

IRON MAIDEN By Danilo Binatto (Dan)



Iron Maiden is considered one of the greatest heavy metal bands of all time. Formed in 1975 by the leader of the band, bass player and song writer Steve Harris. They went through a lot of changes in their lineup, and after discussions and fights, they found themselves with the lineup ahead. The band has this lineup since 1999 :



Bruce Dickinson-Vocals and songwriter; Nicko McBrain-Drums; Steve Harris-Bass and Dave Murray, Adrian Smith and Janick Gers, all 3 playing guitars.

The powerful and amazing Bruce's voice, the unique Iron Maiden musicians sound, and their incredible lyrics, made what Iron Maiden is today. They have released 16 studio albums, 11 live albums, 4 EP's, and 7 compilations.

Few bands are loved like Iron Maiden is. They have a legion of fans all around the world. They have respect. And of course, we can not forget, they have the best mascot in the music industry. They have Eddie, as you can see in the left.

THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST



The Number Of The Beast was the first Maiden's album with Bruce Dickinson as lead singer, starting what would be known as the 'classic era' for the band. The album created a big controversy, where Maiden's member were accused of being Satanists (no, they are not Satanists).

From Wikipedia : The Beast on the Road tour was subject to numerous boycotts and demonstrations: venues were sometimes surrounded by activists who handed out leaflets and, in one case, a 25-foot cross was carried in protest. Harris has stated, *"It was mad. They completely got the wrong end of the stick. They obviously hadn't read the lyrics. They just wanted to believe all that rubbish about us being Satanists"*

The album is one of the favorites for most of the Maiden's fans, containing several classic songs. Was released in March,1982,containing 9 songs. Has 14 million copies sold, being one of greatest and important heavy metal albums ever made.

CHILDREN OF THE DAMNED

The second song of the album, has a unbelievable atmosphere, great vocals and a feeling that only Iron Maiden could do. It is a little bit slowly at beginning, almost like a ballad, and in the chorus we have the apex of the song. Children Of The Damned is based in a movie with the same name. In this movie, there are six fatherless children, who apparently are human but possess special mental powers. United Nations scientists gather in London to facilitate research, but as they study the children, the military tries to use them in their favor, to help them in their own interests.Children Of The Damned lyrics isabout the last moments of the last "Children of the damned" alive. It talks about how he must save mankind by killing his kind, just as his friends did.

*"He's walking like a dead man
If he had lived he would have crucified us all
Now he's standing on his last step
He thought oblivion, well it beckons to us all
Children of The Damned"*

THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST (Song)

The song was written inspired by a nightmare that Steve Harris had after seeing the film Damien: Omen II (The Prophecy II) and in the history of the poem Tam o' Shanter . "The Number of the Beast" is one of the biggest hits of the band and is always performed during concerts and reached the eighteenth place of the British charts. The song is well known for Bruce Dickinson's shrill, gritty scream seconds after the introduction. It starts with a passage of the bible, withdrawal from the book of apocalypse :

*“Woe to you, oh, earth and sea
For the devil sends the beast with wrath
Because he knows the time is short
Let him who hath understanding reckon
The number of the beast for it is a human number
Its number is six hundred and sixty six”*

RUN TO THE HILLS

Run to the hills was the first single from the album, and is one of the most famous Iron Maiden's song. The song talks about the battle between the native Indians and the European settlers during the process of expansion. It's amazing how Maiden can handle that feeling of War in a brilliant and catch way. Iron Maiden is excellent band for those who likes history, and this song is a prove of that.

*“Soldier blue in the barren wastes
Hunting and killing their game
Raping the women and wasting the men
The only good Indians are tame
Selling them whiskey and taking their gold
Enslaving the young and destroying the old
Run to the hills, run for your lives”*

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

This song is considered one of the best heavy metal songs of all time. It is on my top 30 of Maiden's songs. The lyrics are just perfect, about a man, a prisoner about to be executed. He is in his cell, going through harrowing, terrifying moments of regrets, tension and hopes until reach the end of his life.

The interpretation of the lyrics joins the melody from the beginning of the song. In the introduction, we have the ringing of bells with a set of notes in a slow rhythm, representing the anguish of being in that place about to die. The emotion that this song transmits it is something impossible to describe. You need to listen to
Hallowed be thy name !

*"Mark my words, believe my soul lives on
Don't worry now that I have gone
I've gone beyond to seek the truth*

*When you know that your time is close at hand
Maybe then you'll begin to understand
Life down here is just a strange illusion*

Yeah, hallowed be thy name"

#UpTheIrons