



Station 3 – Influence of the Blues on Early Heavy Metal

Heavy Metal bands Black Sabbath and Judas Priest both began as Blues bands. The early Heavy Metal bands Deep Purple and Blue Cheer played Blues Rock, and often incorporated Blues scales and intervals into their songs. Even as their music began to change and the Heavy Metal sound was born, these bands still covered Blues and Blues Rock songs. As Greg Ginn of the Punk band Black Flag has said, “I still think the best metal bands have a blues feel. The first Black Sabbath album is kind of a bludgeoning of blues. Deep Purple also started out as a blues band.”

Many early Metal bands used what is commonly called a “12-bar Blues” chord progression, used in the majority of blues songs; Deep Purple’s song “The Painter” (1969) is one example.

Track Listings of early Heavy Metal

(Blues and Blues Rock cover songs are highlighted)

***Black Sabbath* by Black Sabbath (1970)**

1. Black Sabbath
2. The Wizard
3. Behind the Wall of Sleep
4. N.I.B.
5. **Evil Woman**
6. Sleeping Village
7. **Warning**

***Vincebus Eruptum* by Blue Cheer (1968)**

1. **Summertime Blues**
2. **Rock Me Baby**
3. Doctor Please
4. Out of Focus
5. **Parchment Farm**
6. Second Time Around