

ETCETERA

HEAVY METAL

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radio release "River Runs Red" are just a few standout tracks – definitely one of the few albums without a bad song.

4. Black Sabbath, *Master of Reality*

What top 10 metal list would be complete without Black Sabbath, the band that defined the genre and revolutionized the music industry? Many Black Sabbath fans concur: This album defined their sound.

Released in 1971, their third offering to the music world was well-received, following the enormous success of their sophomore release. Although it never garnered the acclaim of their second release, many in the music industry credited this album with the sound that inspired their own musical careers.

Almost every band that plays heavy metal has at one time covered a Black Sabbath tune. Five of the seven bands without Ozzy that are in this list have produced versions of their favorite Sabbath tunes.

Songs available on this album include: "After Forever," "Lord of this World," "Sweet Leaf" and "Children of the Grave," which many fans have dubbed the "ultimate Sabbath song."

Unfortunately, because of personal problems within the band, Ozzy Osbourne decided to embark on a solo career, but not before producing five more albums with Black Sabbath.

3. Metallica, *Master of Puppets*

Although I tried to judge each album based on its contribution, Metallica's recent works have caused them to fall from grace in my eyes. This album, however, still holds its own in the metal genre.

Released in 1986, this album marked the last for legendary bassist Cliff Burton. During the subsequent tour, the band was involved in a bus accident, killing the young phenom at age 24. But his music is forever captured in the band's previous albums, and he never shines through more than in this release.

This album is the epitome of Metallica and the standard for the new breed of metal that they inspired. But they were also quick to dispose of this standard, creating a totally different, but no less deserving, sound on their following albums. However, this album captured their polished original sound at its best.

With songs like "Battery," "Welcome Home (Sanitarium)" and the title track, Metallica pounded home social issues that appealed to their young listeners. Between the wailing guitars, impossible bass lines and purposeful beats, there was a message that was pounded into fans and firmly established the motto: birth - school - Metallica - death.

2. Guns N' Roses, *Appetite for Destruction*

Most who read this article will probably own this album. Even people who despise heavy metal probably enjoy listening to this CD from time to time. And for a band that hasn't produced a full-length album of original material since 1991, this is a major accomplishment. Though considered heavy at the time,

this 1987 album blended the best elements found in pop and rock and roll, and combined that sound with a guitar onslaught rivaling any other band's musical ability. On top of that came the ever-present crooning of W. Axl Rose to make a complete album that appealed to all types of listeners, which was clearly evident in the commercial success of the album.

Songs such as "Welcome to the Jungle," "My Michelle" and "Sweet Child O'Mine" all became tremendous hits and allowed the band to determine their own musical destiny.

This fame was short lived, and personal problems within the band caused the group's disintegration in the early '90s. But at the end of this month, Guns N' Roses is releasing a new album, albeit with new personnel aside from Rose. Regardless, this album should prove to be one of the most anticipated of all time.

1. Black Sabbath, *Paranoid*

Was there ever any question? This 1970 sophomore release remains one of the most innovative albums of all time, setting standards for a genre still trying to catch up 30 years later.

This is the definitive album of the greatest heavy metal group of all time. Words alone can't describe the impact this album had on the music world.

With *Paranoid* and *Black Sabbath*, their first album, the band was able to mold and define a new genre of music: heavy metal. Since they introduced the sound, all other metal bands since have only copied and modified the riffs that they laid down.

In addition to its revolutionary style, this album was also successful and earned the band a number one billboard ranking, a result not only of the great music found on the album, but also the timely subject matter. The album was truly monumental for its time, dealing with death, doom,

and destruction, marking the end of the "hippie" music era.

Breakthrough songs include "Electric Funeral," "Fairies Wear Boots," and the band's most popular song, "Paranoid," which was only written because they had extra recording space. In fact, this single became so popular the record label changed the album's name from *War Pig* to *Paranoid*, which explains the awkward cover art. It also contained the song "Iron Man," one of music's most unmistakable tunes.

Almost 30 years after the album's release and following several disputes, the band was finally able to reunite the original lineup for a string of unforgettable concerts. A live album produced during this time, from which the version of "Iron Man" was taken that earned the band their first Grammy Award – a reward long awaited, but certainly one the band deserved.



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