

ALLOY

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F.T.
The Kickass
Women of Rock &
Killer Bees!

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Hello, dear readers!

Happy Women's History Month! What a lovely way for us to start ringing in spring- I can't speak for the rest of you (Or Vyv), but flowers are already sprouting up where I am. While this is a sadly short issue, we hope you still enjoy it!

In Rage And Love,

Rebel Blaze



Women's History Month: Famous Women in Rock, Punk, & Metal

By Vyr Riff

In a music world vastly dominated by men and masculinity, women in rock, punk, and especially metal, have always had it so much tougher than that of their male colleagues. Women in punk are much more appreciated thanks to punk's much more accepting look on humans and wide range of acceptance of people in their music genre.

However, in rock and metal, women & female musicians are fairly harder to come across. For much more obscure metal and rock bands, especially in the early days of the genres, you truly have to have patience and dig a lot more for female-led metal and rock bands - let alone for all-female bands like GIRLSCHOOL, FANNY, MO-DETTES (post-punk) DESTROSE, CYNTHIA, LOVEBITES, ASTARTE, and of course many more. Women in the rock and metal scenes have been pounded with the word "poser" for decades, have been slapped with words of sexism and hatred since the 1960s, and many women of color have long been forgotten about.

I didn't hear about most of these until I was at least 18. I'm 20. -RB

For this lovely Women's History Month, we're highlighting some of the much more popular women in rock, punk, and metal, while balancing it out with some much more obscure rockers and metalheads.

Key: Metal bands Punk + Riot Grrrl bands Rock bands

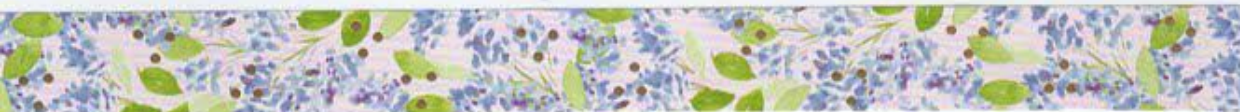
Sister Rosetta Tharpe

Born on March 20, 1915 in Cotton Plant, Arkansas, SISTER ROSETTA THARPE helped to popularize rock 'n roll in the 1940s and 50s. A Black and queer woman, metal & rock have almost entirely forgotten about her. Rosetta was famous for singing gospel and blues, but there was one specific song that kickstarted rock and roll, and was cited as a precursor to the genre: her massive hit song "Strange Things Happening Every Day". Using resonator guitars, bass, and her own powerful vocals, Rosetta kickstarted the rock and roll genre in 1945. The song is also known to some as the world's first official rock and roll record. From helping to popularize rock n roll, Rosetta helped via domino effect in forming heavy metal. Yes, a Black queer woman *technically* started heavy metal as far back as the 1940s.



Laura Jane Grace - Against Me!

One of rock and punk's first openly transgender women, Laura Jane Grace of famous punk band AGAINST ME! has become a rock & punk icon - especially in queer spaces in the alternative, rock, & metal scenes - since coming out publicly in May of 2012. Laura continues to make music with AGAINST ME!, although the band has been on hiatus since 2020. She is also continuing to have her own solo career under her chosen name. Her most recent album, *Hole in My Head*, was released on Feb 16, 2024.



Joan Jett - Joan Jett & The Heartbreakers; The Runaways

How can we have this list without mentioning the mother of rock & punk? Do we even need to write about Joan? Do YOU even know who Joan is? Why are you reading our zine if you don't even know who Joan is??? (joke)

Sabina Classen-Hirtz - Holy Moses

Sabina's voice in HOLY MOSES, a thrash metal band, is a massive voice for women in the metal scene. Thrash and the overall metal scene is riddled with men, so coming across a woman in the thrash scene is a rare needle in a haystack. Sabina has been in HOLY MOSES since 1981, appearing on every release with her screeching vocals. Unfortunately, the band split last year in 2023 after releasing their last album, *Invisible Queen*.

Kimi Shelter, Qi Wei, and Emily Moon - Starbenders

STARBENDERS is one of more obscure yet more modern bands on our list this time. While they are not metal, they are glam rock with a modern twist. All the members, especially guitarist and lead singer Kimi Shelter, take obvious dressing style inspiration from older 70s glam rock musicians like Bowie, T. Rex, and others. Musically, STARBENDERS might make you feel like you are physically floating through outer space - hopefully you maintain contact with Major Tom! Their most recent album, *Take Back the Night*, was released on Sept 22, 2023.



Betsy 'Bitch' Weiss - Bitch

Bitch is a somewhat more obscure band than the rest of the bands on this list. Bitch was formed in December of 1980 in Los Angeles, CA, USA. The band was dubbed as "dominatrix metal" for their sexual innuendos and blatant bondage & S&M references in their lyrics, not to mention Betsy's portrayal of a dominatrix at their live shows. BITCH has only ever released three studio albums, 2 EPs, and a handful of singles, but the band has maintained a cult following in the metal scene. Thankfully, BITCH has never broken up, and still performs on occasion.

Jinx Dawson - Coven

Forming the world's first actual (technically) metal band is one thing. Being a woman AND forming the first heavy metal band? That is another level of goddess. Jinx Dawson formed COVEN with fellow bandmate Michael "Oz" Osbourne (no connection to Ozzy Osbourne, funnily enough) sometime in the late 1960s. COVEN was never really considered metal at the time, due to metal not even existing yet. However, with their first album, *Witchcraft Destroys Minds & Reaps Souls* (1969), the band did everything on their album cover and within the music itself that helped to influence metal as we know it today, from the start to the present. Skulls, upside down crosses, coffins, blood, pentagrams, the devil horns, and even mentions of Satan litter the back cover of *Witchcraft*, as it is often referred to. COVEN was important in even popularizing the phrase "Hail Satan." In 1969, not only was this insane to people, but it also was MASSIVELY important to the metal scene and helped to form the overall look of metalheads and metal music as a whole.



Ironically, most metalheads probably don't even know what *Witchcraft* is where the most famous symbols of the metalhead culture were popularized from, let alone the fact that they were popularized by a female-fronted band.

Doro Pesch - Warlock; Doro

WARLOCK is another classic 80s metal band. Unfortunately, they were never too popular, and seem to have a cult following in the metal scene. Doro hails from Germany, and is a somewhat obscure metal musician that is still active today. She has been creating music and dropping albums since 1983. WARLOCK unfortunately only lasted 6 years, from 1983 until 1989. Thankfully, instead of quitting music and disappearing from heavy metal, Doro immediately moved on to creating her own music under the name DORO, and has since been creating music under the name since 1989. Her most recent album, "Conqueress: Forever Strong & Proud", dropped in October of 2023.



Kim McAuliff, Denise Dufort, Tracey Lamb, Jackie Chambers, Ghislaine 'Gil' Weston, Kelly Johnson, and more - Girlschool

GIRLSCHOOL was one of, if not the, world's first all-female heavy metal band. Formed in 1978, GIRLSCHOOL was/is one of the more famous yet also more obscure metal bands that came out of the NWOBHM movement. GIRLSCHOOL seems to have almost been forgotten about, as hardly anybody seems to talk about them. However, when they do, people seem to be dedicated fans, and adore the band for their powerful stance as an all-female metal band. Every member throughout GIRLSCHOOL's history has been a woman, and has been one of the few metal bands that has ever had a lineup like this. Although GIRLSCHOOL was never quite popular, the women have maintained a cult following since they debuted in 1982 with their first album *Screaming Blue Murder*. Their latest album, *WTFortyFive?*, was released in 2023.

Su-metal (Suzuka Nakamoto), Moametal (Moa Kikuchi), Momometal (Momoko Okazaki), Yuimetal (Yui Mizuno), and more - BABYMETAL

Being in an all-female metal band is one thing. Being in an all-female metal band from Japan is another. Many metal elitists absolutely despise BABYMETAL for being "posers", for being "annoying", or because they simply hate their music - or probably because they're just sexist elitist assholes. BABYMETAL is one of the most famous all-female metal bands/groups, and they unfortunately are hated by many metalheads. Even through all the hate, BABYMETAL has stood strong and has a dedicated fanbase, especially here in the US, even though there probably isn't many of us here across the pond. With over 2 million listeners according to Spotify, BABYMETAL doesn't seem to be quitting any time soon - sorry, elitist sexist assholes!



And We Can't Forget...^{***}

Other famous female rockers, metal, and punk musicians to check out:

- **Janis Joplin**
- **Carol Kaye** - session musician, played bass on countless hits
- **Lorraine Gill** - Taist Of Iron
- **Amy Lee** - Evanescence
- **Samantha Michelle Smith** - Guttural Slug (2013-2015)
- **Debbie Gunn** - Sentinel Beast
- **Fernanda Lira, Luana Dametto, Tainá Bergamaschi, Jéssica Falchi, and Sonia Anubis** - Crypta
- **Maryann Scandiffio** - BlackLace
- **Jody Turner, Julie Turner, Jenny Lane, and others** - Rock Goddess
- **Kate de Lombaert** - Acid
- **Connie Sgarbossa** - SeeYouSpaceCowboy...
- **Morgan Lander, Mercedes Lander, Tara McLeod, Ivana "Icy" Jenkins, and more** - Kittie
- **Ave and Izzy** - Crysis
- **Kathleen Hannah** - Bikini Kill; Le Tigre
- **Grace Slick** - Jefferson Airplane/Starship
- **Tatiana "Tati" Shmayluk** - Jinjer

MONTHLY SONG RECS



1. The Serpent And the King - Judas Priest / *Invincible Shield*
(Heavy metal, Speed metal)
2. Dysfunctional - Thredge (Thrash)
3. The Vision - Nostradamus / *Words of Nostadameus* (Thrash)
4. Lady Lou - Accept / *Accept* (Heavy metal, Speed)
5. Ek Erilar - Gaahl's WYRD / *Gastir - Ghosts Invited* (Black metal)
6. Bed Full of Snakes - Methwitch / *Indwell* (Brutal death, Deathcore)
7. Hour to Live - Skull Fist / *Chasing the Dream* (NWOTHM, Thrash)
8. Crypt of Ice - Frozen Soul / *Crypt of Ice* (Black metal)
9. The Perennial Link - Morbus Chron / *Sweven* (X)
10. Theogony - Rings of Saturn (Single) (Technical Deathcore)
11. Fuck Your God - A Night In Texas / *Unholy Alliance* (Deathcore)
12. Cut the Cord - Necrot (Single) (Death metal)
13. Auto Anthropophagy - Mutilation Barbecue (Single) (Death metal)
14. Yuve Yuve Yu - The HU / *The Gereg* (Folk metal)
15. Post Fetal Depression - Malignancy / *Intrauterine Cannibalism*
(Brutal death metal)
16. Burnin' Bridges - Slaughter / *Stick It To Ya* (Glam metal)
17. Blinded by Mystery - Necroprophecy / *Slaughter on Sight*
(Blackened death)
18. Set Me Free - Chrome Molly / *You Can't Have It All... Or Can You?*
([Late] NWOBHM, Hard rock, Heavy metal)
19. S.M.F. - Twisted Sister / *Stay Hungry* (Glam metal)
20. Eternal Wasteland of Galaxies - Vulvodynia / *Praenuntius Infiniti* (Deathcore, Brutal death metal)
21. In Sickness Intertwined - Fleshgrind / *Murder Without End*
(Brutal death metal, Grindcore)
22. Death or Glory - Asylum / *Is This The Price?* (Noisecore)
(The world's first noisecore band + first noisecore release!)
23. Suicidal Fight - Axton Pryte / *The Lab* (EP) (Heavy metal)



NOTES

- Noisecore derives directly from grindcore and hardcore punk. It's a little bit harsher than grindcore, especially considering there's no riffs in noisecore and the vocals are more growled and screamed. It sounds like nothing but literal noise.
- I could only find Axton Pryte's *The Lab* EP on YouTube. Both the full EP in one video, as well as individual songs, are up on the aforementioned platform.

