

Black Sabbath

Paranoid

The album **Paranoid** was made and is seen as the start of heavy metal in general. With their strong vocals heavy metal was brought mainstream



by Black Sabbath in 1970 metal and harder rock in and instrumentation heavy with this album.

The group is made up of four members, **Ozzy Osbourne** the lead singer, **Tony Iommi** the guitarist, **Bill Ward** the drummer and the bassist **Geezer Butler** and the bassist



All four were from England and trying to escape the factory work that they were destined for, Black Sabbath was originally called Earth Blues Company and was shortened to Earth in 1968. Because of another band called Earth, they decided to change their image to a much darker theme because of their first album, "**Black Sabbath**" and they decided to change their name to that.



Ozzy Osbourne or John Michael Osbourne

was born on December 3rd, 1948
and was in the band from its start in
1968 to when he was fired in 1978 for drug use.
After he was fired he started a very successful solo career
becoming one of the most recognizable voices in metal and rock.



Tony Iommi or Anthony Frank Iommi Jr.

was born on February 19th, 1948.
He was a co-founder of the band and was with the band for
the longest amount of time continuously,
going up to 5 decades he was with the band.
When Tony was seventeen he lost the tips of some of his
fingers in an accident at a factory he worked at on his fretboard hand,
He was told by the doctors that he would never play guitar again.
Being inspired by another artist with two fingers he made prosthetic fingers to play with.



Bill Ward, William Thomas Ward was born on May 5th, 1948.
Bill was influenced by a lot of 1940s drummers then
Later he was influenced a lot by Ringo Starr and John Bonham.
Bill Ward is recognized as one of the most influential
drummers of all time especially in the heavy metal scene.



Geezer Butler or Terence Michael Joseph Butler

was born on July 17th, 1949. Butler was inspired by John Lennon
with them both playing rhythm guitar,
but as soon as he had joined Black Sabbath, Tony Iommi
didn't want to play with another electric guitar so he switched to bass.



To start off the album you get two big hitters “War Pigs / Luke’s Wall” and “Paranoid”

“Paranoid” was originally a song about depression because they didn't really know the difference between depression and paranoia.

It's also about the paranoid feeling you get when you're high.

For this song being their most popular and one of their best songs I would personally give this song a 85/100.

One of the reasons it is so popular is because of its really catchy beat and lyrics, combined with the electric guitar growls it makes a perfect song.

▶ Paranoid



“War Pigs / Luke’s Wall” 80/100

With all of them growing up in post-war England there's no doubt

They made songs about how that affected them. The post-war tragedy they experienced caused them to write “War Pigs / Luke’s Wall” as a rebuke against politicians and war.

“Politicians hide themselves away

They only started the war

Why should they go out to fight?

They leave that role to the poor, yeah”

(2:15)

▶ War Pigs



The reason that hard guitar riffs are a thing is because of Tony Iommi! After the accident, he had to soften the strings and make metal caps for his fingers so that he could still play the guitar!



“Hand of Doom” 73/100

Hand of Doom is one of their most hard-hitting songs, talking about the horrors of the Vietnam War and how the soldiers who came home afterwards suffered from PTSD most of them gaining an Opium addiction.

“First it was the bomb
Vietnam napalm
Disillusioning
You push the needle in”

▶ Hand of Doom (2012 - Remaster)



“Electric Funeral” 90/100

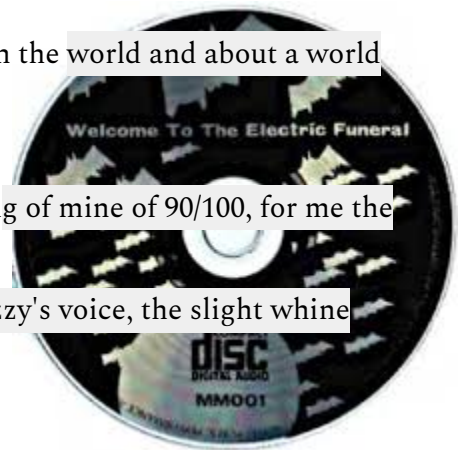
Electric Funeral is also another song about the effect of the war on the world and about a world destroyed by nuclear bombs and the aftermath of it.

Electric Funeral is my favourite song on the album and has a rating of mine of 90/100, for me the song's lyrics and tone are really interesting.

Another thing I like about the song and the songs in general is Ozzy's voice, the slight whine and scratchiness of his voice really bring's the song and the entire album together.

“Flashes in the sky
Turns houses into sties
Turns people into clay
Radiation minds decay”

▶ Electric Funeral

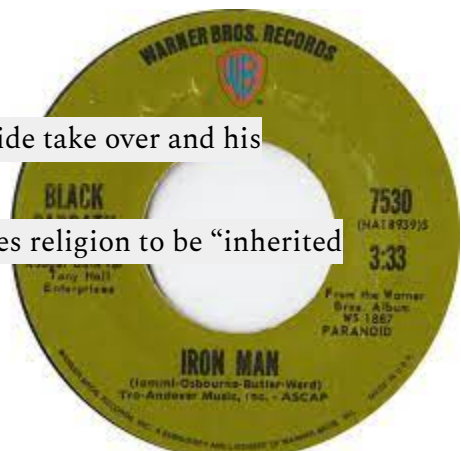


“Iron Man” 88/100

Iron Man was originally based on the prosecution of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is still a saviour in the song but he lets his more revenging side take over and his resurrection finally occurs.

Geezer Butler was a devout Christian in his childhood but now sees religion to be “inherited brainwashing”



Black Sabbath's name came from the movie "Black Sabbath", the 1963 Boris Karloff film was screening beside where they were performing and they took the name because they thought it sounded very dark and mysterious.



Black Sabbath arrived at the perfect time for their aesthetic, right after the Summer of Love and just in the middle of the Vietnam War.

A lot of aggression and evil were present at the time so Black Sabbath fit right in with that aesthetic, with the length of their songs sometimes it's hard to stay on track but with their flawless tempo changes and melody changes it turns one song into two completely different tunes.

after

"Iron Man"
Black Sabbath (Bill Ward)

Occurs: 1:14

1 + 2 + a3 e + a4 e + a 1 + 2 + a3 e + a 4 e + a

1 + 2 + a3 + 4 + a 1 + a2 + a3 e + a 4 e + a

1 + 2 + a3 + 4 + a 1 + 2 + a3 e + a4 e + a

Occurs: 1:58

1 + 2 + a3 e + a 4 e + a 1 + a2 + a3 e + a 4 e + a

1 + a2 + a3 e + a4 e + a 1 + 2 + a3 e + a 4 e + a

Occurs: 2:10

1 + 2 + a3 e + a4 e + a 1 + a2 + a3 e + a 4 e + a

1 + 2 + a3 e + a4 e + a 1 + 2 + a3 e + a 4 e + a

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To say this album has the most influential songs is an understatement, not only does this album have their top songs but these songs have stood the test of time and have messages that are still relevant today.

After Ozzy was fired from the band they went through several lineup changes since, including Ronnie James Dio for some of their newer albums.

A lot of people say that since Ozzy was gone it wasn't really Black Sabbath anymore and that Dio-Sabbath isn't really Black Sabbath but I disagree, A lot of bands go through member changes and survive to make great music and Black Sabbath did the same, there aren't as many hits on their newer albums but they still make great music.



Black Sabbath's last tour was in 2016 where they made a final debut featuring Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler. Bill Ward was not able to make it due to health problems and looking at the band due to the health problems between them they will most likely never tour again. The tour went through 81 shows all across the globe, the final show was performed in Birmingham, England where all were originally from.



