

ROCK BANDS FROM NORTHEAST OHIO *

(CLEVELAND'S ROCK SCENE IS STEEPED IN THE GARAGE, PUNK, INDUSTRIAL, HEAVY METAL, R&B, AND RAP GENRES.)

Barnstorm (Active: 1972-1974) - Rock band formed in Colorado by former northeast Ohio residents Joe Walsh and Joe Vitale. The band recorded three studio albums including the hit "Rocky Mountain Way." The band was also the backing band on Clevelander Michael Stanley's first album. (Wikipedia lists their origins as Cleveland despite being formed in Colorado.)

The Baskerville Hounds (Active: 1964-1972) - Garage rock group from the West Park neighborhood of Cleveland. They had a single hit on the Billboard top-100: "Hold Me" which peaked at #88 and was on the charts for two weeks in October 1969.

Black Keys (Active: 2001-present) - Formed in Akron in 2001. The band consists of Dan Auerbach (guitar, vocals) and Patrick Carney (drums). The duo began as an independent act, recording music in basements and self-producing their records, before they eventually emerged as one of the most popular garage rock artists during a second wave of the genre's revival in the 2010s. The band has released 10 studio albums and won numerous awards.

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony (Active: 1991-present) - Hip-hop, gangsta rap band formed in Cleveland. Members are Layzie Bone, Flesh-n-Bone, Bizzy Bone, Krayzie Bone, and Wish Bone. Ranked among the best hip-hop bands of all time, the band has recorded eleven studio albums.

Chimaira (Active: 1998-2014, 2017) - Heavy metal band from Cleveland, Ohio. Formed in August 1998, the group was a member of the New Wave of American Heavy Metal. The band's name is derived from the word Chimera, a monstrous creature in Greek mythology. The band recorded seven studio albums.

The Choir (Active: 1964-1966 as "The Mods," 1966-1970, 2006) - The Choir was a garage rock band largely active in the greater Cleveland area from the mid-1960s into the early 1970s. Originally called The Mods, their largest commercial success came with the release of their first single "It's Cold Outside" in December 1966. The song is considered a classic of the garage rock era. The Choir is well known for containing three of the four original members of Raspberries (all except lead singer Eric Carmen). The band released three studio albums and four singles.

Cloud Nothings (Active: 2009-present) - Post-punk/indie band from Cleveland. Beginning in 2009, the band originally started as a solo project, with lead singer/guitarist Dylan Baldi recording both vocals and instrumentals in his parents' basement. The band is signed to Washington, DC-based Carpark Records and has recorded nine studio albums.

Cobra Verde (Active: 1994-present) - Hard/glam Rock band formed in Cleveland. The group has released six albums, including the acclaimed *Nightlife*, *Easy Listening* and *Haven't Slept All Year*. Cobra Verde's music has been featured on television programs such as *True Blood*,

Entourage, *The OC*, *Shameless*, and *Sons of Anarchy*. In addition, the group performed on *The OC* as a Foreigner tribute band at a birthday party held at the show's fictional club, "The Bait Shop." J. Mascis of Dinosaur Jr. fame has recorded and toured with the band.

Dazz Band (Active: 1977-present) - R&B, funk band most popular in the early 1980s. Emerging from Cleveland, the group's biggest hit songs include the Grammy Award-winning "Let It Whip" (1982), "Joystick" (1983), and "Let It All Blow" (1984). The name of the band is a portmanteau of the description "danceable jazz." The band has recorded fourteen studio albums on the Motown, Geffen, RCA, and Intersound labels and released twenty singles.

Dead Boys (Active: 1976-1979, 1987, 2004-2005, 2017-present) - Punk rock band from Cleveland. The band was among the first wave of punk bands, and was known as one of the rowdiest and most violent punk groups of the era. Dead Boys were formed by vocalist Stiv Bators, lead guitarist Cheetah Chrome, rhythm guitarist Jimmy Zero, bassist Jeff Magnum, and drummer Johnny Blitz in 1976, splintering off from the band Rocket From The Tombs. They have released three studio albums, including *Young Loud and Snotty* and *We Have Come for Your Children*, five live albums, and four singles.

Death of Samantha (Active: 1984-1990, 1992, 2011) - Post-punk band from Cleveland. Founded in 1983, the quartet made its infamous debut at a Ground Round family restaurant in Parma Heights, Ohio, a show that became part of rock legend and set the tenor for the band's live stage show. Death of Samantha played a farewell show on December 15, 1990, but later reformed in December 2012 with its original four-piece lineup: vocalist/guitarist John Petkovic (vocals/guitar), lead guitarist Doug Gillard, bassist David James, and drummer Steven "Steve-O". Petkovic went on to play in Cobra Verde. Death of Samantha released four studio albums and three singles.

Devo (Active 1973-1991, 1996-present) - Punk/new wave band from Akron and Kent. Pioneered the music video. The band had a No. 14 Billboard chart hit in 1980 with the single "Whip It," the song that gave the band mainstream popularity. Devo is known for their music and stage shows mingling kitsch science fiction themes, deadpan surrealist humor, and mordantly satirical social commentary. The classic lineup includes lead singer Mark Mothersbaugh, bassist and synthesizer player Gerald Casale, lead guitarist Bob Mothersbaugh, guitarist/keyboard player Bob Casale, and drummer Alan Myers. Devo has released nine studio albums.

electric eels (Active: 1972-1975) - The electric eels (written with lowercase e's in honor of E. E. Cummings) were an American protopunk band. The band played only five public shows, but during their brief existence they earned a reputation locally for being angry, confrontational, and violent. They were notorious for starting fights with audiences which drew police attention. Their style was a discordant, noisy amalgam of hard garage rock and free jazz. Stiv Bators, the singer of The Dead Boys was particularly influenced by the vocal styling and stage presence of Dave "E" McManus. While the eels didn't play many shows, they rehearsed often, eventually making many recordings which were released many years after their demise including four studio albums and three singles.

Exotic Birds (Active: 1982-1991) - Synthpop music group formed in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1982 by three Cleveland Institute of Music percussion students, Andy Kubiszewski, Tom Freer, and Tim Adams. They wrote their own music, and were described as synthpop and dance. They achieved mainly local success, but appeared as an opening band for Culture Club, Eurythmics, and Information Society. In 1985, Trent Reznor (who later formed Nine Inch Nails) joined the band on keyboards, programming, and backing vocals. The Exotic Birds released four albums and one EP.

Filter (Active: 1993-2003, 2007-present) – Industrial/alternative rock band formed in 1993 in Cleveland, by singer Richard Patrick and guitarist and programmer Brian Liesegang. The band was formed when Patrick desired to start his own band after leaving Nine Inch Nails as their touring guitarist. Their debut album *Short Bus* was released in 1995 and ended up going platinum, largely due to the success of the single "Hey Man Nice Shot." The band has released nine studio albums.

Glass Harp (Active: 1970-present) - Glass Harp is a progressive/psychedelic rock band formed in Youngstown consisting of Phil Keaggy, drummer John Sferra, and bassist Daniel Pecchio. The band quickly found a following in the thriving music scene of northeast Ohio, particularly alongside contemporaries such as The James Gang. Glass Harp was especially popular at the legendary JB's in Kent playing to packed houses during the volatile days surrounding the anti-war demonstrations at Kent State University. Their first three albums were produced by Grammy Award-winning producer Lewis Merenstein at Jimi Hendrix's Electric Lady Studios. In total, Glass Harp has released eight studio albums and two live albums.

The Golden Palominos (Active: 1981-2000, 2010-present) - The Golden Palominos are an experimental alternative "no wave" band formed in Cleveland by drummer and composer Anton Fier. Aside from Fier, the Palominos membership has been wildly elastic, with only bassist Bill Laswell and guitarist Nicky Skopelitis appearing on every album through 1996. While the Palominos' records usually featured a core set of musicians and a certain emotional continuity throughout the bulk of an album, various guest appearances resulted in stylistic changes from track to track. The band has released nine studio albums.

The Hesitations (Active: 1965-1968, 2006-present) - R&B group from Cleveland, Ohio. Formed in 1965, they scored several hits in 1967 and 1968, the biggest being their gospel-infused version of the title track to the movie *Born Free*. After one of the group's singers George "King" Scott was accidentally shot and killed in February 1968, the group disbanded. The Hesitations regrouped in 2006 with new members and are performing and recording once again. The band recorded four studio albums in 1967 and 1968 which had five singles reach the top 100 charts in the U.S.

The Innocent (Active 1983-1985) - The Innocent was the band Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails played with after leaving Option 30. He then moved on to the Exotic Birds before creating his own band, Nine Inch Nails. The other members were Alan Greenblatt (as Alan Greene), Kevin Valentine, Rodney Cajka (as Rodney Psyka), and Albritton McClain. Valentine and McClain were both members of Donnie Iris and the Cruisers, and they had just recently opted to go on



their own way from the band. The band's sole album, *Livin' in the Street*, was released on the regional Red Label Records.

The James Gang (Active: 1966-1977, 2005-2006) - A funky garage rock band formed in Cleveland in 1966. The band went through a variety of line-up changes until they recorded their first album as a power trio consisting of Joe Walsh (guitars, lead vocals), Tom Kriss (bass), and Jimmy Fox (drums). Dale Peters replaced Kriss on bass for the band's second and third albums. The band had two hit songs, "Funk #49" and "Walk Away," which continue to be popular on classic rock and AOR stations. In 1972, Walsh left to pursue a solo career and would later join the Eagles. The band continued on with a variety of other guitarists and lead singers to replace Walsh, but failed to produce a hit song over the course of six more studio albums and broke up in 1977. In total, the band recorded nine studio albums, one live album, and sixteen singles.

Keelhaul (Active 1997-present) - a four-piece progressive Mathcore/sludge metal band from Cleveland. The band toured Europe in April 2004, and subsequently went on a lengthy break. With no tours or new music recorded, Keelhaul entered the studio in December 2008 with producer Andrew Schneider to record their new album, *Keelhaul's Triumphant Return to Obscurity*. In the same month, the band resumed live activity with two shows, one in Philadelphia and the other in New York. In 2009 they played support to Isis for the Wavering Radiant tour (which took in dates across Europe), filling the bill with legendary Finnish band Circle. Keelhaul has released seven studio albums.

Kid Cudi (Active: 2003-present) - Scott Ramon Seguro Mescudi (born in 1984), better known by his stage name Kid Cudi, is a Cleveland born rapper, singer, songwriter, record producer, actor, and record executive. He has widely been recognized as an influence on several contemporary hip hop and alternative acts. Cudi began to gain major recognition following the release of his first official full-length project, a mixtape titled *A Kid Named Cudi* (2008), which caught the attention of American rapper-producer Kanye West, who signed Cudi to his GOOD Music label imprint in late 2008. Kid Cudi has released seven studio albums and appeared in over twenty films.

LeVert (Active: 1983-1995) - LeVert was an R&B vocal group from Cleveland. Formed in 1983, LeVert was composed of Sean and Gerald Levert (sons of Eddie Levert, founder and lead singer of R&B/Soul vocal group O'Jays), and Marc Gordon. The group released their first single, "I'm Still," for Harry Coombes's Tempre label. In 1985, they released their debut album, *I Get Hot*, which included tracks whose vocals drew strong comparisons to Sean and Gerald Levert's father Eddie. In total, the group released seven studio albums, had four top-five singles, and won numerous musical awards. Gerald Levert died in 2006 and Sean Levert died in 2008.

The Lighthouse and The Whaler (Active: 2008-present) - An indie rock band from Cleveland. Since its formation, the band has moved from a folk trio to a rock quartet. The group's second album, *This is an Adventure*, was independently released in 2012 and received critical praise for its genre-bending melodic folk. In 2015, they released their third album, *Mont Royal*. The band has also released four Eps.

Lucky Pierre (Active: 1974-1984, 1988-1990, 2004-present) - Lucky Pierre is a new wave band founded in Cleveland in 1974 by singer-songwriter, guitarist and the only constant member, Kevin McMahon. The band released a string of singles in between the late 1970s and early 1980s before entering to a hiatus and reforming in 1988 with guitarist Rick Christyson and keyboardist Trent Reznor, the founder of the industrial rock act Nine Inch Nails. The band has released one studio album, six singles, and two music videos.

Marilyn Manson (Active: 1989-present) - Industrial metal rock band formed by namesake lead singer Marilyn Manson and guitarist Daisy Berkowitz in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1989. Manson, born Brian Warner, was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. In 1993, they were the first act signed to Trent Reznor's Nothing Records label. The eponymous lead singer is the only remaining original member. The band has released eleven studio albums and has been nominated for numerous awards.

Men at Large (Active: 1992-present) - Men at Large is an American R&B group. They were discovered by the late soul singer Gerald Levert. The band has released four studio albums and eleven singles.

Michael Stanley Band (Active: 1974-1987) - The Michael Stanley Band was formed by Stanley in 1974 with singer-songwriter–lead guitarist Jonah Koslen, former Glass Harp bassist Daniel Pecchio, and drummer Tommy Dobeck from the band Circus. There were several personnel changes over the years and by 1982 the group had evolved into a seven-piece band. Nicknamed MSB by their fans, the band set several attendance records at Cleveland area venues. The group reached the peak of their popularity nationally in 1981 when the single "He Can't Love You" from the album *Heartland* made the Top 40 (#33 Billboard, #27 Cash Box) and "In the Heartland" from the album *North Coast* went to #6 on Billboard's Top Tracks chart. The band's last Top 40 hit was "My Town" in 1983. The band released eleven studio albums, two live albums, and 21 singles.

Mo Thugs (Active: 1995-2019) - Mo Thugs was an American hip hop collective formed and led by Bone Thugs-n-Harmony. Together, the Mo Thugs collective released four studio albums from 1995 to 2003. The band released seven studio albums and one live recording.

The Moonglows (Active: 1951-1960; 1964-1968; 1971-1972; 1979-1980) - R&B group in the 1950s formed in Cleveland. Alan Freed, upon hearing the group, became their manager. In 1953, Freed renamed the group the Moonglows, after his own nickname, Moondog. Their song "Sincerely" went to number 1 on the Billboard R&B chart and number 20 on the Billboard Juke Box chart. The band released four albums and twenty singles. They were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2000.

Mushroomhead (Active: 1993-present) - Mushroomhead is an Industrial/heavy metal band from Cleveland. Formed in 1993 in the Cleveland Warehouse District, the band is known for their avant-garde sound which includes influence from metal, art rock, and electro-industrial and their imagery which features masks and costumes as well as their unique live shows usually performed at smaller venues. Mushroomhead has sold over 2 million media units worldwide and has released 8 full-length albums and 15 music videos.

My Dad Is Dead (Active: 1984-2011) - A recording project of musician/drummer Mark Edwards. The post-punk/indie rock project began in Cleveland. My Dad Is Dead released twelve full-length albums and two EPs before it officially ended in 2011. A new group called Secular Joy was formed later that year in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Narcissus (Active: 1998-2003, 2020-present) - Hardcore band formed by John LaRussa and John Pope in in Canton, Ohio. The band was on the now-defunct label Takehold Records before joining Century Media. Before breaking up in 2003, the band were featured on The Vans Warped tour and toured Europe for their international release of the album *Crave and Collapse*, which was received well over seas. The band has released three studio albums and one EP.

Nine Inch Nails (Active: 1988-present) - Nine Inch Nails, commonly abbreviated as NIN and stylized as NII, is an American industrial rock band formed in 1988 in Cleveland. Singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer Trent Reznor was the only permanent member of the band until the official addition of English musician Atticus Ross in 2016. The band's debut album, *Pretty Hate Machine* (1989), was released via TVT Records. After feuding with TVT about how to promote the album, Reznor signed with Interscope Records and released the *EP Broken* (1992). The following Nine Inch Nails albums, *The Downward Spiral* (1994) and *The Fragile* (1999), were released to critical acclaim and commercial success. The band has released a total of fourteen albums, has been nominated for thirteen Grammy Awards, and has won two Grammys.

The O'Jays (Active: 1958-present) - R&B group from Canton formed in 1958 and originally consisting of Eddie Levert, Walter Lee Williams, William Powell, Bobby Massey, and Bill Isles. The O'Jays made their first chart appearance with the minor hit "Lonely Drifter" in 1963, but reached their greatest level of success once Gamble & Huff, a team of producers and songwriters, signed them to their Philadelphia International label in 1972. With Gamble & Huff, the O'Jays (now a trio after the departure of Isles and Massey) emerged at the forefront of Philadelphia soul with "Back Stabbers" (1972), and topped the US Billboard Hot 100 the following year with "Love Train." Several other US R&B hits followed, and The O'Jays were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2004, The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2005, and the National Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame in 2013. The group had eight top twenty albums on the United States Billboard 200 pop albums chart and seven top twenty singles.

The Outsiders (Active: 1965-1970) - Rock and roll/garage rock band from Cleveland that was founded and led by guitarist Tom King with Sonny Geraci on lead vocals. The band is best known for its Top 5 hit "Time Won't Let Me" in early 1966, which peaked in the U.S. in April 1966. The band also had three other Hot 100 top 40 hit singles in 1966. The band released a total of four albums, two live albums, and twelve singles.

The Pagans (Active: 1977-1979, 1982-1983, 1986-1989, 2014-2017) - Punk rock band from Cleveland that was originally active from 1977 to 1979. They reformed several times, from 1982-1983, from 1986-1989 and again in 2014-2017. Along with fellow Cleveland band The Dead Boys, the Pagans were part of the first wave of American punk music, and were also part of the second wave of Cleveland proto-punk and post-punk bands such as Pere Ubu. Their song

"What's This Shit Called Love?" was covered by the Meatmen on their 1985 album *War of the Superbikes*. The band released four singles and after failed album sessions, the band broke up in November 1979. They reformed in 1982 and released an album called *The Pagens*, a compilation album called *Buried Alive* in 1986, and a live album in 1987.

Pere Ubu (Active: 1975-1982, 1987-present) - Art punk rock group formed in Cleveland in 1975. Despite a variety of long-term and recurring band members, singer David Thomas is the only constant. They released their debut album *The Modern Dance* in 1978 and followed with several more LPs before disbanding in 1982. Thomas reformed the group in 1987, continuing to record and tour. Describing their sound as "avant-garage," Pere Ubu's work drew inspiration from sources such as musique concrète, 60s rock, performance art, and the industrial environments of the American Midwest. While the band achieved little commercial success, they have exerted a wide influence on subsequent underground music. The band has released eighteen studio albums, eight live albums, and nineteen singles.

Pitch Black Forecast (Active 2005-present) - A heavy metal "supergroup" with a lineup consisting of Mushroomhead frontman Jason Popson, ex-Strapping Young Lad drummer Gene Hoglan, and former Integrity bassist Steve Rauckhorst. Formed in Cleveland back in 2005 under the name Absentee. They released their debut album *Absentee* in 2008 featuring guest contributions from Lamb of God frontman Randy Blythe and Human Furnace of Ringworm. The band has released three studio albums.

The Poni-Tails (Active: 1956-1960) A girl group from Lyndhurst, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. Their major hit was "Born Too Late" in 1958. The group signed to ABC-Paramount and released "Just My Luck to Be Fifteen," a flop. Following this was "Come on Joey, Dance With Me" and "Born Too Late." The B-side was the one that caught the attention of radio DJs and became the group's biggest hit, reaching #11 on the U.S. R&B singles chart and #7 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1958. Follow-ups "Seven Minutes In Heaven" (#85 Pop) and "I'll Be Seeing You" (#87 Pop) fared less well, and the group's last single, 1960's "Who, When And Why," did not chart. The group released a total of eight singles and no albums.

Raspberries (Active: 1970-1975, 2004-2009) - Pop rock band formed in 1970 from Cleveland, Ohio. Also known as Eric Carmen and the Raspberries. They had a run of success in the early 1970s music scene with their pop rock sound. The members were known for their clean-cut public image, with short-hair and matching suits, which brought them teenybopper attention as well as scorn from some mainstream media outlets as "uncool." The group drew influence from the British Invasion era—especially The Beatles, The Who, The Hollies, and Small Faces—and its mod sensibility. The group's "classic" lineup consisted of Eric Carmen (vocalist/guitarist/bassist/pianist), Wally Bryson (guitarist), Jim Bonfanti (drummer), and Dave Smalley (guitarist/bassist). Their best-known songs include "Go All the Way," "Let's Pretend," "I Wanna Be with You," "Tonight," and "Overnight Sensation (Hit Record)." The group disbanded in 1975 after a five-year run, and Eric Carmen proceeded to a successful career as a solo artist. The band released a total of six studio albums, one live album, and 10 singles.

Ringworm (Active: 1989-1994, 1999-present) - Hardcore punk/thrash metal band formed in Cleveland in 1989. Their name was derived from a Vincent Price movie. The band has toured



extensively in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe and has released four albums via Victory Records. Vocalist Human Furnace currently plays in the Cleveland metal band Gluttons and solo project Holyghost.

Rocket from the Tombs (Active: 1974-1975, 2003-2017) - Garage/punk rock band originally active from mid-1974 to mid-1975 in Cleveland. The band was reconstituted several times with various line-ups starting in 2003. Heralded as an important protopunk group, they were little known during the band's original lifetime, though various members later achieved renown in Pere Ubu and the Dead Boys. Billy Bob Hargus wrote, however, that "The sound of the Rockets is much more ferocious than Ubu or the Dead Boys." The band released three studio albums, three live albums, one single, and appeared on four compilation albums.

The Rude Boys (Active: 1989-present) - A 1990s R&B/vocal group from Cleveland. The group consists of Larry Marcus, Melvin Sephus, and brothers Edward Lee Banks and Joe Little III. They released three studio albums and seven singles during the 1990s with all of the singles reaching the top 100 on the U.S. R&B chart.

Salt the Wound (Active: 2001–2010, 2011–2015) - A deathcore band from Cleveland formed in 2001. The band was signed to Rotten Records and released three studio albums. After the release of their debut album, *Carnal Repercussions*, the band continuously toured to an overwhelming extent, which led to their disbandment during the first half of 2010. With later negotiations, the group reformed in 2011 with original as well as new members releasing their next full-length studio album *Kill the Crown*.

Scarcity of Tanks (Active: 2004-present) - An experimental art rock band founded in 2004 in Cleveland. Matthew Wascovich is the only member to be in every iteration of the band which has long had a revolving lineup. The band has released nine albums.

The Secrets (Active: early 1960s-1965) - Girl group from Cleveland. They were offered a local gig supporting local ensemble the Starfires (later the Outsiders), and at one of these performances, talent scout Redda Robbins offered them a contract. The group then met with songwriters Johnny Madara and David White, later members of The Spokesmen. Through their influence, the group was able to release a single on Philips Records called "The Boy Next Door;" the song hit number 18 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 in December 1963. They were booked to appear on American Bandstand the weekend of November 22, 1963, which was cancelled due to John F. Kennedy's assassination and they became the last group to appear on American Bandstand in the spring of 1964, before it moved home from Philadelphia to Los Angeles. Three more singles followed on Philips, but none of them charted, and the group parted ways in 1965.

Sly, Slick and Wicked (Active: 1970-?) Rhythm and blues band from Cleveland, Ohio. The group was formed in 1970 by John (Sly) Wilson, Charles (Slick) Still, and Mark (Wicked) Saxton. Two years after their formation, Terry Stubbs replaced Saxton and Maurice Reedus Jr. became part of their backup musicians. Their song "Stay My Love" was a Top 10 rhythm-and-blues song in 1971, and Polydor issued a 1972 follow-up, "It's Not Easy." On the strength of these recordings, James Brown asked them to work for People Records, a sublabel of Polydor run by Brown. This made the band a part of what was called James Brown's "First Family of Soul." In 1973, John

Wilson wrote the song "Sho' Nuff," which the band recorded with People Records that same year. The success of this record led Don Cornelius to sign the band to appear on Soul Train. Later, the band became part of The O'Jays' Shaker Records, creating the song "Turn On Your Lovelight" in 1974. Around 1976, the band signed with Motown. The band's debut album *Sly, Slick & Wicked* was released by Ju-Par in 1977. They were awarded the Men of Motown Award from the Motown Museum in 2003, and were inducted into the Motown Alumni Association Hall of Fame. In 2004, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame added the group to its permanent display. They were inducted into the Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame in 2013.

Sons of Elvis (Active: 1988-1995) - Sons of Elvis was an alternative rock group from Cleveland that was active in the early 1990s, best known for their hit single, "Formaldehyde." After winning some local airplay in Cleveland and building a small following, they relocated to New York City so that three of the members could attend college at Fordham University in the Bronx. After a bidding war, they signed to small independent record label American Empire to release *Glodean*, but the label went out of business shortly after signing them. Priority Records then picked up the group and released the *Mrs. White* disc (consisting mainly of tracks from *Glodean*) before re-releasing *Glodean* in 1995. Lead single "Formaldehyde" received radio airplay and on MTV, and was also featured on the soundtrack of the feature film *Higher Learning*, by director John Singleton. *Glodean* peaked at No. 23 on Billboard's Top Heatseekers chart in 1995.

The Starfires (Active: 1958-1965) - Rock and roll band, founded in Cleveland in 1958 by Tom King when he was 15. The band is sometimes identified as Tom King and the Starfires. King is best known as the original bandleader of the Outsiders; however, it was only at the insistence of Capitol Records that the band's name was changed when they created their breakout hit "Time Won't Let Me." The band only released one album but they are important to understanding Cleveland's rock history because two of its members, Sonny Geraci and Walter Nims were among the founding members of Climax. Two other members, Jimmy Fox and Richard Kriss's brother Tommy Kriss, were founders of the James Gang with Joe Walsh.

Sweet Apple (Active: 2010-present) - Alternative rock band formed in 2010. The group features members of Cleveland's Cobra Verde (singer-guitarist John Petkovic and guitarist Tim Parnin), Amherst, MA's Dinosaur Jr. (guitarist-drummer J Mascis), and Witch (Mascis, bassist Dave Sweetapple). The band's music has been described as power-pop, garage, post-punk, psychedelic, and hard-rock. Sweet Apple has been called an "indie supergroup." The band has released three studio albums and several singles.

The Valentinos (Active: 1952-1974) - The Valentinos (also known as The Womack Brothers) was an R&B group from Cleveland best known for launching the careers of brothers Bobby Womack and Cecil Womack. Bobby went on to find greater fame as a solo artist while Cecil became successful as a member of the husband and wife duo of Womack & Womack with Linda Cooke. The group was well-known for R&B hits such as the original versions of "Lookin' for a Love," notably covered by the J. Geils Band and later a solo hit for Bobby Womack, and "It's All Over Now," covered by the Rolling Stones. The band released countless singles and one studio album. Since disbanding, two compilation records of their singles have been released.

Venomin James (Active: 2005-present) - Venomin James is a Doom metal band formed in Kirtland, Ohio. The band has released three studio albums, four EPs, and two digital singles. On March 4, 2021, the band announced on Facebook that since only three original members remain, they are going to form a new lineup, rename the band, and take the band in a different direction while still playing some of the Venomin James songs.

Welshly Arms (Active: 2013-present) – Alternative blues rock. The band writes, produces, and records all of their material in Cleveland. Their name refers to a Saturday Night Live sketch. Their influences include Jimi Hendrix, The Temptations, Otis Redding, and Howlin' Wolf. Musicians from the band's hometown of Cleveland have also influenced them, such as The O'Jays, The James Gang, and The Black Keys. Their music has been featured in trailers for two films: *The D Train* (starring Jack Black) and *The Hateful Eight* (directed by Quentin Tarantino) and numerous TV shows. The band has released two studio albums and three EPs.

ROCK MUSICIANS FROM NORTHEAST OHIO *

Steven Adler (1965-present) – Drummer; born in Cleveland. Before being booted for his excessive drug use, Adler played drums in Guns N' Roses and participated in the band's landmark debut album *Appetite for Destruction*.

Dan Auerbach (1979-present) - Guitarist and vocalist for the Grammy-winning blues rock band The Black Keys from Akron, Ohio.

Stiv Bators (1949-1990) – Singer and musician; Youngstown native. Punk-rock vocalist and guitarist with bands the Dead Boys and the Lords of the New Church. Appeared in films, including John Waters' 1981 movie, *Polyester*.

Jim Brickman (1961-present) - Songwriter, pianist, and radio host; Shaker Heights native. Brickman has earned two Grammy nominations for his albums *Peace* (2003) for Best Instrumental, and *Faith* (2009) for Best New Age Album.

Eric Carmen (1949-present) – Singer/songwriter; Cleveland native, raised in Lyndhurst. Scored hits as a member of the Raspberries and as a solo act with "All By Myself" and "Never Gonna Fall in Love Again."

Patrick Carney (1980-present) - Drummer for the Grammy-winning rock band The Black Keys from Akron, Ohio.

Tracy Chapman (1964-present) – Singer/songwriter; Cleveland native. Grammy Award winner known for "Fast Car," "Baby Can I Hold You," "Crossroads," "Give Me One Reason," and "Telling Stories." Her music video emphasizing achievements in African-American history is used in the Cleveland public schools.

Cheetah Chrome (1955-present) - Eugene Richard O'Connor, better known by his stage name Cheetah Chrome, is a Cleveland native who achieved fame as a guitarist for Rocket from the Tombs and the punk rock band Dead Boys.

David Allan Coe (1939-present) - Outlaw country singer, musician, and composer; Akron native. Wrote "Take This Job and Shove It," covered famously by Johnny Paycheck. His own singles, "The Ride" and "You Never Even Called Me By My Name," reached the Top 10 on Billboard. Spent 20 years in an Ohio penitentiary. Claims he received encouragement to begin writing songs from Screamin' Jay Hawkins, with whom he had spent time in prison.

Marc Cohn (1986-present) - Folk rock singer-songwriter and musician. He won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1992. Cohn is best known for the song "Walking in Memphis" from his eponymous 1991 album; which was a Top 40 hit. Cohn has released five studio albums, two live albums, two live EPs, and nineteen singles.

Anton Fier (1956-present) - Drummer, composer, and bandleader. Born in Cleveland, Fier was an early member of The Lounge Lizards and The Feelies. He was in The Lodge (with John Greaves), worked with Pere Ubu, was briefly in the Voidoids, and founded The Golden Palominos.

Mark Derek Foster (1984-present) - Raised in Macedonia, this singer, songwriter, and musician is best known as the lead singer of the band Foster the People.

Sonny Geraci (1946-2017) - Musician and singer; Cleveland native. Best known as lead singer of musical groups The Outsiders and Climax.

Neil Giraldo (1955-present) Musician, record producer, arranger, and songwriter. Best known as the musical partner of Pat Benatar for more than 40 years. He has also performed, written, and produced for artists including Rick Derringer, John Waite, Rick Springfield, and Kenny Loggins. Giraldo's diverse work has sold over 45 million records and produced five Grammy Awards and an additional four Grammy nominations. Giraldo was born in Cleveland graduating from Parma Senior High School in Parma, Ohio. At the age of six, Giraldo received his first guitar as a gift from his parents

Macy Gray (1969-present) - Canton native; this Grammy-winning R&B singer-songwriter known for her raspy voice. The hit single "I Try" came from the platinum album *On How Life Is* has appeared in a number of films, including *Training Day*.

Dave Grohl (1969-present) - Drummer, guitarist, singer, songwriter, and documentary filmmaker. Born in Warren, Ohio where the city has dedicated **Dave Grohl Alley**. He was the drummer for rock band Nirvana and founded the band Foo Fighters, for whom he is the singer, guitarist, and primary songwriter. Grohl is also the drummer and co-founder of the rock supergroup Them Crooked Vultures. He has also recorded and toured with Queens of the Stone Age.

Screamin' Jay Hawkins (1929-2000) - Musician, singer, and shock rocker; Born in Cleveland. Played piano and guitar, recording "I Put a Spell on You" with grunts and screaming. Alan Freed coaxed him to appear onstage from a coffin, in a leopard skin and adorned with voodoo props. Early in his career, he opened for Fats Domino and the Rolling Stones.

Jerry Heller (1940-2016) - Music manager and businessman; Cleveland native. He was best known for his controversial management of West Coast rap and gangsta rap pioneers N.W.A and Eazy-E. He rose to prominence in the 1960s and 1970s, importing Elton John and Pink Floyd for their first major American tours, and representing Journey, Marvin Gaye, Van Morrison, War, Eric Burdon, Crosby Stills & Nash, Ike & Tina Turner, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Otis Redding, the Who, REO Speedwagon, Black Sabbath, Humble Pie, Styx, the Grass Roots, and the Standells, among many others.

Chrissie Hynde (1951-present) - Singer, songwriter, musician; Akron native. Lead vocalist of the Pretenders; biggest hit was "Back on the Chain Gang." Wrote the song "My City Was Gone" about the decline of her hometown of Akron.

James Ingram (1952-present) - R&B singer; Akron native. Two-time Grammy winner, best known for collaborations with other artists. Scored a No. 1 Billboard hit in 1990 with the ballad "I Don't Have the Heart."

Phil Keaggy (1951-present) - Acoustic and electric guitarist and vocalist who has released more than 55 albums and contributed to many more recordings in both the contemporary Christian music and mainstream markets. He is a seven-time recipient of the GMA Dove Award for Instrumental Album of the Year, and was twice nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Rock Gospel Album. He has frequently been listed as one of the world's top-two "finger-style" and "finger-picking" guitarists by Guitar Player Magazine readers' polls. He is perhaps best known as the guitarist for [Glass Harp](#).

Machine Gun Kelly (Born Colson Baker, 1990-present) – Musician and actor. Growing up, Baker's family moved all around the world before landing in Cleveland where Baker attended Shaker Heights High School. MGK worked his way up the hip-hop charts after being signed to Bad Boy Records by Sean "Diddy" Combs. He's recently taken up acting, appearing in films such as *Nerve* and *Beyond the Lights* and TV shows like Showtimes *Roadies*. His latest single "Bad Things" hit No.1 on the Top 40 charts.

Robert Lockwood Jr. (1915-2006) - Blues guitarist, also known as Robert Junior Lockwood. Moved to his wife's hometown, Cleveland, in 1961. Shared a Grammy in 2004 for "Last of the Great Mississippi Delta Bluesmen Live." Recorded with Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin' Wolf, Sunnyland Slim, and many others.

Eddie Levert (1942-present) – Singer; Raised in Canton. Lead vocalist with the O'Jays. Father of Gerald and Sean. Received a BET lifetime achievement award in 2009.

Gerald Levert (1966-2006) - R&B singer; Cleveland native. Four platinum albums with LeVert trio. Died of an accidental overdose of prescription and over-the-counter drugs at age 40.

Sean Levert (1968-2008) - Singer-songwriter and actor; Cleveland native. Levert was best known as a member of the R&B vocal group LeVert. Died six days after being incarcerated in a Cuyahoga County Correctional facility.

Marilyn Manson (1969-present) - Rock musician; born Brian Hugh Warner in Canton. Known for his controversial stage persona. Frontman of the eponymous band whose name juxtaposes two cultural icons—Marilyn Monroe and Charles Manson.

Mark Mothersbaugh (1950-present) – Singer/songwriter, composer, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, author, and visual artist; Akron native. Mothersbaugh came to prominence in the late 1970s as co-founder, lead singer, and keyboardist of the new wave band Devo, whose "Whip It" was a Top 20 single in the U.S. in 1980 and which has since maintained a cult following. Mothersbaugh is one of the main composers of Devo's music.

Jeffrey Nothing (Jeff Hatrix, born Jeffrey Lewis Hetrick, 1963-present) Singer-songwriter and musician; Cleveland native. He is best known as the vocalist for American alternative metal and industrial metal band Mushroomhead. His nickname comes from a scene in Blue Velvet.

Benjamin Orr (born Benjamin Orzechowski, 1947-2000) - Bassist, co-founder, and co-lead vocalist of the rock band the Cars. Born in Lakewood and raised in Parma. He sang lead vocals on several of their best known songs, including "Just What I Needed," "Let's Go," and "Drive." He also scored a moderate solo hit with "Stay the Night." Orr was posthumously inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the Cars in 2018.

Richard Patrick (1968-present) - Musician, singer and songwriter. He is the frontman for the rock band Filter and a founding member of the supergroups Army of Anyone and The Damning Well, and has served as a touring guitarist for Nine Inch Nails. He is a graduate of Bay Village (Ohio) High School and the brother of actor **Robert Patrick**.

Steve Popovich (1942-2011) - Record producer. Moved to Cleveland in the late 1950s where he joined the R&B group the Twilighters. Most famous for launching the career of Meat Loaf. Also represented Bruce Springsteen, the Jacksons, and Southside Johnny.

John Popper (1967-present) - Musician, vocalist, harmonica, and guitar; Chardon native. Fronts the rock band Blues Traveler, whose hits include "Run Around" and "Hook." The former won a Grammy award.

Trent Reznor (1965-present) - Singer-songwriter, composer, and record producer. Moved to Cleveland in 1984. Founded the industrial rock group Nine Inch Nails at Right Track Studios in Cleveland. Scored films such as *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *Gone Girl*; won an Academy Award for best original score for *The Social Network*. Reznor is currently an executive with Apple Music.

Boz Scaggs (1944-present) – Musician and singer; Canton native. Performed with the Steve Miller Band, then went out on his own, recording several platinum-selling albums, including 1976's breakthrough, "Silk Degrees," which reached No. 1 on Billboard.

Edwin Starr (1942-2003) – Singer/songwriter; born in Nashville, Tennessee and raised in Cleveland. In 1957, Starr formed a doo-wop group, the Future Tones, and began his singing career. Starr was famous for his Norman Whitfield-produced Motown singles of the 1970s, most notably the number-one hit "War".

Eric Singer (born Eric Doyle Mensinger, 1958-present) Hard rock and heavy metal drummer; Cleveland native. Best known as a member of Kiss, portraying The Catman originally played by Peter Criss. He has also performed with artists such as Black Sabbath, Alice Cooper, Lita Ford, Badlands, Brian May and Gary Moore as well as his own band ESP. In his career, Singer has appeared on over 75 albums and 11 EPs.

Michael Stanley (Gee) (1948-2021) – Singer/songwriter; Rocky River, Ohio native. Founded the Michael Stanley Band. His first album featured contributions from Joe Walsh, Todd Rundgren, Rick Derringer, and Joe Vitale. Afternoon-drive disc jockey for radio station WNCX FM/98.5 in Cleveland from 1990 until shortly before his death.

Rachel Sweet (1962-present) - Singer, actress, writer, and producer; Akron native. Had performed with Mickey Rooney and Bill Cosby by the time she was 12. She was a writer-producer for TV Land's *Hot in Cleveland*.

David Thomas (1953-present) – Singer/songwriter; Cleveland native. The one constant member of Pere Ubu. Among the band's recordings are "Final Solution" and "30 Seconds Over Tokyo."

Joe Vitale (1949-present) - Singer, songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist. Born in Canton, Ohio, Vitale started his professional music career with the Echoes, who signed with Warner and became the Chylds (1964–68). He eventually enrolled at Kent State University and was attending during the May 4, 1970 shootings. His first national break came when Ted Nugent hired him to play drums in the Amboy Dukes in 1971. Vitale was invited by his former Kent State classmate Joe Walsh to join Barnstorm, a new band being formed by Walsh in Colorado. The band recorded two albums together and Vitale and Walsh began a longtime partnership, including co-writing "Rocky Mountain Way." He recorded his first solo album, 1974's Roller Coaster Weekend, with guitar solos contributed by Walsh, Rick Derringer and Phil Keaggy. He then joined the Stills-Young Band for the Long May You Run sessions and became part of the Crosby, Stills & Nash touring and recording band, beginning with the CSN album and continuing until 2009.

Joe Walsh (1947-present) - Rock guitarist, singer, and songwriter. Attended Kent State University in the mid-1960s and remained in Cleveland as a founding member of the James Gang until 1972. In a career spanning more than 50 years, he has been a member of four successful rock bands: James Gang, Barnstorm, Eagles, and Ringo Starr & His All-Starr

Band. Walsh was also part of the New Zealand band Herbs. In the 1990s, he was a member of the short-lived supergroup The Best.

Scott Weiland (1967-2015) – Singer/songwriter. His family moved to Bainbridge Township, Ohio, when he was five, where he later attended Kenston High School before moving back to California. During a career spanning three decades, Weiland was best known as the lead singer of the band Stone Temple Pilots from 1989 to 2002 and 2008 to 2013, making six records with them. He was also lead vocalist of supergroup Velvet Revolver from 2003 to 2008, recording two albums.

Bobby Womack (1944-2014) - Singer, songwriter, musician; Cleveland native. The vocalist and guitar player backed up Sam Cooke before establishing a prolific writing and recording career of his own. He wrote and originally recorded (with his brothers, the Valentinos) the Rolling Stones' first number one hit, "It's All Over Now." His hits included "[Across 110th Street](#)," "If You Think You're Lonely Now," and "Lookin for Love" among others. Member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, class of 2009.

Neil Zaza (1964-present) - Neil Zaza is an instrumental rock and heavy metal guitarist who has become well known for his technical accuracy and adaptation of classical works by Bach and Mozart into his own blend of neo-classical, melodic, guitar instrumentals. Before beginning a solo career, Zaza formed in 1987 the rock band ZAZA which toured the U.S. and released two albums. As a solo artist, Zaza has released eleven studio albums and two live albums.

NOTES

All bands, with the exception of Barnstorm and Marilyn Manson, were formed within a 75-mile radius of Cleveland. All musicians were born or lived within a 75-mile radius of Cleveland. The following sources were heavily relied upon, including much of the wording, in compiling this list, particularly Wikipedia:

[Musical groups from Cleveland \(2021, April 14\)](#). In Wikipedia

[“List of Famous Bands from Cleveland,”](#) Ranker, Updated June 8, 2017

[“40 greatest music artists to come out of Ohio,”](#) Troy L. Smith, Cleveland.com, Posted Nov. 14, 2016, Updated May 19, 2019

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[“These 20 Northeast Ohio Artists Helped Change the Face Of Music,”](#) Dillion Stewart, Cleveland Magazine, April 18, 2018

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