*  
Killswitch Engage - *The End of Heartache*  
Lamb of God - *Ashes of the Wake*  
Mastodon - *Leviathan*  
Megadeth - *The System Has Failed*

## 2005

Best Heavy Metal CD Of 2005: Opeth - *Ghost Reveries*

Voivod guitarist Denis "Piggy" D'Amour and former Metal Church vocalist David Wayne died.

Bands formed this year: Beyond Fear, Five Finger Death Punch, In This Moment

A sample of heavy metal CDs released in 2005:

Arch Enemy - *Doomsday Machine*  
Averaged Sevenfold - *City Of Evil*  
Candlemass - *Candlemass*  
Children Of Bodom - *Are You Dead Yet*  
Exodus - *Shovel Headed Kill Machine*  
God Forbid - *IV: Constitution Of Treason*  
Judas Priest - *Angel Of Retribution*  
Trivium - *Ascendancy*



## 2006

Best Heavy Metal CD Of 2006: Mastodon - *Blood Mountain*

Bands formed this year: Devil Wears Prada, Divine Heresy

A sample of heavy metal CDs released in 2006:

Amon Amarth - *With Oden On Our Side*

Cannibal Corpse - *Kill*

Evergrey - *Monday Morning Apocalypse*

Iron Maiden - *A Matter Of Life And Death*

Killswitch Engage - *As Daylight Dies*

Lamb Of God - *Sacrament*

## 2007

Best Heavy Metal CD Of 2007: Dillinger Escape Plan - *Ire Works*

Quiet Riot singer Kevin DuBrow died.

A sample of CDs released in 2007:

Arch Enemy - *Rise Of The Tyrant*

Dark Tranquillity - *Fiction*

High On Fire - *Death Is This Communion*

Mayhem - *Ordo Ad Chao*

Megadeth - *United Abominations*

Melechesh - *Emissaries*

Primordial - *To The Nameless Dead*