



# Presents METALLICA

Metallica is an American heavy metal band from Los Angeles, California, formed in 1981. The band was founded when drummer Lars Ulrich posted an advertisement in a local newspaper. Metallica's line up has primarily consisted of Ulrich, rhythm guitarist and vocalist James Hetfield and lead guitarist Kirk Hammett, while going through a number of bassists. Currently, the spot is held by Robert Trujillo.

Metallica's early releases included fast tempos, instrumentals, and aggressive musicianship that placed them as one of the "big four" of the thrash metal subgenre alongside Slayer, Megadeth, and Anthrax during the genre's development into a popular style. The band earned a growing fan base in the underground music community and critical acclaim, with the 1986 release *Master of Puppets* described as one of the most influential and "heavy" thrash metal albums. The band achieved substantial commercial success with their self-titled fifth album (also known as *The Black Album*), which debuted at number one on the Billboard 200. With this release the band expanded its musical direction resulting in an album that appealed to a more mainstream audience.

Despite reaching number one on the Billboard 200, the release of *St. Anger* alienated many fans with the exclusion of guitar solos and the "steel-sounding" snare drum. A film titled *Some Kind of Monster* documented the recording process of *St. Anger*.

Metallica has released nine studio albums, two live albums, two EPs, 24 music videos, and 45 singles. The band has won nine Grammy Awards, and has had five consecutive albums debut at number one on the Billboard 200, making Metallica the first band to do so, this record was later matched by the Dave Matthews Band.



The band's 1991 album, *Metallica*, has sold over 15 million copies in the United States, and 22 million copies worldwide, which makes it the 25th-highest-selling album in the country. In December 2009, it became the highest-selling album of the SoundScan era, surpassing 1997's *Come On Over* by country artist Shania Twain. The band has sold an estimated 100 million records worldwide as of the release of their latest album, *Death Magnetic*. As of December 2009, Metallica is the fourth highest-selling music artist since the SoundScan era began tracking sales on May 25, 1991, selling a total of 52,271,000 albums in the United States alone.

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