

Depeche mode



violator

Violator

Depeche Mode

Introduction

Depeche Mode is an English electronic band formed in 1980 in Basildon, Essex, at the time under the name of "Composition Of Sound". Though the band's origins can also be traced back to 1977 when two former band members formed the band "No Romance in China".



The band has gone on since then to release several albums and singles, their first being "Speak & Spell" in 1981, and their most recent being "Memento Mori" in 2023. The album I have chosen to discuss, "Violator", released in 1990, was their 7th album and fittingly reached #7 on the Billboard 200.

Band Members*

Dave Gahan: Lead singer



*Martin Gore: Songwriter,
Keyboardist, Guitarist*





Andrew Fletcher: Keyboard player

*Alan Wilder: Arranger, Producer,
Synth player*



**At the time of the albums creation*

The Album

Arguably one of the bands most widely received albums, the recording of Violator took place 1989 in Milan, Italy and Denmark with François Kevorkian on sound mixing and Flood as their producer.



The album and its singles received several high rankings, such as the aforementioned #7 spot on the Billboard 200, "Enjoy The Silence" reaching #6 in the UK, and the album as a whole being certified triple platinum in America. An estimated 1.2 million fans attended the "World Violation Tour" worldwide.

Tracklist

Violator has a total of 9 songs, 4 of which were released as singles.*

1. "World In My Eyes" *
2. "Sweetest Perfection"
3. "Personal Jesus" *
4. "Halo"
5. "Waiting For The Night"
6. "Enjoy The Silence" *
7. "Policy of Truth" *
8. "Blue Dress"
9. "Clean"

Of these I will go over all of the singles, and two of my choosing.

Songs

World In My Eyes



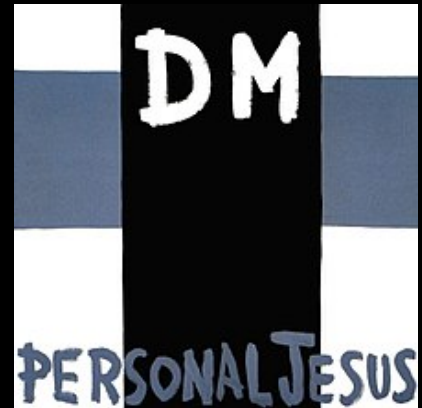
The opening track, World In My Eyes, is moody in tone but positive in message. Being about spending time and being comfortable with somebody, getting lost in "all the islands in the ocean, all the heaven's in the motion." together, so to say. And, in my eyes, I believe it captures that feeling quite well.

The demo was created by Martin Gore. Originally faster and more 'obvious', the band changed it during a few days where the lead singer, Dave Gahan,

was away, with the change earning a shocked reaction from him upon returning. The song was released as a single in 1990, with the exclusive B-sides "Happiest Girl" and "Sea Of Sin".

Personal Jesus

Personal Jesus is the third song in the album, and the first that was released as a single on Aug 29, 1989, six months before the album was released. With an interesting advertising campaign to boot, putting the words "Your own personal Jesus" in the personal columns of UK newspapers, and later including a number that could be called to hear the song.



Enjoy The Silence



Enjoy The Silence, Depeche Mode's biggest hit out of them all. A wonderful, powerful and catchy song that captures you in the very beginning with almost angelic sounding notes and keeps you throughout with deep synth notes and a flowy, captivating feeling.

The song was certified gold in the US and Germany in 1990, won Best British Single at the Brit Awards in 1991, and was placed in *The Rolling Stones 500 Best Songs of All Time* in 2021. It has also been nominated for and received several other awards.



The song was originally much slower, sounding like more of a Ballad, before Alan Wilder and the producer Flood suggested speeding it up and adding more of a 'disco beat' to it, creating the song we now have.

Martin Gore says it's about "Not wanting anything else, feeling totally satisfied." describing it simply as 'nice'. And Dave Gahan says, in reference to the music video: "you'll see that I only sing one line in the whole thing every now and then, repeatedly: 'Words are very unnecessary'. Because you got all these beautiful scenes, beautiful photography everywhere."



Policy of Truth

Policy of Truth is the fourth and final single from the album, coming right after Enjoy The Silence and opening with an instantly recognizable synth. Released as a single on May 7th 1990 with the B-side "Kaleid", a song included on the deluxe version of the album.

Policy of Truth has a very deep and dark sound to it, along with a guitar-like sound used throughout, and lyrically seems to be about faith taken to the point of it being detrimental to the believer. Though this is just my personal opinion and has not been confirmed by any band members as far as I'm aware.

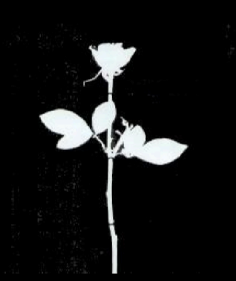
Blue Dress

Blue Dress comes right after *Policy of Truth*, and is the second to last track in the album. Opening with an instantly recognizable high pitched sound, a slow pace and soothing vocals.



It has been described as “the pervy song” by Martin Gore, being about “watching a girl dress and realizing this is ‘what makes the world turn.’”, a sort of shameless indulgence in simple desires, unlike most of their other songs, that usually hold some sort of guilty feeling in them. But despite this, it still remains one of my favorite songs of theirs.

Depeche Mode



Clean

Clean

The closing track of the album, and an amazing one at that. Transitioning beautifully from the ending section of *Blue Dress*, *Clean* starts off with a sort of beeping sound, which is quickly followed by a continuous vocal in the background.

The song has a deep bass all throughout, similarly deep drums, and a drawn out, rumbling synth sound. Lyrically, the song can have a few different meanings. When taken at said face value, can be taken as a song connected to substance abuse, with a little hint towards the end that the singer’s sobriety may not be as pure as it seems,

especially with the lines "Now I'm clean - sometimes - you know what I mean."



Conclusion and Ranking

In conclusion, although I am incredibly biased, with *Violator* being one of my first exposures to one of my now favorite bands, I still firmly believe that *Violator* is a truly incredible album that is worth listening to.

My favorite songs if I had to choose would be *Blue Dress*, *Enjoy The Silence*, and *Policy of Truth*. Be you a long time fan or someone who has never heard of the band before, this work of art deserves to be viewed, or in this case, heard.

10/10