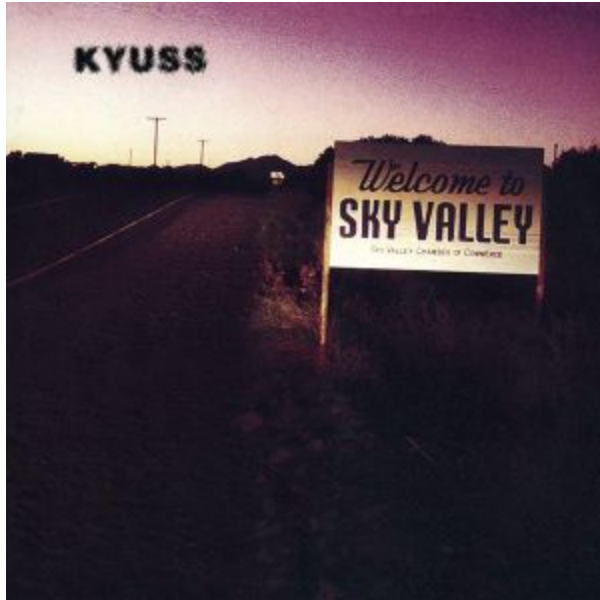


The Misfits - Walk Among us: You couldn't have been a kid in the early to mid 80s in North NJ and not been a Misfits fan. Hailing from Lodi, NJ this Horror/Punk Trio defined a genre and were one of the major influences on a whole generation of Metal/Thrash bands that were coming up at the time such as Metallica and other early Metal bands. You had to have at least one Misfits shirt in your collection. Frontman Glenn Danzig known as the punk Elvis went on to front his own band Danzig later on with the sudo hit "Mother". Walk among us was the first full length to be released in 1982.



Kyuss - Welcome to Sky Valley Another genre defining band hailing from Palm Desert, California. This band is responsible for creating the Desert Rock sound, whether you call it Stoner Rock, Sludge, it is all a Psychedelic, sun drenched 70s riff rock, Black Sabbath fuzz sound that many bands have tried to copy but no one did it like Kyuss. Welcome to Sky Valley in my opinion as the best complete album they ever did and was the one that really defined there sound. Members of Kyuss went on to form bands such as Queens of the Stone age, Mondo Generator, Eagles of Death Metal and others. Unfortunately they broke up in 96 but have done tours and albums under the banner Vista Chino due to rights issues.



Opeth-Blackwater Park Opeth, A swedish Progressive Death Metal band, noted for longer multi dimensional compositions not typical of Swedish Death Metal. Lead vocalist, guitarist and songwriter Mikael Åkerfeldt is known for being able to go between Death Metal growls and beautiful clean vocals with great guitar harmonies interwoven parts with parts that take twists and turn that you wouldn't expect and tap into a place that you didn't know existed in your mind. Blackwater Park was the album that really defined their sound, although recently the band has gotten away from there Death Metal roots and now only have clean vocals since the album Heritage on. If you are a progressive Metal fan you owe it to yourself to see this band live!



Iron Maiden-Iron Maiden This classic Heavy Metal band was on the first wave of British Heavy Metal in the late 70s early 80s. I myself am a big fan of the original singer Paul Di'anno who was on the first 2 studio albums, self titled and Killers as well as the Live album Maiden Japan, before being replaced by current and much more influential frontman Bruce Dickinson. To me the first studio album released in 1980 was the most influential on me, maybe it was the age when I first got it but I listened to this albums thousands of times and it never gets old to me. My obscure favorite song by Maiden Strange World was on this album.



Black Sabbath- Volume 4 This band has been one of my favorite bands since I was 9, most of you reading this have some rudimentary knowledge of this band with their iconic frontman, Ozzy Osbourne defined Heavy Metal in the early 70s. Volume 4 was a very influential album for me, it reminds me of mid March when the skies are still gray and gloomy but starting to thaw, not sure why. From the first track Wheels of Confusion/The Straightener it captivated me and never let me go. As much as I am a fan of all Black Sabbath, this is without a doubt my favorite.

