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Music, Intro to rock and hip hop music

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The Band Tool

# Biographical Information

The Band tool is an American band from Los Angeles. The band was formed in 1990, with the lineup of Danny Carey, Adam Jones and James Keenan. These three have been supported by Justin Chancellor as bassist (Blocher et al.). Justin Chancellor replaced Paul D Amour. To date, the band has released five studio albums and one box set. Each member of the band has proved itself essentially a virtuoso. The early success of the band came two years after practicing and performing songs locally. They were approached by the Record Company which finally released their first album in 1992 (Blocher et al.). The early success of the band includes the signing of the deal with Zoo entertainment.

**Style of Rock**

With time, the Band tool has incorporated visual arts in their performances. Whenever and where ever the band performs, the basic theme remains playing with visual arts. Their releases are also very complex and often described as style transcending. At present, the Band tool mostly famous for its progressive rock style. They have also shown their worth in psychedelic rock and art-rock (Blocher et al.). Their performances suggest that they have remained attributed to these kinds of rock since long. It is for such reasons that their style of rock is much different from their contemporaries.

**Influences of the Artist/Band**

Patrick Donovan of The Age describes band as "the thinking person's metal band”. The songs and music history of the Metal band suggests that they have been influenced by soft, heavy, melodic, abrasive and sprawling yet epic kind of music taste. They were most influenced by the critical appraisal of the International Herald Tribune (Pampalk). All Music has referred to them as inspiring from grinding and Post James addiction. Some also believe that the Tool Band has been influenced by Pink Floyd and Meddle of the year 1971. Their music composition also appears influenced by the post medal of 1993 and 1996 (Pampalk).

# Instrumentation of the band

Tool undergo many forms of instrumental experimentation, such as using the talk box guitar solo and making use of a "pipe bomb microphone". A number of musical instruments are utilized and the techniques to use those, by the members of Tool band, create a difference (Pampalk). The guitar is the most significant instrument played by Adam Jones, Drum kits by Carey, and Bass Guitar.

# Musical characteristics

Musical characteristics help one become a more informed audience member of a band. The use of an unusual time signature is one of the most important components of the musical style employed by Tool. The title tracks also display some shifting rhythms such as"10,000 Days (Wings Pt. 2)" and "Wings for Marie (Pt. 1)" (Pampalk). Apart from this, every member of this band has the freedom to experiment within their individual musical scope. Speaking of the rhythm section of band, Carey, the drummer employs table-style techniques, prerecorded table, ottoman sounds and polyrhythms (Blocher et al.). The vocalist also has the ability to dignify emotions such as disgust and anger in his voice.

# Listening Audience

The Tool band is set out to stimulate thought, unlike the bands who just target the angry youth. They do not only complain about the current state of the world and society but believe that “Evolution didn’t stop with us getting thumbs,” according to singer Maynard James Keenan. The tool is targeted at youth who are inspired by the way Tool reflects on the emotional, spiritual and metaphysical changes going on in the contemporary period. Tool has fans from all the age groups and according to fans, there is no limit of age. Everyone who listens to Tool becomes a fan (Adler).

# Influence

The metal band has influenced the group Melvin, and has also influenced the development of publicized influence and progressive rock group King Crimson. The long term member of King Crimson, Robert Fripp was also influenced by the Band Tool. In many interviews, Flip has described that he has been most influenced in his musical creation by the Band Tool. Adam Jones who has been associated with the band mentions that the Band Tool has influenced Pink Floyd as like the sex pistol. In an interview in 1993, Adam Jones called Joni Mitchel as the one who had been the most inspiration from the Band Tool (Adler).

**Comparison and Contrast of Two Songs**

Many argue that “Lateralus” is the song that defines the Tool. The way that the band plays this song live, it certainly seems that this is true. But for many, Lateralus always seems to be the apex of the show in terms of energy from both the band and the audience. Indeed, experiencing Lateralus live was considered akin to a religious experience (Blocher et al.). However, 46 and 2 song is also tempting, as it brings the audience close to emotions and makes them experience a world which they believe is close to them. In both songs the Band tool has compiled expression, music, and lyrics in the manner that the audience becomes enticing.

# Discography

Up till now, the band has released some eight music videos. They have made personal appearances in just two albums (Pampalk). It is just that the band wants to prevent people from latching into them. With the exception of Hush and Vicarious songs, all the band videos feature non- stop animation. The videos which are primarily created by Chet Zar and Alex Grey, however, include fewer animations. “Sober” video has particularly attracted much attention, they released the first DVD video in 2007 and the Billboard voted it the Best video by some new artists (Adler).

**Works Cited**

Adler, Samuel. *Enlarged Musical Examples From The Study Of Orchestration*. 1989.

Blocher, Larry, et al. *Teaching Music through Performance in Band*. GIA Publications, Incorporated, 2010.

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