

## Cow Palace—Music Timeline

From the Bay Area to the world, from the 1950s to the present, from pop to rock

Music history is alive at the Cow Palace. These are some of the historic music performances and events the Cow Palace has seen over time.

### The British Invasion

With “Beatlemania” in full swing, **The Beatles** kicked off their first U.S. tour on August 19, 1964. On the bill with several other artists, the Beatles' performance lasted just 29 minutes, and was stopped twice due to the numbers of jellybeans screaming fans threw on stage. Because their limousine was besieged by fans, The Beatles were transported by ambulance to the airport and for their next concert in Las Vegas.

On Nov. 20, 1973, **The Who** played a memorable show at the Cow Palace. The concert started like any other, but near the end of the show drummer Keith Moon was experiencing difficulties from a combination of horse tranquilizers and brandy. After he passed out during “Won't Get Fooled Again”, Pete Townshend appealed to the crowd for a good drummer. 19-year-old fan Scott Halpin stepped in for the last three songs of the show and played the entire show without missing a beat. Halpin would later be awarded ‘Pick-up Player of the Year’ by *Rolling Stone Magazine*.

**The Rolling Stones** played the Cow Palace for two nights in 1975. After the departure of Mick Taylor, this was the Rolling Stones' first tour with new guitarist Ronnie Wood. The mid-1970s were the era of extravagant stage shows and the Stones' act included theatrical stage props and gimmicks, including a giant inflatable phallus that the band nicknamed “Tired Grandfather” since it sometimes malfunctioned.

### Home grown talent

**Elvis Presley** played the Cow Palace on November 28, 1976, the first of two sold-out shows. On Aug. 16, 1977, the day Elvis died, **KISS** played the Cow Palace and performed their last song as a tribute to Presley. “We’re going to dedicate the last song to the king of rock and roll!” Gene Simmons wailed. “Elvis Presley, rock and roll all night and party every day!”

The Cow Palace hosted many headliners in the mid-1980s. In 1985, **Prince's** Purple Rain tour came to the Cow Palace for six nights. (The final show stretching out to 23 songs.) Other famous musicians included Van Halen, U2, and Pat Benatar. The Conspiracy of Hope tour on behalf of Amnesty International featured artists including Sting, U2, Bryan Adams, Peter Gabriel, Lou Reed, Joan Baez, and the Neville Brothers.

On New Year’s Eve 1991, the Cow Palace hosted a triple bill concert with **Pearl Jam** opening, followed by **Nirvana** and headliners **The Red Hot Chili Peppers**. Nirvana's album 'Nevermind' had hit #1 the week before the show. At the end of their set, Nirvana completely destroyed their instruments—and played no encore.

Every current and future event at this amazing venue is enhanced by remembering the fantastic moments in Rock history that happened here. Learn more ~ enjoy more!



*Prince reigns at the Cow Palace, 1985. Copyright Ken Friedman. All rights reserved.*

This is a comprehensive list of the famous, less famous, and a few infamous music events at the Cow Palace.

- 1955: Liberace
- 1957, 1964: Frank Sinatra
- 1962: Chubby Checker—first rock-type concert
- 1963, 1965, 1966, 1977: Beach Boys
- 1963: Ray Charles
- 1964: The Beatles (First US concert, after a riot-like atmosphere, and just 28 minutes of performing, the band dropped their instruments and ran for safety to their dressing rooms)
- 1965: Dick Clark Stage Show
- 1965: The Beatles
- October, 1965: Sixteen acts in “Big Daddy’s Fall Spectacular included Sonny & Cher, Glenn Campbell, The Supremes, Bobby Freeman, Little Anthony & the Imperials, The Byrds, The Castaways, The Lovin’ Spoonful, Charlie Rich, The Mojo Men, The Shangri La’s, The Sunrays, The Tikis, The Togs, The Vejtables, The Beau Brummels (part of the San Francisco sound”)

- February 25, 1966: The Supremes
- July 26, 1966: Rolling Stones with Jefferson Airplane in the Rolling Stones first performance at the Cow Palace. The Stones were joined by a “home-town” band, Jefferson Airplane.
- 1967: The Monkees, The Everly Brothers, The Animals, The Who, and Donovan
- 1968: Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Bee Gees, Buffalo Springfield, and Santana
- 1969: The Doors with Elvin Bishop, Guess Who with Grass Roots, and Steppenwolf
- 1970, 1972, 1973: Jackson Five
- November 13, 1970 Elvis Presley
- 1970: Tom Jones, Alice Cooper, Engelbert Humperdinck, Rare Earth, and Tina Turner
- 1971: Smokey Robinson & the Miracles with The Four Tops, Burt Bacharach
- June 16, 1972: Smokey Robinson & the Miracles with Al Green and The Whispers, James Brown, and Chuck Berry
- 1973: The Who with Lynrd Skynyrd, The Allman Brothers, Steely Dan, Herman’s Hermits, Four Tops, Earth, Wind & Fire, Rod Stewart, Moody Blues, and Stevie Wonder
- 1974: Grateful Dead, John Denver, Grand Funk Railroad, Ten Years After with King Crimson and Strawbs, George Harrison and Ravi Shankar with Billy Preston (2 nights), Stevie Wonder, Doobie Brothers and Journey, Deep Purple and ELO, Elton John, Eric Clapton
- 1975: The Rolling Stones [30,807 tickets sold in one hour and 10 minutes a revelation at the time, due to computer ticket sales].,
- Also in 1975: Stevie Wonder, Chicago (2 nights), Pink Floyd (2 nights), Rod Stewart, Dave Mason and Santana, Marvin Gaye, Yes, and John Denver
- February 6, 1976: David Bowie
- March 27, 1976: Chicago (2 nights)
- June 13, 1976: Paul McCartney and Wings (2 nights)
- June 26, 1976: John Denver
- August 14, 1976: ZZ Top with Ted Nugent
- November 28, 1976: Elvis Presley (2 nights)
- December 31, 1976: Grateful Dead and Santana. The bands recorded a live album during this double-bill concert.
- Also in 1976: Yes, Dave Mason, Loggins & Messina, Aerosmith, Neil Diamond, Doobie Brothers, and Rod Stewart
- January 25, 1977: Electric Light Orchestra
- February 5, 1977: Foghat with Rick Derringer and Dr. Feelgood
- June 24, 1977: ZZ Top and Elvin Bishop
- August 16, 1977: KISS and Cheap Trick
- August 28, 1977: Ted Nugent with Rex
- December 31, 1977: The Allman Brothers
- December 31, 1977: Journey,
- 1977: Eddie Money, Santana, Starwood, Aerosmith, Doobie Brothers, Boston, Emerson, Lake & Palmer, REO Speedwagon, and Sammy Hagar

- April 14, 1978: Foghat and Eddie Money
- October 22, 1978: Neil Young & Crazy Horse
- December 12, 1978: Heart and Charlie Daniels
- December 31, 1978: Rick Derringer, Sammy Hagar and The Runaways
- 1978: John Denver, Neil Diamond, Sammy Hagar, The Cars, Rush, The Commodores, and Kansas
- February 26, 1979: Neil Diamond (4 nights)
- June 15, 1979: Rod Stewart (3 nights)
- August 8, 1979: The Marshall Tucker Band
- November 25, 1979: KISS
- December 5, 1979: Earth, Wind & Fire
- December 14, 1979: Fleetwood Mac (3 nights)
- December 31, 1979: Blue Oyster Cult with Gamma and Montrose
- Also in 1979: Barkays with Rose Royce, Ruben Blades, and the Village People
- February 17, 1980: ZZ Top with Gamma
- March 14, 1980: Rush with .38 Special
- May 16, 1980: Humble Pie with Mahogany Rush and Angel
- May 23, 1980: Ted Nugent with The Scorpions
- August 6, 1980: Jackson Browne
- September 5, 1980: AC/DC
- October 6, 1980: Yes
- December 7, 1980: Stevie Wonder with Gil Scott-Heron (2 nights)
- December 31, 1980: The Marshall Tucker Band
- Also in 1980: The Jacksons, The Commodores, Kansas, Scorpions, Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, Willie Nelson, The Eagles with Roy Orbison, Styx, and Loverboy
- March 2, 1981: Styx
- March 21, 1981: Pat Travers
- May 8, 1981: Ted Nugent with Humble Pie
- June 24, 1981: The Moody Blues
- June 26, 1981: Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers with The Fabulous Thunderbirds
- June 27, 1981: Willie Nelson with Delbert McClinton
- September 17, 1981: The Jacksons
- November 1981: Kenny Rogers (exact date not available)
- November 30, 1981: Journey (3 nights)
- December 9, 1981: Rod Stewart (2 nights)
- December 20, 1981: Neil Diamond (3 nights)
- December 30, 1981: Ozzy Osbourne and Randy Rhoads
- December 31, 1981: The Greg Kihn Band with Gamma, Y&T and Chumbo
- Also in 1981: Earth, Wind & Fire, ZZ Top, and Journey
- January 26, 1982: Foreigner with Michael Stanley (2 nights)
- February 12, 1982: The Police with The Fleshtones
- February 14, 1982: AC-DC (3 nights)

- March 6, 1982: The Cars with Nick Lowe
- March 26, 1982: Sammy Hagar with Quarterflash (2 nights)
- April 17, 1982: Black Sabbath with the Outlaws
- September 14, 1982: Van Halen with After the Fire (2 nights)
- November 19, 1982: Judas Priest with Coney Hatch
- Also in 1982: ZZ Top, REO Speedwagon, Outlaws, Rick James, and Eddie Money
- January 25, 1983: Neil Young
- January 28, 1983: Willie Nelson & Family (2 nights)
- February 7, 1983: Eric Clapton
- March 4, 1983: Billy Squier with Saga
- March 19, 1983: Pat Benatar
- April 8, 1983: Sammy Hagar with Night Ranger (2 nights)
- April 13, 1983: Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers with Paul Carrack and Nick Lowe
- April 16, 1983: Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band with John Hall
- April 23, 1983: The Kinks
- December 16, 1983: Loverboy
- December 1, 1983: ARMS Benefit Concert (Action into Research for Multiple Sclerosis) with Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton, Joe Cocker and Jimmy Page (3 nights)
- December 31, 1983: Dio with Dokken and Y&T
- Also in 1983: Moody Blues, Blue Oyster Cult, AC/DC, Kenny Rogers and Crystal Gayle, Menudo, Asia, Iron Maiden
- February 10, 1984: Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings (2 nights)
- May 9, 1984: Van Halen with The Velcros (3 nights)
- May 24, 1984: Rush (3 nights)
- July 1984: Judas Priest (exact date not available)
- August 1984: Elton John (exact date not available)
- November 13, 1984: Billy Squier with Tommy Shaw
- November 21, 1984: Jethro Tull with Honeymoon Suite
- December 29, 1984: Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton
- Also in 1984: Yes, The Cars, Black Sabbath, Genesis, Dan Fogelberg, Scorpions, Night Ranger, and Lionel Richie
- January 19, 1985: Sammy Hagar with Zebra
- February 27, 1985: Prince & the Revolution with Sheila E. Six sold-out nights; on the tickets it said, "Wear Purple"(7 nights)
- March 7, 1985: U2 (2 nights)
- March 9, 1985: Triumph
- March 21, 1985: Iron Maiden with Twisted Sister
- June 14, 1985: Robert Plant (2 nights)
- November 24, 1985: MÖtley CrÛe
- December 31, 1985: Night Ranger with Eddie Money
- Also in 1985: Neil Diamond, Dio, The Cure, Confunkshun, Chaka Khan, Bon Jovi, Ratt, Power Station, Deep Purple, Metallica, and Bachman Turner Overdrive

- January 24, 1986: Aerosmith with Divinyls
- January 30, 1986: Rush with Steve Morse
- February 8, 1986: KISS with W.A.S.P.
- June 4, 1986: Amnesty International headlined by U2 and Sting, and featuring Bryan Adams, Jackson Browne, Peter Gabriel, Lou Reed, Joan Baez and The Neville Brothers. The US tour spanned six concerts over a 10-day period in June 1986.
- June 17, 1986: Ozzy Osbourne with Metallica
- August 8, 1986: ZZ Top with Honeymoon Suite (3 nights)
- August 15, 1986: AC/DC with Queensrÿche
- October 31, 1986: Van Halen with Bachman Turner Overdrive (4 nights)
- November 21, 1986: Neil Young & Crazy Horse
- December 12, 1986: David Lee Roth with Cinderella (2 nights)
- Also in 1986: Journey
- January 24, 1987: Bon Jovi with Cinderella
- April 24, 1987: U2 (2 nights)
- May 11, 1987: Billy Idol with The Cult
- November 28, 1987 Def Leppard with Tesla (2 nights)
- December 1, 1987 Depeche Mode with Voice Farm
- December 12, 1987 Fleetwood Mac (2 nights)
- Also in 1987: Iron Maiden, The Judds, Merle Haggard, Alabama
- January 29, 1988: Aerosmith with Dokken (2 nights)
- Also in 1988: Rod Stewart, Scorpions, AC/DC, Judas Priest, Metallica, and Gap Band
- February 11, 1989: Neil Diamond (3 nights)
- November 26, 1989: Earthquake Relief Benefit included America, The Chambers Brothers, Crosby, Stills & Nash, The Steve Miller Band, Maria Muldaur, Grace Slick, Jesse Colin Young, Neil Young, The Dynatones, Paul Kantner, Aaron Neville, and Joe Louis Walker. The concert at the Cow Palace was part of three concerts that took place on the same day to raise funds for earthquake relief. The final tally was over \$2,000,000.
- December 31, 1989: Lynrd Skynrd
- Also in 1989 Ratt, Bobby Brown, and The Cult
- February 24, 1990: Tears for Fears
- March 9, 1990: Aerosmith with Skid Row (2 nights)
- March 16, 1990: GMC Trucks American Music Tour with Randy Travis, Tammy Wynette, and Rickey Skaggs
- October 20, 1990: Billy Idol with Faith No More
- November 30, 1990: ZZ Top with Jeff Healey (3 nights)
- Also in 1990: Beach Boys, Travis Tritt and Marty Stewart, AC/DC, Lynrd Skynrd, Blues Traveler, Debbie Harry, and Steve Earle
- February 19, 1991: New Kids on the Block
- March 6, 1991: Neil Young & Crazy Horse with Drivin' N Cryin' and Sonic Youth
- March 15, 1991: Clint Black, Merle Haggard, Carlene Carter

- May 26, 1991: Clash of the Titans – Queensryche Alice in Chains, Anthrax, Megadeth and Slayer
- December 29, 1991: Steve Miller Band
- December 31, 1991: Nirvana, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Pearl Jam
- Also in 1991: Iron Maiden and Joe Satriani
- June 13, 1992: Ozzy Osbourne with Slaughter and Ugly Kid Joe
- Also in 1992: Van Halen, Iron Maiden, Metallica, Travis Tritt, and Bryan Adams
- April 9, 1993: Nirvana
- Also in 1994: Rush
- November 29, 1996: Phish
- December 30, 1996: Metallica with Korn
- Also in 1996: Red Hot Chili Peppers, White Zombie, Dave Matthews Band, Smashing Pumpkins, Chemical Brothers, and Beck
- In 1997: MÖtley CrÛe
- In 1998: Korn and Limp Bizkit
- March 1999: Marilyn Manson with Hole (exact date not available)
- Also in 1999: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Limp Bizkit, Ice Cube, Motorhead, WAR, and Primus
- 2000: Scorpions, Night Ranger, Limp Bizkit, Eminem, Nine Inch Nails, and Vicente Fernandez
- In 2002: Chemical Brothers, Vicente Fernandez, and Ezequiel Pena
- March 8, 2004: Metallica
- In 2006: Elton John, Vicente Fernandez, Little Big Town
- In 2007: Billy Idol, Lenny Kravitz, and Al Green
- In 2008: Metallica
- In 2016: U2