

*Skillet*

The background features a dark teal color on the left side, transitioning into a complex arrangement of overlapping geometric shapes on the right. These shapes include triangles and polygons in various shades of blue, from light sky blue to deep navy, and earthy brown tones. The overall composition is modern and abstract.

# Briefly

- ▶ Skillet is an American Christian rock band formed in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1996.
- ▶ The band currently consists of John Cooper (lead vocals, bass) and Korey Cooper (rhythm guitar, keyboards, backing vocals) along with Jen Ledger (drums, vocals) and Seth Morrison (lead guitar).
- ▶ The band has released eleven albums, two of which, *Collide* and *Comatose*, received Grammy nominations..
- ▶ They have sold more than 12 millions of albums all over the world.
- ▶ The band's style has been described as Christian rock/metal, alternative rock, hard rock, nu metal and symphonic metal with industrial feel.

# Beginnings

Skillet formed in 1996 with two members: John Cooper, former vocalist for Tennessee progressive rock band Seraph, and Ken Steorts, former guitarist for Urgent Cry. The two bands met through touring together, but they disbanded soon after, so John and Ken's pastor encouraged them to form their own band as a side-project. They decided to name the experiment "Skillet". After, Trey McClurkin joined the band as a temporary drummer. Skillet was only together for a month when they received interest from major Christian record label ForeFront Records. In 1996, they released their demo album *Right Upside Your Head*. On October 29 of the same year, they released a self-titled debut *Skillet*.

# The third album and new members

- ▶ Shortly before the band began recording for their third album, *Invincible*, Steorts left to be with his family and launch Visible Music College, and Kevin Haaland joined the band as their new guitarist. Korey Cooper joined the band permanently and played keyboards for the recording of *Invincible*. Because of this change, the musical style on *Invincible* changed to a more electronic sound. Soon after the release of *Invincible* in early 2000, Trey McClurkin parted ways with Skillet, and Lori Peters filled the drummer's position.
- ▶ The band released their first worship album and fourth album overall, *Ardent Worship*, in late 2000. The band kept much of their sound from *Invincible* on their next album *Alien Youth*. With little time between touring and recording, Skillet released *Alien Youth* on August 28, 2001, which was the first album that John Cooper took on production duties. Before the release of *Alien Youth*, Haaland left the band, and Ben Kasica took over on guitar.

## Collide(2003-2005) és Comatose (2006)

- ▶ In 2003, *Collide*, the band's fifth studio album, was released by Ardent Records and contained the singles "Savior" and "Collide". In 2004, the rights to *Collide* were bought by Lava Records, an imprint of Atlantic Records. On May 25, 2004, *Collide* was re-released by Lava Records, with "Open Wounds" as an added track. The album was nominated for "Best Rock Gospel Album" in 2005
- ▶ Skillet's album *Comatose* was released on October 3, 2006. It features the singles "Rebirthing", "Whispers in the Dark", "Comatose", "The Older I Get", "Those Nights", "The Last Night" and "Better Than Drugs". The album debuted at No. 55 on the *Billboard* 200 and No. 4 on the US Top Christian Albums chart.
- ▶ In January 2008, Skillet announced that their drummer, Lori Peters, was retiring from the band, feeling that "it's time for her to come off of the road and start a new chapter in her life.,, Peters' last concert with Skillet was on December 31, 2007. However, during the 2007 Christmas season, she took the time to train Skillet's next drummer, Jen Ledger.

# Personal favourite: Awake

They released their new Album, which contains Hero and Monster singles which became part of WWE Smackdown 2010 PC game. In 2009 they started Awake and Alive tour to introduce their album. In 2010 they made a tour with their single. They perform only in the US and in Canada. Their new album has the biggest success.

## Awards

Skillet was nominated for two Grammy award:

"Best Rock Gospel Album" in 2005 (Collide)

"Best Rock or Rap Gospel Album" in 2007 (Comatose).

# Personal view

- ▶ The truth is I would not call it my favourite band. I would call none of the bands my favourite one. I am rather in favour to the kind of music they play. That's why I would put their songs on my playlist. Skillet's Aweke album is the one which I listened to for eternity.