

FACT SHEET

Grunge, pop-punk and other 1990s artists

Sonic Youth

Sonic Youth formed in New York in 1981 and their discordant guitars, impassioned vocals and restless experimentation became an inspiration for the Seattle bands. Sonic Youth promoted these bands by inviting them to tour as support acts. Known largely as advocates of indie rock, Sonic Youth also enjoyed success with their albums *Goo*, *Dirty* and *A Thousand Leaves*.

Pearl Jam

The grunge band which stayed truest to the indie spirit, Pearl Jam refused to let big companies sell tickets to their concerts, create promotional videos or release singles from their albums. Famous for Eddie Vedder's dramatic and impassioned vocals, songs featured distinctive guitar riffs and complex textures. Their hits include 'Jeremy', 'Alive', 'Daughter' and 'Blood'.

Green Day

Formed in 1988, Green Day enjoyed limited success until signing with a major label in the early 1990s. While this disappointed many fans, it allowed the band to reach a bigger audience, with the album *Dookie* selling over 10 million copies. After incessant touring, the band took a break in the late 1990s, and reformed in the 2000s.

The Smashing Pumpkins

Formed in 1990, The Smashing Pumpkins were initially compared with Nirvana. The album *Siamese Dream* launched their career with its twisted lyrics and strange rhythms. The band had added mellotron, cello and violin to its sound for greater depth. The band enjoyed even more success with their next double album *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness*.

Radiohead

From the UK, Radiohead combined traditional rock with sophisticated electronic sounds. Band members were multi-instrumentalists, and used an Ondes-Martenot, a bizarre electronic instrument, in some of their songs. The band avoided the excesses of 1970s progressive rock, and their hits include 'Creep', 'Just', 'Karma Police', 'Life In A Glasshouse' and 'Hail To The Thief'.

Foo Fighters

Formed by Dave Grohl following the demise of Nirvana, the band were subject to unfair comparisons with Nirvana. While lacking Cobain's vocal intensity, they developed a distinctive sound based around strong melodies, and hits include 'This Is A Call', 'I'll Stick Around', 'Monkey Wrench' and 'My Poor Brain'.

Red Hot Chili Peppers

Despite forming in 1983, the band did not enjoy mainstream success until 1989. They released a series of successful albums, including *Blood, Sugar, Sex, Magik*, and *Stadium Arcadium*. They were among the first bands to incorporate rap vocals into their funk metal sound.

Australian indie rock artists

Jet

School friends from Melbourne, Jet formed in 2001. Inspired by The Beatles, The Who and The Rolling Stones, their hits include 'Take It Or Leave It' and 'Are You Gonna Be My Girl'. Jet enjoyed success in the US, and had sold over 6.5 million albums by the time they disbanded in 2012.

The Vines

Formed in Sydney in 1994, The Vines played a post-grunge style that saw them hailed as the 'second Nirvana'. Their 2002 breakthrough single 'Get Free' won ARIA Song of the Year. Dogged by early controversy, the band enjoyed success in the US, and they have been closely associated with PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).

The Living End

Formed in Melbourne in 1994, their double single 'Second Solution/Prisoner of Society' won an ARIA award in 1998, and they won further ARIA awards in 1999, 2008 and 2011, and APRA awards in 2009 and 2010. The band has enjoyed success in both the US and the UK.

Jebediah

From Perth, Jebediah won the national campus battle of the bands in 1995. They have toured extensively and have supported international acts such as The Smashing Pumpkins. Their hits include 'Jerks of Attention', 'Harpoon', 'Fall Down' and 'First Time'.

Did you know?

While Australian rock has few characteristics that distinguish it from an international sound, it does tend to feature songs in major keys with strong melodies and more complex rhythms often derived from reggae and jazz, and often features ironic, sarcastic or self-deprecating humour.