

# Iron Maiden

SONG TITLE: TWO MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

ALBUM: POWERSLAVE

LABEL: EMI

GENRE: HEAVY METAL

WRITTEN BY: ADRIAN SMITH  
AND BRUCE DICKINSON

PRODUCED BY: MARTIN BIRCH

UK CHART PEAK: 11

$\text{♩} = 188$  Rock

Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A

PM - - - | PM - - - |

T  
A  
B

0 0 5 0 0

'Two Minutes To Midnight' is featured on Iron Maiden's fifth studio album, *Powerslave*, released in 1984. The song was the lead single from the album and the tenth in Iron Maiden's career. Unlike much of Iron Maiden's work, which is written by bassist Steve Harris, the song was written by guitarist Adrian Smith and singer Bruce Dickinson. 'Two Minutes To Midnight' was the band's first single to exceed 5 minutes in length.

*Powerslave* was critically acclaimed and commercially very successful, reaching no.1 on the UK album charts and no. 21 on the US Billboard 200. The album includes a musical re-telling of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, using the poem as lyrics and clocking at 13.45 minutes. *Powerslave* features the same personnel as Iron Maiden's previous release, *Piece Of Mind*. The line-up would remain stable for two further studio releases. *Powerslave* was recorded at the now decommissioned Compass Point Studios in the Bahamas and is the only Iron Maiden album to date to feature an instrumental piece. The promotional tour that followed the record's release was Iron Maiden's longest. It opened in Warsaw and then moved to Hungary, both countries were then behind the iron curtain and that had special significance. The tour eventually reached Rio de Janeiro, where Iron Maiden played at Rock in Rio as Queen's special guests.

The audience at the event was in excess of three hundred thousand.

After *The Number Of The Beast* was released in 1982, Iron Maiden became one of heavy metal's top acts with loyal audiences the world over. Their legendary shows have earned them many accolades and their record sales are estimated at over one hundred million. Their catalogue includes 16 studio albums, 12 live albums, 4 EPs and 7 compilations, totaling 38 releases to date. Despite various line-up changes the band retained their essence and kept on upping their game. After many sold out tours they have played over 2000 shows.

Iron Maiden released *The Book Of Souls* in 2015 and the record topped the UK Album Charts, a major achievement for a band that had then been around for thirty-five years.

# Two Minutes To Midnight

Iron Maiden

Words & Music by Bruce Dickinson  
& Adrian Smith

♩=188 *Rock*

Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A

Am<sup>7</sup> A<sup>5</sup> Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A

[4]

Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A Am<sup>7</sup> A<sup>5</sup>

[7]

[A] Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A

[9]

Am<sup>7</sup> A<sup>5</sup> Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>5</sup>/A

[12]

SONG TITLE: HOLIER THAN THOU  
 ALBUM: METALLICA  
 LABEL: ELEKTRA  
 GENRE: THRASH METAL /  
 HEAVY METAL

WRITTEN BY: JAMES HETFIELD  
 AND LARS ULRICH

PRODUCED BY: BOB ROCK,  
 JAMES HETFIELD  
 AND LARS ULRICH

UK CHART PEAK: N/A

'Holier Than Thou' is featured on Metallica's self-titled fifth studio album, also known as *The Black Album*. The record was a massive worldwide success and became Metallica's best-selling album. The record signals a change in Metallica's sound, including a slower and more melodic approach leaning towards heavy metal. The record sold 16 million copies in the US alone.

The band had frequent disagreements with producer Bob Rock during the recording process. Rock pushed Hetfield to write more involved and personal lyrics and this led to arguments. It did, however, produce a positive result. Unlike previous recordings the band played live in the studio. Their attention to detail and perfectionist approach tested Rock's patience and the album was mixed three times until the band were satisfied. Production costs reached a million US dollars. The tension resulting from the sessions made Rock swear he'd never work with Metallica again. Much of this is documented in the documentaries *A Year and a Half In The Life Of Metallica* and *Classic Albums: Metallica - Metallica*. Rock, against his own predictions, worked with Metallica again on the production of *Load* in 1996, *ReLoad* in 1997 and *St. Anger* in 2003. During the production of *Metallica* drummer Lars Ulrich, bassist Jason Newsted, and lead guitarist Kirk Hammett divorced their wives.

♩ = 166 *Metal*



The promotional tour of *Metallica* saw the band play as part of the *Monsters Of Rock* festival tour for the fourth time. The tour closed in Moscow, Russia, in September 1991 in what was described as the first free outdoor Western rock concert in the country, with estimates of 150 thousand to half a million people in attendance. Some unofficial estimates put attendance at over 1.5 million. The band followed *Monsters Of Rock* with the *Wherever We May Roam Tour* in 1992 during which James Hetfield suffered second and third degree burns after accidentally walking into a 3.5 metre flame shot from the stage pyrotechnics set. After recovery the band continued with the *Nowhere Else to Roam Tour*.

'Holier Than Thou' was performed until 1995. When Robert Trujillo joined the band in 2003 Metallica started to perform a more extensive back catalogue and the song was re-introduced to live performances. *Metallica* was played in its entirety during the 2012 *European Black Album Tour*.

