



# Green Day

**Green Day** is an American rock band formed in Rodeo, California, in 1987 by lead vocalist and guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong and bassist and backing vocalist Mike Dirnt, with drummer Tré Cool joining in 1990. In 1994, their major-label debut *Dookie*, released through Reprise Records, became a breakout success and eventually shipped over 20 million copies in the U.S. Alongside fellow California punk bands Bad Religion, the Offspring, Rancid, NOFX, Pennywise and Social Distortion, Green Day is credited with popularizing mainstream interest in punk rock in the U.S.

Before taking its current name in 1989, the band was named **Blood Rage**, then **Sweet Children**. They were part of the late 1980s/early 1990s Bay Area punk scene that emerged from the 924 Gilman Street club in Berkeley, California. The band's early releases were with the independent record label Lookout! Records, including their first album, *39/Smooth* (1990). For most of the band's career, they have been a power trio<sup>[4]</sup> with Cool, who replaced John Kiffmeyer in 1990 before the recording of the band's second studio album, *Kerplunk* (1991). Though the albums *Insomniac* (1995), *Nimrod* (1997) and *Warning* (2000) did not match the success of *Dookie*, they were still successful, with *Insomniac* and *Nimrod* reaching double platinum status, while *Warning* achieved gold. Green Day's seventh album, a rock opera called *American Idiot* (2004), found popularity with a younger generation, selling six million copies in the U.S. Their next album, *21st Century Breakdown*, was released in 2009 and achieved the band's best chart performance. It was followed by a trilogy of albums, *¡Uno!*, *¡Dos!*, and *¡Tré!*, released in September, November, and December 2012, respectively. The trilogy did not perform as well as expected commercially, in comparison to their previous albums, largely due to a lack of promotion and Armstrong



(L–R): Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt, and Tré Cool performing in 2024

Green Day	
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Background information	
<b>Also known as</b>	<u>Sweet Children</u> (1987–1989, 2015) <u>Blair Hess</u> (1993) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Origin</b>	<u>Rodeo, California, U.S.</u> <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Genres</b>	<u>Punk rock</u> · <u>pop-punk</u> · <u>alternative rock</u> · <u>skate punk</u> · <u>power pop</u>
<b>Discography</b>	<u>Discography</u> · <u>songs</u>
<b>Years active</b>	1987–present
<b>Labels</b>	<u>Lookout</u> · <u>Reprise</u> · <u>Epitaph</u> <sup>[3]</sup> · <u>Warner</u>
<b>Spinoffs</b>	<u>Pinhead Gunpowder</u> · <u>The Network</u> · <u>Foxboro Hot Tubs</u> · <u>The Coverups</u> · <u>The Longshot</u>
<b>Members</b>	<u>Billie Joe Armstrong</u> <u>Mike Dirnt</u> <u>Tré Cool</u>
<b>Past members</b>	<u>Raj Punjabi</u> <u>Sean Hughes</u> <u>John Kiffmeyer</u>
<b>Website</b>	<u>greenday.com</u> ( <u>http://greenday.com</u> )

entering rehab. They were followed by *Revolution Radio* (2016), which became their third to debut at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200, *Father of All Motherfuckers* (2020) and *Saviors* (2024).

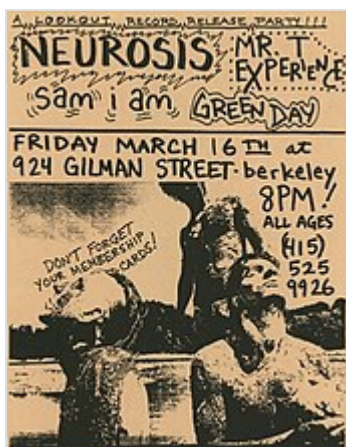
In 2010, a stage adaptation of *American Idiot* debuted on Broadway. The musical was nominated for three Tony Awards: *Best Musical*, *Best Scenic Design* and *Best Lighting Design*, winning the latter two. The band was inducted into the *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame* in 2015, their first year of eligibility. Members of the band have collaborated on the side projects *Pinhead Gunpowder*, *The Network*, *Foxboro Hot Tubs*, *The Longshot* and *The Coverups*. They have also worked on solo careers.

Green Day has sold roughly 75 million records worldwide as of 2024,<sup>[5]</sup> making them one of the *best-selling music artists*. The group has been nominated for 20 *Grammy Awards* and won five of them, with *Best Alternative Album* for *Dookie*, *Best Rock Album* for *American Idiot* and *21st Century Breakdown*, *Record of the Year* for "Boulevard of Broken Dreams", and *Best Musical Show Album* for *American Idiot: The Original Broadway Cast Recording*.

## History

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### 1987–1993: Formation and Lookout! years




Concert poster, dated March 16, 1990, at 924 Gilman Street for *Lookout!*-signed punk bands, including Green Day, *Neurosis*, *Samiam*, and the *Mr. T Experience*.

In 1987, friends and guitarists Billie Joe Armstrong and Mike Dirnt, 15 years old at the time, along with bassist Sean Hughes and drummer Raj Punjabi, a fellow student from *Pinole Valley High School*, formed band "Blood Rage", the name taken from *the eponymous film*, and played together in Raj's father's house garage at *Rodeo, California*; a few months later, the band renamed to Sweet Children.<sup>[6][7][8]</sup> One of their first songs written together was "Best Thing in Town".<sup>[9]</sup> The group's first live performance under the name Sweet Children took place on October 17, 1987, at Rod's Hickory Pit in *Vallejo, California*.<sup>[10]</sup> In 1988, Armstrong and Dirnt began working with former *Isocracy* drummer John Kiffmeyer, also known as "Al Sobrante", who replaced original drummer Raj Punjabi.<sup>[11]</sup> It was around this time that bassist Sean Hughes also left the band, causing Dirnt to switch from *guitar* to bass. Armstrong cites the band *Operation Ivy* (which featured *Tim Armstrong* and *Matt Freeman*, who would later contact Armstrong to fill in as a possible second guitarist for their band *Rancid*) as a major influence and a group that inspired him to form a band.<sup>[12][13]</sup>

In 1988, Larry Livermore, owner of *Lookout! Records*, saw the band play an early show and signed them to his label.<sup>[14]</sup> In April 1989, the band released its debut *extended play*, *1,000 Hours*.<sup>[15]</sup> Shortly before the EP's release, the group dropped the name Sweet Children; according to Livermore, this was done to avoid confusion with another local band, *Sweet Baby*.<sup>[16]</sup> Sweet Children adopted the name Green Day, instead, due to the members' fondness for *cannabis*.<sup>[17][18][19]</sup> The phrase "green day" was slang in the *Bay Area*, where the band originated, for spending a day doing nothing but smoking marijuana.<sup>[20]</sup> Armstrong once admitted in 2001 that he considered it to be "the worst band name in the world".<sup>[21]</sup>

Lookout! released Green Day's debut studio album, *39/Smooth* in early 1990.<sup>[22]</sup> Green Day recorded two extended plays later that year, *Slappy* and *Sweet Children*, the latter of which included older songs the band had recorded for the Minneapolis independent record label Skene! Records.<sup>[23]</sup> In 1991, Lookout! Records re-released *39/Smooth* as *1,039/Smoothed Out Slappy Hours* and added the songs from the band's first two EPs, *Slappy* and *1,000 Hours*. In late 1990, shortly after the band's first nationwide tour, Kiffmeyer left the East Bay area to attend Humboldt State University in Arcata, California.<sup>[10][24]</sup> The Lookouts' drummer Tré Cool began filling in temporarily and later permanently, an offer which Kiffmeyer "graciously accepted".<sup>[25]</sup> The band went on tour for most of 1992 and 1993 and played a number of shows overseas in Europe.<sup>[26]</sup> By then, the band's second studio album *Kerplunk* had sold 50,000 copies in the U.S.<sup>[26]</sup> Green Day supported another California punk band, *Bad Religion*, as an opening act for their *Recipe for Hate* Tour for most of 1993.<sup>[27]</sup>

## 1993–1995: Signing with Reprise Records and breakthrough success



"Basket Case"

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Sample of "Basket Case", the seventh track and third single from *Dookie*, which was about Armstrong's panic attacks.

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"Longview"

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"Longview", the fourth track on *Dookie*, was the band's debut single, and its music video was played frequently on MTV in late 1994.

*Kerplunk's* underground success led to interest from major record labels and a bidding war to sign Green Day.<sup>[28]</sup> The band eventually left Lookout! and signed with Reprise Records after attracting the attention of producer Rob Cavallo.<sup>[29]</sup> The group was impressed by his work with fellow Californian band The Muffs and later remarked that Cavallo "was the only person we could talk to and connect with".<sup>[29]</sup> Reflecting on this period, Armstrong told *Spin* magazine in 1999, "I couldn't go back to the punk scene, whether we were the biggest success in the world or the biggest failure ... The only thing I could do was get on my bike and go forward."<sup>[30]</sup> After signing with Reprise, the band began recording its major-label debut, *Dookie*. On September 3, 1993, Green Day played their last show at 924 Gilman under the pseudonym Blair Hess before being banned permanently because of their major label signing.<sup>[1]</sup>

Recorded in three weeks and released in February 1994,<sup>[31]</sup> *Dookie* became a commercial success, helped by extensive MTV airplay for the videos of the songs "Longview", "Basket Case", and "When I Come Around", all of which reached the number one position on the Modern Rock Tracks charts. The album went on to sell over 10 million copies in the US.<sup>[32]</sup> At a performance on September 9, 1994, at Hatch Memorial Shell in Boston, mayhem broke out during the band's set (cut short to seven songs), and by the end of the rampage, 100 people were injured and 45 arrested.<sup>[33]</sup> The band also joined the lineups of both the Lollapalooza festival and Woodstock '94, where at the latter the group started an infamous mud fight. During the concert, a security guard mistook bassist Mike Dirnt for a stage-invading fan and punched out some of his teeth.<sup>[34]</sup> Viewed by millions by pay-per-view television, the Woodstock 1994 performance

further aided Green Day's growing publicity and recognition.<sup>[29]</sup> In 1995, *Dookie* won the Grammy Award for Best Alternative Album, and the band was nominated for nine MTV Video Music Awards, including Video of the Year.<sup>[35][36]</sup> In the band's hometown of the East Bay following *Dookie*'s success, the band felt a sense of hostility. Billie Joe Armstrong recalled aggressive glares and furtive whispers. The band's success would trickle onto other East Bay bands such as Jawbreaker, a local favorite of Armstrong's, which garnered accusations of selling out during a concert attended by Armstrong.<sup>[37]</sup>

## 1995–2002: Middle years and decline in popularity

In 1995, a single titled "J.A.R." for the *Angus* soundtrack was released and debuted at number one on the *Billboard* Modern Rock Tracks chart.<sup>[38][39]</sup> The band's fourth studio album, *Insomniac*, was released in Fall 1995.<sup>[40]</sup> Compared to the more melodic *Dookie*, *Insomniac* was a much darker and heavier response to the band's newfound popularity.<sup>[29]</sup> The album opened to warm critical reception, earning 4 of 5 stars from *Rolling Stone*, which said "In punk, the good stuff unfolds and gains meaning as you listen without sacrificing any of its electric, haywire immediacy. And Green Day are as good as this stuff gets."<sup>[41]</sup> The singles released from *Insomniac* were "Geek Stink Breath", "Stuck with Me", "Brain Stew/Jaded", and "Walking Contradiction".

Though the album did not approach the success of *Dookie*, it sold three million copies in the United States.<sup>[42]</sup> The album earned the band award nominations for Favorite Artist, Favorite Hard Rock Artist, and Favorite Alternative Artist at the 1996 American Music Awards, and the video for "Walking Contradiction" earned the band nominations for Best Video, Short Form, at the Grammy's, in addition to Best Special Effects at the MTV Video Music Awards. After that, the band abruptly canceled a European tour, citing exhaustion.<sup>[43]</sup>

Following a brief hiatus in 1996, Green Day began work on its next album in 1997. From the outset, Cavallo and the band agreed the album had to be different from Green Day's previous albums.<sup>[44]</sup> The result was *Nimrod*, an experimental deviation from the band's standard melodic punk rock.<sup>[45]</sup> The album was released in October 1997 and provided a variety of music, from punk, pop, hardcore, folk, surf rock, ska, to the acoustic ballad "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)".<sup>[46][47][45]</sup> *Nimrod* entered the charts at Number 10. The mainstream success of "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" won the band an MTV Video Award for Best Alternative Video.<sup>[48]</sup> The song was used in the second clip show episode of *Seinfeld* and two episodes of *ER*.<sup>[47]</sup> The other singles released from *Nimrod* were "Nice Guys Finish Last", "Hitchin' a Ride", and "Redundant".<sup>[49][50]</sup> The band made a guest appearance in an episode of *King of the Hill* in 1997.<sup>[51]</sup> In late 1997 and most of 1998, Green Day embarked on a tour in support of *Nimrod*.<sup>[52][53]</sup> In 1999, Jason White began supporting the band during concerts as guitarist.<sup>[54]</sup>

In 2000, Green Day released their folk-punk-inspired sixth studio album *Warning* and, in support, participated in that year's Warped Tour.<sup>[55]</sup> In November 2000, in a show produced by Ian Brennan, the band performed for free on the steps on San Francisco's City Hall to protest the eviction of artists from the city.<sup>[56]</sup> The band also launched an independent tour to support the album *Warning* in 2001. Critics' reviews of the album were varied.<sup>[57]</sup> AllMusic gave it 4.5/5, saying, "*Warning* may not be an innovative record per se, but it's tremendously satisfying."<sup>[58]</sup> *Rolling Stone* was more critical, giving it 3/5 and saying, "*Warning* ... invites the question: Who wants to listen to songs of faith, hope and social commentary from what used to be snot core's biggest-selling band?"<sup>[59]</sup> Though it produced the hit

"Minority" and smaller hit "Warning", some observers were coming to the conclusion that the band was losing relevance,<sup>[57]</sup> and a decline in popularity followed. While all of Green Day's previous albums had reached at least triple platinum sales, *Warning* was only certified gold.<sup>[60]</sup>

At the 2001 California Music Awards, Green Day won all eight of the awards for which it was nominated.<sup>[61]</sup> The group won awards for Outstanding Album (*Warning*), Outstanding Punk Rock/Ska Album (*Warning*), Outstanding Group, Outstanding Male Vocalist, Outstanding Bassist, Outstanding Drummer, Outstanding Songwriter, and Outstanding Artist.<sup>[62]</sup>

The release of two compilation albums, *International Superhits!* and *Shenanigans*, followed *Warning*.<sup>[63][64]</sup> *International Superhits!* had a companion collection of music videos ved *International Supervideos!*<sup>[65]</sup> *Shenanigans* contained collected B-sides, including "Espionage", which was featured in the film *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me* and nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Rock Instrumental Performance.<sup>[61]</sup>

In Spring 2002, Green Day co-headlined the Pop Disaster Tour with Blink-182, documented on the DVD *Riding in Vans with Boys*.<sup>[66]</sup>

## 2003–2006: *American Idiot* and renewed success



"American Idiot"

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"American Idiot" from *American Idiot*. The song was nominated for four Grammy awards in 2005.

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In Summer 2003, the band wrote and recorded material for an album tentatively titled *Cigarettes and Valentines*.<sup>[67]</sup> After completing 20 tracks, the master recordings were stolen from the studio. Instead of re-recording the stolen tracks, the band decided to abandon the entire project and start over, considering the taken material to be unrepresentative of the band's best work.<sup>[68]</sup> It was then revealed that a band called The Network was signed to Armstrong's record label Adeline Records with little fanfare and information.<sup>[69][70]</sup> After the band, who concealed their identities with masks and costumes,<sup>[71]</sup> released an album called *Money Money 2020*, it was rumored that The Network was a Green Day side project, due to similarities in the bands' sounds.<sup>[72]</sup> However, these rumors were never addressed by the band or Adeline Records, except for a statement on the Adeline website discussing an ongoing dispute between the two bands.<sup>[72]</sup> The bands "feuded" via press releases and statements from Armstrong.<sup>[71][73]</sup> Several journalists openly referred to the group as a Green Day side project,<sup>[74][75][76][77]</sup> although it was not confirmed as such until 2013.<sup>[78]</sup>



Tré Cool (bottom left) and Mike Dirnt (right) performing on July 27, 2005





Green Day live in Germany during the *American Idiot* tour

Green Day collaborated with Iggy Pop on two tracks for his album *Skull Ring* in November 2003. On February 1, 2004, a cover of "I Fought the Law" made its debut on a commercial for iTunes during NFL Super Bowl XXXVIII.

Finally, *American Idiot* was released in September 2004 and debuted at number one on the Billboard charts. Backed by the success of the album's first single "American Idiot", it was the band's first album

to reach this pinnacle. *American Idiot* was labeled a *punk rock opera* and follows the journey of the fictitious "Jesus of Suburbia".<sup>[79]</sup> The album depicts modern American life under the control of an idiot ruler who lets people be misinformed by the media and a "redneck agenda". It gives different angles on an everyman, modern icons, and leaders.<sup>[80]</sup> Released two months before U.S. President George W. Bush was reelected, the album became protest art.<sup>[81]</sup> The album went on to sell 6 million copies in the US.<sup>[60]</sup>

"Boulevard of Broken Dreams"



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"Boulevard of Broken Dreams" won a total of six awards at the 2005 MTV Music Video Awards. The song later won the Grammy Award for Record of the Year in 2006.

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*American Idiot* won the 2005 Grammy for Best Rock Album and was nominated in six other categories, including Album of the Year.<sup>[82][83]</sup> The album helped Green Day win seven of the eight awards it was nominated for at the 2005 MTV Video Music Awards,<sup>[84]</sup> the "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" video won six of those awards. A year later, "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" won a Grammy Award for Record of the Year.<sup>[85]</sup> In 2009, *Kerrang!* named *American Idiot* the best album of the decade,<sup>[86]</sup> *NME* ranked it number 60 in a similar list,<sup>[87]</sup> and *Rolling Stone* ranked it 22nd.<sup>[88]</sup> *Rolling Stone* also listed "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" and "American Idiot" among the 100 best songs of the 2000s, at number 65 and 47, respectively.<sup>[89][90]</sup> In 2005, the album was ranked number 420 in *Rock Hard* magazine's book *The 500 Greatest Rock & Metal Albums of All Time*.<sup>[91]</sup> In 2012, the album was ranked number 225 on *Rolling Stone*'s list of the 500 Greatest Albums of All Time.<sup>[92]</sup>

While touring for *American Idiot*, the group filmed and recorded the two concerts at the Milton Keynes National Bowl in England.<sup>[93][94]</sup> These recordings were released as a live CD and DVD set called *Bullet in a Bible* on November 15, 2005.<sup>[93][94]</sup> The DVD featured behind-the-scenes footage of the band and showed how its members prepared to put on the show.<sup>[93][94]</sup> The final shows of the 2005 world tour were in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, on December 14 and 17, respectively.<sup>[95]</sup>



Green Day performing in New Jersey in 2005

On August 1, 2005, Green Day announced it had rescinded the master rights to its pre-*Dookie* material from Lookout! Records, citing a continuing breach of contract regarding unpaid royalties, a complaint shared with other Lookout! bands.<sup>[96]</sup> On January 10, 2006, the band was awarded People's Choice Award for favorite musical group or band.<sup>[97]</sup>

## 2007–2011: *21st Century Breakdown* and *American Idiot*'s stage adaptation

Green Day engaged in many other smaller projects in the time following the success of *American Idiot*. In 2008, the group released a garage-rock-inspired album under the name Foxboro Hot Tubs titled *Stop Drop and Roll!!!* The Foxboro Hot Tubs went on a mini tour during the same year to promote the record, hitting tiny Bay Area venues such as the Stork Club in Oakland and Toot's Tavern in Crockett, California.<sup>[98]</sup>



Green Day performing during a secret show at the Kesselhaus in Berlin on May 7, 2009

In an interview with Carson Daly, Garbage lead singer Shirley Manson revealed that Butch Vig would be producing Green Day's forthcoming album.<sup>[99]</sup> The span of nearly five years between *American Idiot* and *21st Century Breakdown* was the longest gap between studio albums in Green Day's career. The band had been working on new material since January 2006. By October 2007, Armstrong had 45 songs written, but the band showed no further signs of progress until October 2008, when two videos showing the band recording with producer Butch Vig were posted on YouTube.<sup>[100]</sup> The writing and recording process, spanning three years and four recording studios, was finally finished in April 2009.<sup>[101]</sup>

### "21 Guns"



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"21 Guns", the second single from *21st Century Breakdown*, was nominated for two Grammy awards in 2010: Grammy Award for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal, and Best Rock Song.

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*21st Century Breakdown* was released on May 15, 2009.<sup>[102][103]</sup> The album received a mainly positive reception from critics, getting an average rating between 3 and 4 stars.<sup>[104][105]</sup> The album reached number one in fourteen countries, being certified gold or platinum in each. *21st Century Breakdown* achieved Green Day's best chart performance to date.<sup>[106]</sup> The band started playing shows in California in April and early May. These were the group's first live shows in about three years. Green Day went on a world tour that started in North America in July 2009 and continued around the world throughout the rest of 2009 and early 2010.<sup>[107]</sup> The album won Grammy Award for Best Rock Album at the 52nd Grammy Awards on January 31, 2010.<sup>[35]</sup> As of December 2010, *21st Century Breakdown* has sold 1,005,000 copies in the US.<sup>[108]</sup>

Wal-Mart refused to carry the album as it contains a Parental Advisory sticker and requested that Green Day release a censored edition. The band members did not wish to change any lyrics on the album and responded by stating, "There's nothing dirty about our record... They want artists to censor their records

in order to be carried in there. We just said no. We've never done it before. You feel like you're in 1953 or something."<sup>[109][110]</sup>

In 2009, the band met with award-winning director Michael Mayer and many cast and crew members of the Tony Award-winning musical *Spring Awakening* to create a stage version of the album *American Idiot*.<sup>[111][112]</sup> *American Idiot* opened in the Berkeley Repertory Theatre during the end of 2009.<sup>[111]</sup> The show features an expanded story of the original album, with new characters such as Will, Extraordinary Girl, and Favorite Son.<sup>[112]</sup> On April 20, 2010, *American Idiot* opened on Broadway, and Green Day released the soundtrack to the musical, featuring a new song by Green Day titled "When It's Time". In June 2010 iTunes released "When It's Time" as a single.<sup>[113]</sup>

During the Spike TV Video Game Awards 2009, it was announced that Green Day was set to have its own *Rock Band* video game titled *Green Day: Rock Band*, as a follow-up to the last band specific *Rock Band* game, *The Beatles: Rock Band*. The game features the full albums of *Dookie*, *American Idiot*, and *21st Century Breakdown* as well as select songs from the rest of Green Day's discography.<sup>[114][115]</sup>



Green Day performing in New Jersey in 2010

During the second leg of the 21st Century Breakdown World Tour the band members stated that they were writing new material.<sup>[116]</sup> In an interview with *Kerrang!* magazine, Armstrong spoke about the possible new album: "We did some demos in Berlin, some in Stockholm, some just outside of Glasgow and some in Amsterdam. We wanted get [the songs] down in some early form."<sup>[117]</sup> The band members also stated that the group was recording a live album of the tour, featuring the previously unreleased song "Cigarettes and Valentines". In October 2010, Dirnt was interviewed by Radio W, mentioning that the group had completed the writing process of the ninth studio album. In the interview, Dirnt also mentioned that a new live album would "most likely" be released.<sup>[118]</sup> The live CD/DVD and CD/Blu-ray titled *Awesome as Fuck* was released on March 22, 2011.<sup>[119][120]</sup>

## **2011–2014: *¡Uno!* *¡Dos!* *¡Tré!***

During the end of 2011, the band played several secret shows (under the name Foxboro Hot Tubs) whose setlists consisted almost entirely of previously unheard songs. Green Day entered the studio and began recording new material in February 2012, later announcing a trilogy of albums titled *¡Uno!*, *¡Dos!*, and *¡Tré!* which would be released in fall 2012.<sup>[121][122]</sup> The trilogy featured longtime touring guitarist Jason White joining the band in the studio as an additional musician. This marks the first time that White had played guitar on a Green Day album.<sup>[123]</sup> That summer, Green Day played several festivals and promotional shows, including the Rock en Seine festival in France, the Rock am See festival in Germany, and the Reading Festival in the United Kingdom.<sup>[124][125]</sup>



Green Day performing in 2013





Armstrong performing with Green Day in 2013

*¡Uno!*, *¡Dos!*, and *¡Tré!* were released on September 21, November 9, and December 7, 2012, respectively, and were met with generally positive reviews from critics, though fans were more lukewarm towards the albums. On January 22, 2013, the band announced that *¡Cuatro!*, a documentary about the making of *¡Uno!*, *¡Dos!* and *¡Tré!*, would premiere on January 26 in Aspen, Colorado as part of the X Games FILM showcase, and would be released on DVD April 9, 2013.<sup>[126]</sup> Another documentary was announced called *Broadway Idiot* which focuses on the creation on the American Idiot musical and Armstrong's run as playing the character of St. Jimmy.<sup>[127]</sup> On March 10, 2013, Green Day began

its 99 Revolutions Tour to support the trilogy.<sup>[128]</sup> In June, Green Day broke Emirates Stadium attendance record with 60,000 tickets sold.<sup>[129]</sup> The band played *Dookie* from start to finish on several dates on the tour's European leg, including during the Reading Festival 2013 headline show.<sup>[130]</sup>

*Demolicious*, a compilation album that contains alternate versions and demos of songs from *¡Uno!*, *¡Dos!* and *¡Tré!* recorded during the studio sessions of these albums, was released on April 19, 2014, for Record Store Day. It also contains a previously unreleased song called "State of Shock" and an acoustic version of "Stay the Night", from *¡Uno!*.<sup>[131]</sup>

## 2014–2018: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and *Revolution Radio*

Green Day performed their first concert in a year on April 16, 2015. The group first played a set as Sweet Children with John Kiffmeyer, followed by a set as Green Day.<sup>[132]</sup> On April 18, 2015, Green Day were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame by Fall Out Boy.<sup>[133]</sup>

On April 24, 2015, Rob Cavallo revealed Green Day were recording a twelfth studio album. Cavallo claimed to have heard "five new songs that Billie has written and demoed", and that the fans should be "sure that when they do return, the music will be amazing".<sup>[134]</sup> On December 24, 2015, Green Day released a Christmas song, "Xmas Time of the Year".<sup>[135]</sup>



Green Day performing in Cleveland, Ohio in 2015

On August 11, 2016, Green Day released the first single, "Bang Bang",<sup>[136]</sup> from the group's album *Revolution Radio*, which was released on October 7, 2016.<sup>[137]</sup> The band went on a world tour supporting the album.<sup>[138]</sup> In November 2016, the band performed at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles and made a political statement about the then-recent US election of Donald Trump by chanting "No Trump, No KKK, No Fascist USA" during their rendition of "Bang Bang".<sup>[139]</sup>

Aaron Burgess at Alternative Press observed, "It's the first time in years Green Day haven't had all the answers. But as a statement on how it feels to fight, it's the closest to the truth they've ever gotten."<sup>[140]</sup> Gwilym Mumford of The Guardian stated "[after their last few albums] the band have decided to get back to basics: *Revolution Radio* is their most focused work in years. Lead single "Bang Bang" sets the tone, with a caustic consideration of the fame-hungry psychosis of a mass shooter."<sup>[141]</sup>

The band released their second greatest hits compilation, *God's Favorite Band*, on November 17, 2017. It contains 20 of their hits, along with two new tracks: a different version of the *Revolution Radio* track "Ordinary World", featuring country singer Miranda Lambert, and a previously unreleased song titled "Back in the USA".<sup>[142]</sup>

## **2019–2023: *Father of All Motherfuckers***

On April 13, 2019, for Record Store Day, the band released their Woodstock 1994 performance on vinyl for the first time. It contains all 9 songs they played live, as well as audio of the ensuing mud fight.<sup>[143]</sup> On September 10, 2019, the band announced the Hella Mega Tour with Fall Out Boy and Weezer as headliners alongside themselves, with the Interrupters as the opening act. They also released the single, "Father of All..." off their thirteenth album, *Father of All Motherfuckers*.<sup>[144]</sup> The same day, in an interview with KROQ, Armstrong announced the band would be parting ways with Reprise after the album's release, as they were off their contract with Warner.<sup>[145]</sup> On September 30, 2019, Green Day signed a two-year agreement with the National Hockey League (NHL).<sup>[146]</sup> The album's second single, "Fire, Ready, Aim", was released on October 9, 2019.<sup>[147][148]</sup> The album's third single, "Oh Yeah!", was released on January 16, 2020.<sup>[149]</sup> The album was released on February 7, 2020.<sup>[150]</sup> The album's fourth single, "Meet Me on the Roof", was released on the same day as the album.<sup>[151]</sup>

On April 6, 2020, Armstrong revealed that he had written six songs intending to record new music with the band once the COVID-19 pandemic had passed.<sup>[152]</sup> On May 21, 2020, the band released a cover of Blondie's "Dreaming".<sup>[153]</sup>

On October 30, 2020, the band's secret side project, the Network, teased upcoming activity with a video titled "The Prophecy" and mentioned their upcoming sequel album.<sup>[154]</sup> Then on November 2, 2020, the Network released a music video for their first song in 17 years, named "Ivankkka Is a Nazi".<sup>[155]</sup> After a couple of weeks of small hints on social media, as well as Green Day claiming they were not the Network, the band released an EP on November 20, 2020, titled *Trans Am*. On December 4, 2020, the Network released their second album *Money Money 2020 Part II: We Told Ya So!*.<sup>[156]</sup>



Armstrong performing with a fan on the stage at Rock am Ring in 2022

In February 2021, Green Day announced a single, titled "Here Comes the Shock", which was later released on February 21, 2021.<sup>[157]</sup> The band would release a remastered version of *Insomniac* in March for the belated 25th anniversary of the album's release, with bonus live tracks.<sup>[158]</sup> On May 17, 2021, Green Day released the single "Pollyanna".<sup>[159]</sup> The reshuffled Hella Mega Tour would take place in the United States from July to September 2021, and the United Kingdom in June and July 2022. Between legs, on November 5, 2021, the band released the single "Holy Toledo!".<sup>[160]</sup>

*BBC Sessions*, the fourth live album by Green Day, was released on December 10, 2021. Eight days later, they put out a teaser video with the captions "RAK Studios. London, England. Green Day. 1972".<sup>[161]</sup>

In 2022, Green Day played a handful of major festivals in the United States, including Lollapalooza and Outside Lands. The band also played a surprise Lollapalooza aftershow set at Metro Chicago on July 29, a set that was mostly improvised. The set included their first performances of "Church on Sunday" and

"Warning" since 2001, and also included fan favorite deep tracks "Whatsername", "Letterbomb", and "Murder City".<sup>[162]</sup> On October 26, 2022, Green Day was announced as a headliner for the fifth annual Innings Festival in Arizona.<sup>[163]</sup>

## 2023–present: *Saviors*

In November 2022, the band stated they were recording for a new studio album.<sup>[164]</sup> The album was produced by Rob Cavallo,<sup>[165]</sup> marking his first album working with the band since *¡Tré!* (2012). Prior to the album's release, the band played a new song titled "1981" during their live performance at Festival d'été de Québec on July 16, 2023.<sup>[166]</sup> On September 30, 2023, Green Day was announced as the halftime show at the 110th Grey Cup.<sup>[167]</sup> The following day, the band launched a new website with the name "The American Dream Is Killing Me". Included on the website was a video appearing to tease new music, and a circled date of October 24, 2023, leading some news outlets to believe that it is related to their next album.<sup>[168][169]</sup> Before the album's release, they played the first song, "The American Dream Is Killing Me", during a live show in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 19, 2023,<sup>[170]</sup> and announced a US tour for the summer 2024 with the Smashing Pumpkins, Rancid, and the Linda Lindas.<sup>[171][172]</sup> They played another song, titled "Look Ma, No Brains!", from the upcoming album during the When We Were Young Festival on October 22, 2023.<sup>[173]</sup>

On October 24, 2023, the title of the new album was announced as *Saviors*,<sup>[174]</sup> and the album's first single, "The American Dream Is Killing Me" was released.<sup>[174]</sup> The album was released on January 19, 2024.<sup>[174]</sup> The second single, "Look Ma, No Brains!", was released on November 2, 2023.<sup>[175]</sup> A third single, "Dilemma", was announced on December 4, 2023, and released three days later on December 7, 2023.<sup>[176]</sup> On New Year's Eve, Green Day performed "American Idiot" on the television special *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve*. Armstrong replaced the line "I'm not a part of a redneck agenda" with "I'm not a part of the MAGA agenda", a reference to Donald Trump's Make America Great Again slogan, in criticism of Trump.<sup>[177]</sup> The album's fourth single, "One Eyed Bastard", was released on January 5, 2024.<sup>[178][179]</sup> On the evening of January 16, 2024, the band appeared in a surprise performance in the 47th–50th Streets–Rockefeller Center station of the New York subway system, with late-night host Jimmy Fallon joining them on tambourine to help draw attention to the upcoming album and tour, and played several songs, including the recent single "Look Ma, No Brains", "Basket Case", and "American Idiot"; this time, Armstrong left space to let the subway crowd sing out the song's revised line "I'm not a part of the MAGA agenda."<sup>[180][181][182]</sup> The album, and a music video for "Bobby Sox", were both released simultaneously on January 19, 2024.<sup>[183][184]</sup> A music video for "Corvette Summer" was released on July 23, 2024.<sup>[185]</sup>



Green Day performing at the Isle of Wight Festival 2024

## Musical style and influences

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Green Day's sound is often compared to first wave American and British punk rock bands such as the Ramones, Sex Pistols, the Clash, the Dickies, and Buzzcocks.<sup>[43]</sup> Stylistically, several publications have characterized as punk rock,<sup>[186][187][188][189][190][191][192]</sup> pop-punk,<sup>[186][190][191][193][194][195]</sup> skate punk,<sup>[186][196][197][198][199][200]</sup> melodic punk,<sup>[201][202][203][204][205]</sup> alternative rock,<sup>[195][206][207][208]</sup>



Green Day performing "King for a Day", a ska-inspired song featuring saxophones and trumpets

and power pop.<sup>[190][209][210][211]</sup> Critics have disputed the qualification of the band as power pop.<sup>[212]</sup> The band has casually explored other musical styles, including post-punk and pop-rock with *21st Century Breakdown*,<sup>[213][191]</sup> and garage rock on *¡Dos!* and *Father of All...*<sup>[214]</sup> Stephen Thomas Erlewine of *AllMusic* described Green Day as "punk revivalists who recharged the energy of speedy, catchy three-chord punk-pop songs."<sup>[194]</sup> Among the labels of the band by critics, members Billie Joe Armstrong and Tre Cool have stated in interviews with *Livewire* and *Kerrang!* self-describing Green Day as just a punk rock band.<sup>[215][216][217]</sup>

While Armstrong is the band's primary songwriter, he looks to the other band members for organizational help.<sup>[218]</sup> Billie Joe Armstrong has mentioned that some of his biggest influences are seminal hardcore punk bands Hüsker Dü and the Replacements, and that their influence is particularly noted in the band's chord changes in songs.<sup>[43]</sup> Green Day has covered Hüsker Dü's "Don't Want to Know If You Are Lonely" as a B-side to the "Warning" single, and the character "Mr. Whirly" in the group's song "Misery" is a reference to the Replacements song of the same name.<sup>[219]</sup> Southern California-based hardcore bands Social Distortion and Bad Religion have also been cited as influences.<sup>[220][221]</sup> Green Day would cover the former's song "Another State of Mind" from their 1983 debut release, *Mommy's Little Monster* as a bonus track for *21st Century Breakdown*.<sup>[222]</sup>

Outside of their punk influences, Green Day have also cited hard rock bands the Kinks, the Who, and Cheap Trick.<sup>[223][224][225]</sup> In August 1996, Billie Joe Armstrong told *Guitar World* he "can remember a few different instances" of when he first discovered punk rock: "There were these two guys who introduced me to things like D.O.A. and the Dead Kennedys. Then, in the seventh grade, there was a girl at school who would bring in records like T.S.O.L. and say, 'Here, listen to this.'"<sup>[43]</sup> Armstrong said he thinks he "really started getting into" punk rock "in 1987 with *Turn It Around!*, a double seven-inch compilation record put out by [punk fanzine] *Maximumrocknroll*."<sup>[43]</sup> Armstrong cited *Turn It Around!* as an influence, calling it "a pretty big record" for him.<sup>[226]</sup> Armstrong would also cite fellow East Bay punk bands Operation Ivy, Jawbreaker, and Crimpshrine as influences.<sup>[12][13][226][37]</sup> Tré Cool has stated that the band is influenced by music that they did not like, naming artists like Hall & Oates, Cyndi Lauper and other 1980s music.<sup>[227]</sup>

Although Green Day has been compared to the Buzzcocks, the Ramones and the Clash, Mike Dirnt said he had never heard the Buzzcocks when Green Day began.<sup>[43]</sup> Dirnt said: "First off, you can't sound like any of those bands. And secondly, those are probably the last ones in my record collection."<sup>[43]</sup> Armstrong responded to Dirnt, saying: "Mine too. Those are all bands I got into later."<sup>[43]</sup> The Dickies is another band Green Day has been compared to.<sup>[43]</sup> Dirnt said he "never owned a Dickies album, although" he "did see" the Dickies live "around the time of" *Kerplunk!*. Dirnt said "by that time, we'd played so many shows it had no bearing."<sup>[43]</sup> Armstrong referred to the Dickies as "just another Ramones rip-off".<sup>[43]</sup> Although in August 1996, Armstrong said bands like the Ramones are bands he listened to later, in June 2010, Armstrong cited the Ramones as an influence. He also said his "range of favorite songwriters goes anywhere from the Sex Pistols to Lennon–McCartney."<sup>[226]</sup> During the *American Idiot* and *21st Century Breakdown* era of Green Day, the band was influenced by the Who, U2, Motown albums, and musicals such as *Grease*.<sup>[228]</sup>



Billie Joe Armstrong regularly invites musicians at Green Day concerts onstage to substitute for the band members on guitar, bass and drums, often letting the guest musicians keep the instruments they used during their guest spots. Armstrong explains, "I remember being a kid and seeing Van Halen play. I was, like, 12, and Eddie would come out, and I'd go, 'God, it would be so cool to be up there and do what he's doing. So I was always keeping that in mind, subconsciously that's basically what ended up happening, breaking down the barrier between the band and the audience."<sup>[229][230]</sup>

## Legacy

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The band's 1991 album *Kerplunk* is one of the bestselling independent albums of all time, selling over 4.5 million copies worldwide.<sup>[231]</sup> It was also listed in a 2007 ranking of the 100 greatest indie albums by Blender.<sup>[232]</sup>

Green Day is credited (alongside Bad Religion, the Offspring, NOFX, Social Distortion, and Rancid) with popularizing mainstream interest in punk rock in the United States,<sup>[233][234][235][236]</sup> particularly with the album *Dookie*,<sup>[237][238][239]</sup> which was cited by Fuse as the most important pop-punk album of all time, the best alternative album of 1994 by *Rolling Stone*,<sup>[240][241]</sup> and as one of the best punk rock albums of all time by *Rolling Stone*, *Kerrang!*, *Revolver*, and *LA Weekly*.<sup>[240][241][242][243][244]</sup> It was also placed on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's "Definitive 200" list of 200 classic albums.<sup>[245]</sup> Both *Dookie* and *American Idiot* appeared on *Rolling Stone's* list of the 500 Greatest Albums of All Time.<sup>[246][247]</sup> In 2011, they were voted best punk rock band of all time by *Rolling Stone*.<sup>[248]</sup> Diffuser.fm listed *Dookie* as the greatest album of the 90s.<sup>[249]</sup>

Green Day has sold roughly 75 million records worldwide as of 2024,<sup>[5]</sup> making them one of the highest-selling artists of all time. The group has been nominated for 20 Grammy awards and has won five of them with Best Alternative Album for *Dookie*, Best Rock Album for *American Idiot* and *21st Century Breakdown*, Record of the Year for "Boulevard of Broken Dreams", and Best Musical Show Album for *American Idiot: The Original Broadway Cast Recording*.

In 2010, a stage adaptation of *American Idiot* debuted on Broadway. The musical was nominated for three Tony Awards.<sup>[250][251]</sup> The band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in April 2015, their first year of eligibility.<sup>[252]</sup>

The band has been cited as an influence by a variety of artists, including Alkaline Trio,<sup>[253]</sup> Avril Lavigne,<sup>[254]</sup> AFI,<sup>[4]</sup> Fall Out Boy,<sup>[255]</sup> Blink-182,<sup>[256]</sup> Joyce Manor,<sup>[257]</sup> Lady Gaga,<sup>[258]</sup> Wavves,<sup>[259]</sup> Fidlar,<sup>[259]</sup> Tegan and Sara,<sup>[259]</sup> the Menzingers,<sup>[260]</sup> New Found Glory,<sup>[261]</sup> Prince Daddy & the Hyena,<sup>[262]</sup> Bowling for Soup,<sup>[263][264]</sup> Billie Eilish,<sup>[265]</sup> and Sum 41.<sup>[266]</sup>

## Related projects

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Since 1991, members of the band have branched out past Green Day, starting other projects with various musicians. Notable projects related to Green Day include Billie Joe Armstrong's Pinhead Gunpowder with Jason White and the Longshot with Jeff Matika, the Frustrators with Mike Dirnt, and the Network, a collaboration between Green Day and friends in which all members play under fake stage names.<sup>[267]</sup> Green Day has also released an album titled *Stop Drop and Roll!!!* on May 20, 2008, under the name

Foxboro Hot Tubs, which the band uses to book secret shows.<sup>[268]</sup> In late December 2011, Armstrong formed a family band called the Boo which recorded a one-off Christmas record for their friends and family making a few copies available in a local store. Since January 2018, Armstrong, Dirnt and White have played in the band the Coverups along with Green Day audio engineer Chris Dugan and tour manager Bill Schneider. The band sporadically performs one-off shows, usually in small clubs, and cover the songs of classic rock and alternative rock bands such as Cheap Trick, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, the Clash, and Nirvana.<sup>[269][270][271]</sup>

In September 2006, Green Day collaborated with U2 and producer Rick Rubin to record a cover of the song "The Saints Are Coming", originally recorded by the Skids, with an accompanying video. The song was recorded to benefit Music Rising, an organization to help raise money for musicians' instruments lost during Hurricane Katrina, and to bring awareness on the eve of the one-year anniversary of the disaster.<sup>[272]</sup> In December 2006, Green Day and NRDC opened a web site in partnership to raise awareness on America's dependency on oil.<sup>[273][274]</sup>

Green Day released a cover of the John Lennon song "Working Class Hero", which was featured on the album *Instant Karma: The Amnesty International Campaign to Save Darfur*. The band performed the song on the season finale of American Idol. The song was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2008 but lost to the White Stripes' "Icky Thump". That summer, the band appeared in a cameo role in *The Simpsons Movie*, where the band performed a rock version of the show's theme song. Their version of it was released as a single on July 23, 2007.<sup>[275][276][277][278]</sup>

In 2009, the band collaborated with theater director Michael Mayer to adapt the group's rock opera *American Idiot* into a one-act stage musical that premiered at the Berkeley Rep on September 15, 2009. The show then moved to Broadway on April 20, 2010. The reviews of *American Idiot: The Musical* have been positive to mixed. Charles Isherwood of The New York Times wrote an enthusiastic review for the Broadway production. He called the show "a pulsating portrait of wasted youth that invokes all the standard genre conventions ... only to transcend them through the power of its music and the artistry of its execution, the show is as invigorating and ultimately as moving as anything I've seen on Broadway this season. Or maybe for a few seasons past." Jed Gottlieb of the Boston Herald enjoyed the premise of the show but found that "the music and message suffer in a setting where the audience is politely, soberly seated".<sup>[279]</sup>

Michael Kuchiwara of the Associated Press found the show to be "visually striking [and] musically adventurous", but noted that "the show has the barest wisp of a story and minimal character development". Paul Kolnik in USA Today enjoyed the contradiction that Green Day's "massively popular, starkly disenchanted album ... would be the feel-good musical of the season". Time magazine's Richard Zoglin opined that the score "is as pure a specimen of contemporary punk rock as Broadway has yet encountered, [yet] there's enough variety. ... Where the show falls short is as a fully developed narrative." He concluded that "*American Idiot*, despite its earnest huffing and puffing, remains little more than an annotated rock concert. ... Still, [it] deserves at least two cheers—for its irresistible musical energy and for opening fresh vistas for that odd couple, rock and Broadway."<sup>[280]</sup> Peter Travers from Rolling Stone, in his review of *American Idiot*, wrote "Though *American Idiot* carries echoes of such rock musicals as Tommy, Hair, Rent and Spring Awakening, it cuts its own path to the heart. You won't know what hit you. *American Idiot* knows no limits—it's a global knockout."<sup>[281]</sup> The musical has been nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Scenic Design. It was also nominated for several Drama Desk Awards and Outer Critics Circle Awards.

In October 2009, a Green Day art project was exhibited at StolenSpace Gallery in London. The exhibition showed artworks created for each of the songs on *21st Century Breakdown*, was supported by the band, and led by the group's manager Pat Magnarella.<sup>[282]</sup> He explained in an interview that "[Artists are] basically like rock bands. Most are creating their art, but don't know how to promote it."<sup>[283]</sup> For Billie Joe Armstrong, "Many of the artists... show their work on the street, and we feel a strong connection to that type of creative expression."<sup>[284]</sup>

On April 13, 2011, a film version of *American Idiot* was confirmed.<sup>[285]</sup> Michael Mayer, director of the Broadway musical, will be directing the film. It will be produced by Green Day, Pat Magnarella (Green Day's manager who also produced *Bullet in a Bible*, *Awesome as Fuck*, and *Heart Like a Hand Grenade*), Playtone (Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman) and Tom Hulce. However, in February 2020, Billie Joe Armstrong revealed to *NME* that plans for a film adaptation of the stage musical had been "pretty much scrapped", without providing anymore details as to the reason.<sup>[286]</sup>

On January 23, 2013, it was announced that a documentary showing Armstrong's journey from punk rock to Broadway was to be released.<sup>[287]</sup> Called *Broadway Idiot* and showing a lot of behind-the-scenes of the *American Idiot* musical production, the movie was directed by Doug Hamilton, veteran television journalist for CBS News' *60 Minutes* and PBS documentaries such as *Nova*, *Frontline* and *American Masters*. A trailer was released on January 30, 2013.<sup>[288]</sup> The documentary premiered at the *South by Southwest Film Festival* on March 15, 2013.<sup>[289]</sup>

Green Day served as executive producers of *Turn It Around: The Story of East Bay Punk* (2017), an extensive documentary film about the San Francisco Bay area punk scene from the late 1970s to the 1990s.<sup>[290]</sup>

## Controversies

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### Music style

Green Day has generated controversy over whether their musical style and major-label status constitutes "true punk".<sup>[291]</sup> In reaction to both the style of music and the background of the band, John Lydon, former frontman of the 1970s punk band the *Sex Pistols* commented, "So there we are fending off all that and it pisses me off that years later a wank outfit like Green Day hop in and nick all that and attach it to themselves. They didn't earn their wings to do that and if they were true punk they wouldn't look anything like they do."<sup>[292]</sup> However, others in the punk rock scene would come to the defense of the band on their punk status. *Bad Religion* lead guitarist Brett Gurewitz and founder of the independent punk label *Epitaph Records* would state, "They [Green Day] are a punk band, but you know, punk is the legacy of rock and roll, and Green Day are the biggest band in the genre."<sup>[293]</sup>

Armstrong has discussed the group's status of being a punk band on a major record label, saying, "Sometimes I think we've become redundant because we're this big band now; we've made a lot of money—we're not punk rock anymore. But then I think about it and just say, 'You can take us out of a punk rock environment, but you can't take the punk rock out of us.'"<sup>[291]</sup> In 2021, Armstrong condemned the band's labeling as "pop-punk" by critics in a *Vulture* magazine interview, stating, "I never really liked that term (pop punk), it turned into sort of a genre. I never thought of myself as a pop artist. I've always been left of center. To say you're a pop-punker ... it never sat well with me." Armstrong acknowledged the band's

more melodic punk style compared to other bands from the Bay Area scene it emerged from, but also brought up the band's performance alongside East Bay hardcore bands like Neurosis, Engage, Spitboy, Blatz, and Filth.<sup>[294]</sup>

In 2006, English rock musician Noel Gallagher of the Britpop band Oasis complained about the band semi-jokingly, claiming that the band had ripped off his song "Wonderwall" with "Boulevard of Broken Dreams".<sup>[295]</sup>

## 2012 iHeartRadio Festival incident

On September 21, 2012, while Green Day was performing at the iHeartRadio music festival, Armstrong stopped while performing "Basket Case", because he believed the group's time was being shortened, possibly to extend R&B artist Usher's performance. Angered, Armstrong began ranting while a screen in the rear of the audience was labeled "1 Minutes Left", saying "You're gonna give me one fucking minute? You've gotta be fucking kidding me!" He also told the crowd he "was not Justin Bieber" and labeled the festival as a "joke". When the screen went blank, Armstrong smashed his guitar, while bassist Mike Dirnt smashed his bass. Armstrong then gave the finger, and declared that Green Day would be back before throwing his microphone down and walking off the stage.<sup>[296]</sup> Two days later, the band's representative apologized for the incident on the group's behalf stating that "Green Day would like everyone to know that their set was not cut short by Clear Channel and to apologize to those they offended at the iHeartRadio Festival in Las Vegas", also adding that Armstrong would be headed to rehab, for abuse of alcohol and prescription pills.<sup>[297][298]</sup> However, Dirnt would later say in an interview with Rolling Stone that he agreed with what Armstrong meant by his rant.<sup>[299]</sup> The band later made amends with the company and played an album release party for their 2016 release, *Revolution Radio*.<sup>[300][301]</sup> They also returned to the festival in 2019 supporting the album *Father of All Motherfuckers*.<sup>[301][302]</sup>

## Mad Cool incident

On July 7, 2017, about 20 minutes before Green Day headlined Mad Cool, a festival in Madrid, an acrobat fell about 30 metres (98 ft) from a cage above the stage and died. Some fans were upset at the band and festival organizers for continuing the show, which was attended by about 35,000 people.<sup>[303]</sup> On their website, Armstrong said the band did not know about the accident before their set, and likely would not have played if they had.<sup>[304]</sup>

## Las Vegas ban

On September 20, 2024, Green Day performed a show in San Francisco at Oracle Park. During the concert, Billie Joe Armstrong expressed his anger over the A's leaving Oakland, repeatedly cursing Las Vegas and called it "the worst shithole in America". He also cursed A's owner John Fisher, saying "We don't take shit from people like fucking John Fisher... I hate Las Vegas." As a result of Armstrong's comments, as of 11 October 2024, two radio stations (KOMP 92.3 and X107.5) have banned all Green Day music from their playlist.<sup>[305]</sup>

## Members

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### Current members



- Billie Joe Armstrong – lead vocals, guitar (1987–present); harmonica (1997–present);<sup>[306]</sup> piano (2008–present)<sup>[307]</sup>
- Mike Dirnt – bass (1988–present); backing and occasional lead vocals (1987–present); guitar (1987–1988)
- Tré Cool – drums, percussion, occasional backing and lead vocals and guitar (1990–present)

### Current touring musicians

- Jason White – guitar, backing vocals (1999–present; *session member in 2012*)<sup>[308]</sup>
- Jason Freese – keyboards, accordion, saxophone, trombone, backing vocals, occasional acoustic guitar (2004–present; hiatus in 2024;<sup>[309]</sup> *session member from 2003–2004, 2008–2009*)
- Kevin Preston – guitar, backing vocals (2019–present)

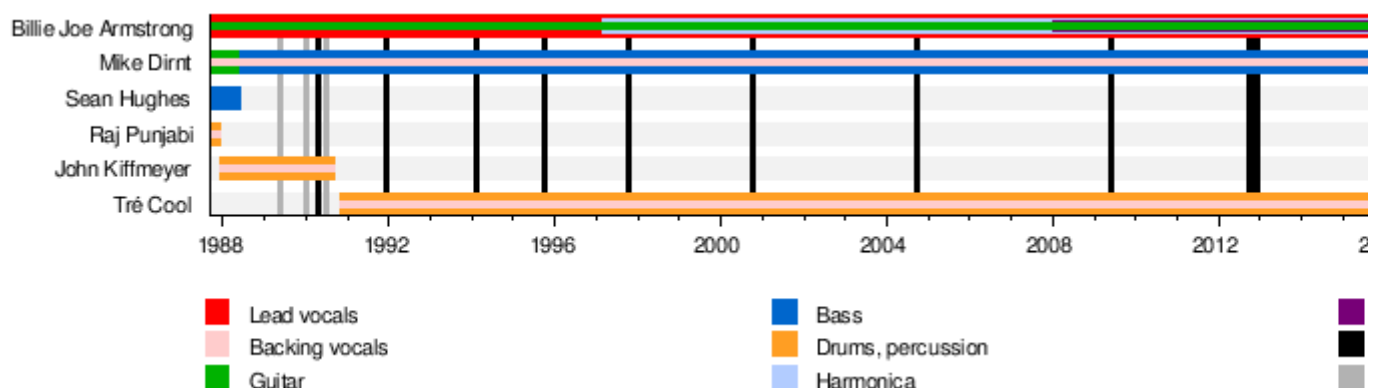
### Former members

- Raj Punjabi – drums, percussion, backing vocals (1987–1988)<sup>[310]</sup>
- Sean Hughes – bass (1987–1988)
- John Kiffmeyer – drums, percussion, backing vocals (1988–1990; one-off guest appearance in 2015)<sup>[311][132]</sup>

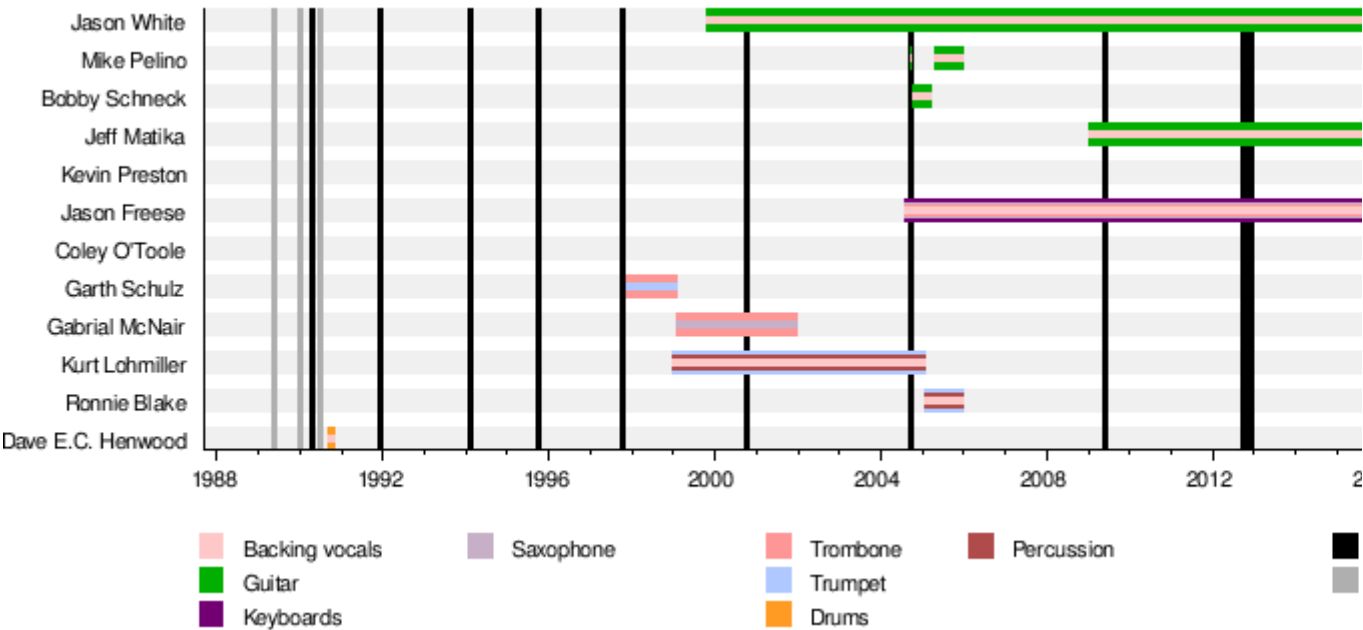
### Former touring musicians

- Dave "E.C." Henwood – drums, backing vocals (1990)<sup>[223][312]</sup>
- Garth Schultz – trombone, trumpet (1997–1999)<sup>[313]</sup>
- Gabrial McNair – trombone, saxophone (1999–2001; *session member in 1997*)<sup>[314]</sup>
- Kurt Lohmiller – trumpet, backing vocals, percussion (1999–2005)<sup>[315]</sup>
- Mike Pelino – guitar, backing vocals (2004, 2005)<sup>[316]</sup>
- Ronnie Blake – trumpet, backing vocals, percussion (2005; *session member from 2015–2016*)
- Bobby Schneck – guitar, backing vocals (2004–2005)
- Jeff Matika – guitar, backing vocals (2009–2019)
- Coley O'Toole – keyboards, backing vocals (2024; substitute for Jason Freese)<sup>[309]</sup>

### Timeline



## Touring musicians timeline



## Awards and nominations

Green Day has earned 214 award nominations and 92 wins.

## Discography

### Studio albums

- *39/Smooth* (1990)
- *Kerplunk* (1991)
- *Dookie* (1994)
- *Insomniac* (1995)
- *Nimrod* (1997)
- *Warning* (2000)
- *American Idiot* (2004)
- *21st Century Breakdown* (2009)
- *¡Uno!* (2012)
- *¡Dos!* (2012)
- *¡Tré!* (2012)
- *Revolution Radio* (2016)
- *Father of All Motherfuckers* (2020)
- *Saviors* (2024)

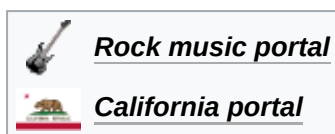
## Tours

- 39/Smooth Tour (1990–1991)
- European Tour '91 (1991)

- Kerplunk Tour (1991–1993)
- Dookie Tour (1994)
- Insomniac Tour (1995–1996)
- Nimrod Tour (1997–1998)
- Life Without Warning Tour (1999–2000)
- Pop Disaster Tour (with Blink-182) (2002)
- American Idiot World Tour (2004–2005)
- 21st Century Breakdown World Tour (2009–2010)
- 99 Revolutions Tour (2013)
- Revolution Radio Tour (2016–2017)
- Hella Mega Tour (with Fall Out Boy and Weezer) (2021–2022)
- The Savors Tour (2024–2025)

## See also

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- *Green Day: Rock Band*
- List of best-selling albums in the United States

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[dio/aod/shows/rpms/radio1/greenday\\_doc.rpm](#) (rpm. file))

## External links

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- [Official website](http://www.greenday.com/) (<http://www.greenday.com/>)
  - [Green Day](https://www.discogs.com/artist/251593) (<https://www.discogs.com/artist/251593>) discography at [Discogs](#)
  - [Green Day](https://musicbrainz.org/artist/084308bd-1654-436f-ba03-df6697104e19) (<https://musicbrainz.org/artist/084308bd-1654-436f-ba03-df6697104e19>) discography at [MusicBrainz](#)
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