

Celebrities & Musicians with Tinnitus:

Neil Young - (loud music) main reason for his "acoustic" music during early 90's

Barbra Streisand - "Streisand has ascribed her volatile temperament to the tinnitus from which she has suffered since she was seven." source: news.independent.co.uk

Pete Townshend - "I have severe hearing damage. It's manifested itself as tinnitus, ringing in the ears at frequencies that I play guitar. It hurts, it's painful, and it's frustrating." Townshend is completely deaf in one ear from an explosion when Keith Moon blew up his drum set live on stage in the early 1960's and loud amps. He has tinnitus, resulting partly from the band's live gigs but mainly the deafening volume in which he and Entwistle used to listen to playbacks over the studio "cans." There are reports saying that he is unable even to hear his phone ring. The Sun newspaper reported Townshend said his hearing got worse after the band's recent US tour. Quote from Pete: "The recent return to touring and to me playing electric guitar - albeit more quietly than in the 1970s - led to further deterioration of my hearing," the 57-year-old said. "My right ear, which encounters my own edgy guitar and the machine gun strokes of the drums, has suffered badly. Luckily for me, I still have my left ear, which seems to be less @#%\$ up. When I've worked solo in the past five years I've not used drums. This has meant I could play more quietly I think. With The Who, there is of course no way to play the old songs without drums. I've no idea what I can do about this. I am unable to perform with in-ear monitors. In fact, they increase the often unbearable tinnitus I suffer after shows." source from [Sky News](#)

John Entwistle - According to Who scholar Andy Neill, Entwistle was pretty deaf, and tended to rely on lip-reading. He didn't have tinnitus but still played bass at his usual "everything on 11" volume.

William Shatner - He acquired tinnitus from a loud stage/prop explosion on the set of an episode of StarTrek (during the mid 1960's). He says it contributed to the breakup of his second marriage, and even made him consider suicide. source from [Carleton University](#)

Leonard Nimoy - stage/prop explosion on set of StarTrek (during mid 1960's)

David Letterman - T in one ear, has had T a long time: Dave mentioned to William Shatner that he too had ringing in his ears, and has had it for a long time. On a different show episode, Letterman talked about how well he did on a hearing test. He asked Paul about his and Paul said, "I'm deaf as a doornail"

Paul Schaffer - "He's got that?! I've got that!" on Billy Bob Thornton's character with Tinnitus in 'BANDITS'

Bill Clinton? - (wears hearing aid) T probably?

Tony Randall / Engelbert Humperdinck / Rosalynn Carter

Steve Martin - musician (banjo player), actor, comedian. He acquired Tinnitus while filming a pistol-shooting scene in "Three Amigos!" in 1986. "You just get used to it."

Leslie Nielsen - actor in such movie spoofs as "Police Squad!", "Airplane!", "The Naked Gun" series

Mark O. Hatfield / Ronald Reagan

Jean-Jacques Rousseau - Influential eighteenth century political philosopher. From "Confessions" (1780) "...a great noise started up in my ears, a noise that was triple or rather quadruple, compounded of a low and muffled humming, a softer murmuring as though of

running water, a piercing whistle...This internal noise was so loud that it robbed me of the keen ear I had previously enjoyed and made me, not completely deaf, but hard of hearing... in spite of the throbbing in my arteries and the humming in my ears, which since that time, some thirty years ago now, have never left me for a moment...The noise was irksome, but it caused me no suffering: it was not accompanied by any chronic affliction, apart from insomnia at night..." P. 222, Oxford World's Classics paperback edition, Oxford University Press, 2000

Jean-Francois Champollion - (1790-1832) Champollion was a French Egyptologist and scholar who is acknowledged as the father of modern Egyptology. He is best known for deciphering the Egyptian Hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone. His deciphering of hieroglyphics laid the foundations for modern Egyptology and Egyptian archaeology. In the book "The Keys to Egypt", it describes how Champollion drove himself to complete an encyclopedia of his work. "Depressed and feeling more and more unwell, Champollion now wrote to his brother about the damage done by the strain of work: 'My poor head hurts, my tinnitus, the humming and buzzing noises, has worsened and leaves me neither day nor night. I have frequent spasms and am incapable of occupying myself seriously for more than a quarter hour...' "

Richard Thomas

Brian Wilson? T? - deaf in one ear from when his father hit him in the head with a board at an early age

Dave Pirner - (Soul Asylum) (loud music)

Bob Mould - (alternative music icon)

Neve Campbell - loud dance clubs

Jeff Beck - band Yardbirds (loud music), From an interview with rock guitarist Jeff Beck: "Yes, it's in my left ear. It's excruciating... I mean, it's the worst thing 'cause it's not... It never... It does go away - it's not true to say that it doesn't but, uhh... It doesn't... The doctors say it won't... It isn't actually going away - you've just gotta suppress... They try to come to terms with what it actually... Why some people fear it - that's the psychology behind it. They know it's there but why is it such a horrible sound? Well, you can say why is a guy scratching at a window with his nails such a horrible sound - I couldn't put up with that! This is worse!"

As Jeff told MTV - June 1993, He was asked to do a special guest spot with Guns 'n' Roses but had to cancel out. Jeff was going to play "Locomotive" with the band, but during the rehearsals, he used Slash's amp rig which aggravated his tinnitus forcing him to drop out of the gig.

Douglas J Noble - musician, guitar instructor, and music journalist out of Edinburgh, Scotland. From a Jeff Beck interview: "I've got tinnitus in my left ear...I mean it's permanent! Like just now..."

Trevor Dunn T? - Bass player for Mr. Bungle, composed the Mr. Bungle's tune "Slowly Growing Deaf".

Burt Reynolds

Sting - (loud music)

Liberty Divito - (Billy Joel's drummer) (loud music)

Eric Clapton - (loud amplifiers)

Eric Johnson - has developed T (loud music/amps); source from *Guitar Player Magazine* interview: "I'd run two Marshall stacks onstage and crank the monitors. I started using Fender Deluxe Reverb amps and 50-watt Marshalls around '97, after I started having some problems with tinnitus. It was my own doing -- being irresponsible and thinking I was invincible...Yes, though it has been better lately. Take care and wear plugs. Don't think it can't happen to you.

When I had a speaker reconed at the been here for years reconing shop in Austin the owner said, "I've reconed speakers for every guitarist in Austin for years and as far as I know there aren't any rock 'n roll lead guitarists here who don't have tinnitus to some degree or another. Many have it so bad they have trouble sleeping."

James Hetfield - Metallica rhythm guitar and uses Sonic II Ear plugs

Lars Ulrich - drummer for Metallica

Vanilla Fudge - Tim Bogert (bassist): "Tinnitus, big time. That's the price you pay for having a darn good time. Nothing's free!"

Thom Yorke - Radiohead lead singer

Colin Greenwood - Radiohead bassist. Source from: [prefixmag](#)

Ryan Adams - singer/songwriter diagnosed with Meniere's Disease in 2009. Source from: [rollingstone](#)

Motorhead - Lemmy Kilminster (thrash-punk-metal pioneers): "We just like it loud, you know?"

Kevin Shields - guitarist/singer for My Bloody Valentine: "I did the damage to my ears listening to mixes in headphones at very loud levels without giving my ears time to recover."

Blinda Butcher - bassist/singer for My Bloody Valentine: "I had a punctured ear drum which fortunately they were able to put right but for a while I couldn't hear out of one ear and it was very depressing. On stage we all wear hearing protection and encourage anyone who sees us regularly to do the same."

George Martin? - retired from music due to hearing loss

George Harrison? - had hearing damage from loud music

Thomas Edison / Sylvester Stallone

Graham Cole - UK actor and singer, suffers tinnitus and hearing loss

Ted Nugent - Amboy Dukes guitarist: "My left ear is pretty much whacked. But I can still hear really good in my right ear. Early on, I would stick shell casings, which I always had handy, in my ear, to protect my right ear because that was the one that was facing the amp the most."

Rick Emmett - Triumph guitarist, source from *Guitar Player Magazine*

Bono - U2 lead singer, he even sings about it in his lyrics. Bono derived his name from a hearing aid store in his hometown of Dublin, Ireland which had a sign that read 'Bonavox Hearing Aids'.

The Edge - U2 guitar player

Ben Bossi - Saxophone player for Romeo Void. From a VH1 interview: His ears had started ringing and he was losing his hearing when the band was in it's heyday. He quit playing the sax after the band broke up and hasn't played since.

Peter Jennings / Carmine Giovinazzo - CSI actor

Robert Fisk - journalist/correspondent

Kevin Hogan - social psychologist and author of Tinnitus: Turning Down the Volume

Jack Straw - British politician / **Howard Hughes**

Cesar Franck - Classical music composer

Ayumi Hamasaki - female vocalist

Moby - contemporary rock musician

Myles Kennedy - contemporary musician

Anthony Kiedis - Red Hot Chili Pepper vocalist

Al Jardine - Beach Boys guitarist/vocalist

Frederick Law Olmsted - In the book, "The Devil In The White City" the author talks about how Olmsted would suffer from a "roaring" in his ear.

Jerry Stiller - Frank Costanza on Seinfeld / **Lorence Henderson**

Stephanie Beacham - actress, She is completely deaf in one ear, partially in her other, and is associated with the Tinnitus Society of Great Britain.

Husker Du/Sugar - frontman

Joan of Arc / Dwight D. Eisenhower / Martin Luther / Oscar Wilde

Sheikh Hasina Wajed - T? former prime minister of Bangladesh, has gone deaf in her right ear after suffering an injury in a grenade attack. Source from: deafweekly.com

Phil Collins - sources: newspapers/website. From Sky News: He will have to severely cut back on live performances "thanks to the buzzing in his ears." "Phil Collins recently declared an end to his concert touring because of the hearing loss he has suffered. The 51 year-old former Genesis drummer and vocalist announced that he will perform live only occasionally to avoid further hearing loss on his hearing damaged left ear." source from hear-it.org

Cher - actress/singer, Cheryl Sarkisian LaPiere

Morgan Fairchild - T? Actress; She was born a preemie who developed scarlet fever. She has so many kidney and ear infections as a child that she admits she is "partially deaf."

Cheryl Tiegs - Super model

Blixa Bargeld - (Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds / Einstuerzende Neubauten)

Ozzy Osborne / Huey Lewis / Tony Franklin

Alan Shepard - (T and Meniere's Disease)

Ira Flatow - National Public Radio - Host, Talk of the Nation: Science Friday "Some interesting and hopeful news for people, like myself, millions of us, who have a constant ringing in one or both of our ears... Researchers have figured out where in the brain that ringing-called tinnitus - originates." Click on the below link to view and listen to Ira Flatow's program on Tinnitus with guests: Dr. Alan Lockwood (*Professor of Neurology, Nuclear Medicine, and Communicative Disorders and Sciences, State University of New York at Buffalo, Research Physician, Veterans Administration Hospital, Buffalo, New York*) and Dr. Richard Salvi (*Professor of Communicative Disorders and Sciences, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York*) Science Friday: Tinnitus

Don Imus

Vincent Van Gogh - maybe why he cut off his ear

Francisco de Goya (1746-1828) - Spanish artist that had tinnitus and hearing loss from a severe illness.

Ludwig Van Beethoven - Famously deaf, Beethoven was also a famous tinnitus sufferer. The great composer was driven mad by "rushing and roaring sounds" in his head.

Robert Schumann - composer

Bedrich Smetana - it was a high E, and it was in his string quartet "From My Life."

Charles Darwin - who kept records of its daily amplitude and frequency

Clive Barker - T? disturbing story "Dread"

Mick Fleetwood - T? Fleetwood Mac drummer; "The world's worst is when you find yourself going like Mother Hubbard and cupping your hand behind your ear. I was a major glutton for volume: 'Gotta feel it, gotta hear it.' Sooner or later you're going to pay the reaper." source: [Rolling Stone Magazine](#)

Stewart Copeland - (Police) hearing loss but no T yet

Keanu Reeves - plays bass in the band Dogstar

Ed Rush & Optical - (aka Ben Settle and Matt Quinn) Ed Rush the famous drum/bass DJ and producer and his producing partner, Optical, both acquired tinnitus from working in the studio.

Larry King - Said he has tinnitus on his left ear. He also said his is very low and it doesn't bother him.

Steve Tarkanish - former drummer now music agent promoter. "Tinnitus from loud music and cymbals."

Dave Swarbrick - fiddle player Fairport Convention mammoth onstage amplification (ironic for a 'folk rock' band).

Charles Arthur - guitar player

Charlie Haden - jazz bassist, Charlie Haden to Charles Arthur (Q&A), "Over the years I have learned to adjust my life to this problem and accepted these ear problems as part of my being. In other words, I tell myself that I've been this way since I was born. This helps me to reduce the stress and frustration of this condition. I wear earplugs when I play that cut out 32 db's, as well as using plexiglass baffles. You are seeing the right person in Dr. Jack Vernon. Many musicians have this problem. I take it you know about "Tinnitus Today" and "H.E.A.R." from Dr. Vernon. Good luck and keep positive, Charlie Haden"

Kathy Peck - bass player/singer-songwriter: "My life had really changed when I experienced the loss of my hearing and Tinnitus damage after the Contractions opened up for Duran Duran." [H.E.A.R.](#) - "As a former bass player and singer for the San Francisco rock band The Contractions, Kathy had suffered hearing damage while playing a set at the Oakland Coliseum in 1984. The repeated exposure to excessive noise caused a ringing sensation in her ears called tinnitus, as well as decreasing her ability to hear."

Michael Tomlinson - musician/singer-songwriter: After an ear infection, he temporarily lost 90% of his hearing for a few weeks, but still has Tinnitus in one ear. Source from: E-mail correspondence

Al Di Meola - musician/guitarist: "I do. That's why I don't play electric anymore."

John Densmore - drummer for The Doors, Ray Manzarek says that things are looking grim for Densmore, in terms of his future as a musician: "Tinnitus, man, you can't...You know, there's nothing you can do about it. It doesn't get better. It can only get worse--that's the hell of that thing. You'd say, 'Well, you know, when it's better, you're gonna play, man.' Well, it doesn't get better. The nature of that problem is that it can only get worse."

Jimmy Savile - "It doesn't bother me in the slightest," he told Michael Church. "It reminds me of all the girls I've known, and all the discos. I'm very happily ensconced with this friend inside my head." Source from: [news.independent.co.uk](#)

Michael Church - "I acquired my own tinnitus in the stupidest possible way: on the rifle range at Catterick army camp, while training as an officer cadet. St Albans School in the late Fifties

was a grotesquely spartan place, where ear-defenders were unheard of (my fellow victim Stephen Hawking improvised earplugs from blotting paper, and the doctor had to dig them out). After a noisy afternoon with a Bren firing 12 inches from my left ear, I returned home deafened, and though my hearing eventually returned (minus the high frequencies), I was left with a loud hiss. (Yes, I should have sued both the school and the MoD, but 16-year-olds don't have time for such niceties.)" Source from: news.independent.co.uk

Francis Rossi - lead singer and guitarist for the band Status Quo.

Mick Ronson - David Bowie's guitarist, had tinnitus in the ear that was closest to his speaker column.

Hansi Kursch - lead singer and bass player for the band Blind Guardian. Kursch actually lost all hearing on one side, and then suffered tinnitus in the same ear. source from DynamiteMetal.com

Jarmo Miettinen - Rhythm guitar & vocals for the band Status Quiz

Todd Rundgren - Musician

Trent Reznor - Nine Inch Nails

James Destri - keyboardist who wrote "Fan Mail" by Blondie on the album *Plastic Letters*

Roger Miller - "Mission of Burma...Its career cut short by guitarist Roger Miller's mounting tinnitus... Miller's never shaken his condition, but now wears firingrange headphones so that Burma's full sonic experience--high decibel levels are a key component in the band's music--can be unleashed upon the crowd." Source from: www.avguide.com

Richard Pleasance - guitarist for Boom Crash Opera, took time off in 1990 from touring with this band due to tinnitus. Source from: www.vh1.com

Danny Elfman - Oingo Boingo, film scores/composer. Touring took a major toll on his hearing and he still suffers from tinnitus. "The last five or six years I was in the band, my instincts were telling me I was doing myself a lot of harm - and I was right. I really should have gotten out sooner than I did, and I'm incredibly regretful that I didn't because I'm paying the price for it now." Source from: OCRegister

Steve Lukather - guitarist/song writer for Toto, developed tinnitus sometime in the 1980's. "Yes I have tinnitus, what a drag. I wear earplugs now 'cause of it. I found that it was all the years wearing headphones that did me in more than live playing. I used to have the real expensive plugs, but I found some 2 dollar ones that work just as good and you don't feel bad losing them, hahaha. My hearing is damaged though. I always have to say "WHAT???", hahaha. Be careful guys, this could happen to you!" Source from: www.stevelukather.net

Joy Galis - Musician, artist with tinnitus, Source from: an email from Joy Galis.

Andy Partridge - guitarist/song writer and former front man of XTC. "Right now, I'm taking twin noise generators out of my ears. They're hearing aids in reverse. They are retraining my brain to not hear tinnitus over the next 18 months. I've been wearing them for the last month or so...The first time I was suicidal was when I found I had tinnitus." Source from: wired.com

James McBride - author and jazz tenor saxophonist. That familiar ring, in his ears: McBride is so attuned to life from a musical standpoint that "I can tell you the pitches of the tinnitus in my ears: G-sharp in one, D-sharp in the other." Source from: .chicagotribune.com

Garrison Keillor - author and host of "A Prairie Home Companion." Here is an excerpt from a column he wrote for the Chicago Tribune on June 20, 2007: "Some people consider cicadas pests but I found them comforting. I suffer from tinnitus, the ringing in the ears, and the cicadas chitter in the same frequency range as my inner ear and mask the ringing very nicely. I stood in

the park where they were whirring around and I felt relief. Medicine has no remedy for tinnitus. I've tried acupuncture and that doesn't work either. My only alternative, I guess, is to wander the planet in search of cicadas. Tinnitus can drive you nuts, especially if you spend a lot of time in quiet rooms, but luckily I am able to ignore it, thanks to my innate talent for obliviousness." Source from: chicagotribune.com

Annie Haslam - former lead singer for the UK band Renaissance. " I have been deaf in my left ear for many years and the tinitus came on when performing in Brazil in 2005 with a 10 piece prog rock band. I was wearing ear monitors this may have added to the onset! I have loud high pitch squealing sounds, non-stop. Luckily the tinitus is in my deaf ear but I hear it loud that side in my head....I have to be very careful with my right ear now.." Source from: email.

Chad Peery - " I acquired tinnitus in both ears in 1966 while in the US Army during basic training. Played bass guitar with Bob Welch (of Fleetwood Mac) Peter Banks (of Yes) and John Kay & Steppenwolf. I used form-fitted hearing protection in rehearsals and on-stage because I had a sensitivity to loud sounds. So, I would put in my silicone ear plugs, crank it up, and blast away! I played venues from small clubs to stadiums, and my hearing held up pretty well. But, by 1983, one of the reasons I left the music business in 1983 and got into broadcasting was the deterioration of my tinnitus and hearing acuity. I'm now 62, and it hasn't gotten any better. So many musicians I have known refused to wear hearing protection. Especially now, with Musician's Ear Plugs, there's no excuse. Put them in, get used to them, and get on with your life! In my novel, *Stealing Margo*, I write about musicians with tinnitus and the use of hearing protection." Source from: email.

Kat Von D (Katherine Drachenberg) - American tattoo artist, hearing loss, T?

Paul Tobey - professional concert pianist, "when tinnitus came along, it infected me to the point where I no longer enjoyed playing the piano at all. And, I can tell you that it was a very painful experience to not be doing the thing I loved the most. However, once I realized that my resistance to "what is", in other words my resistance to tinnitus, was causing me to self-sabotage my piano music career, I stopped. Then, I started re-focusing on what I truly wanted, instead of what I didn't want...Tinnitus helped me realize that I was the only cause of everything around me be it negative or positive. All I had to do then was change my dominant consistent thoughts to include more of "what I want" and less of what I don't want." Source from: ezinearticles.com

Will.i.am (William Adams) - The Black Eyed Peas, "I don't know what silence sounds like any more. Music is the only thing which eases my pain. I can't be still. Work calms me down. I can't be quiet as that's when I notice the ringing in my ears. There's always a beep there every day, all day. Like now. I don't know exactly how long I've had this but it's gradually got worse." Source from: www.thesun.co.uk

JC Crowley - "Musician & songwriter with tinnitus & high frequency hearing loss; wrote the #1 BABY COME BACK by Player and many other songs by artists including Johnny Cash, Smokey Robinson, and Emmylou Harris." Source from: direct quote in an email from Adrian Crowley.

Tinnitus Referenced In Songs:

Peter Framptom - based on lyrics to *Show me the way* - "I wonder how you're feeling....there's ringing in my ears....and no one to relate to...cept the sea (?)Who can I believe in?I feel so"

Robert Plant - *Stairway to Heaven* - "You´re head is humming and it won´t go in case you don´t know..."

Bob Dylan - *Call Letter Blues* - "My ears are ringing, ringing like empty shells... (2x) Well, it can't be no guitar player.Must be...convent bells"

Nine Inch Nails - *Something I Can Never Have* - (Trent Reznor from the album *Downward Spiral*)
"I still recall the taste of your tears. Echoing your voice just like the ringing in my ears."

Nine Inch Nails - *The Becoming* - (Trent Reznor) "I can try to get away but I've strapped myself in. I can try to scratch away the sound in my ears. I can see it killing away all of my bad parts. I don't want to listen but it's all to clear. Hiding backwards inside of me I feel so unafraid. Annie, hold a little tighter I might just slip away. It won't give up. It wants me dead. Goddamn this noise inside my head [8x] "

The Young Fresh Fellows / The Minus 5 - *Little Bell* - (from the album *Because We Hate You / Let the War Against Music Begin*) - an ode to tinnitus?

Garbage - *Push It* - "This is the noise that keeps me awake, my head explodes and my body aches"

U2 - *Staring At The Sun* - "...There's an insect in your ear, if you scratch it won't disappear, its gonna itch and burn and sting, you wanna see what the scratching brings...waves that leave me out of reach, breaking on your back like a beach, will we ever live in peace? as those that can't do, often have to preach, to the ones, staring at the sun..."

Francis Rossi/Status Quo - from 1998 single *Burning Bridges* - "I can't escape this ringing in my ears..."

Bob Seger - *Turn the Page* - "Later in the evening as you lie awake in bed, with the echo from the amplifiers ringing in your head."

Blondie - *Fan Mail* - (written by James Destri from the album *Plastic Letters*) "Beat on my Fender through my Gemini II. Play to the posters on the wall in my room. Thought I was crazy when I thought about you. And the bells in my ears kept ringing, In my ears bells are ringing..."

The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band - *Hillbilly Hollywood* - (Jim Photoglo, Vince Melamed) "I played some bars where you never wanna go. From Oklahoma City down to Tupelo. My ears would be ringing like an old fire bell when I'd lay me down in some cheap motel."

Wilco - *Heavy Metal Drummer* - (Lyrics by Jeff Tweedy from the album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*) - "Classical music blasting masks the ringing in my ears."

Mr. Bungle - *Slowly Growing Deaf* - Written by Faith No More lead singer Mike Patton - "To my ears the greatest sin, feel a bit like Beethoven... No one is listening, yet ears are ringing."

Audioslave - *Show me How to Live* - lyrics by Chris Cornell - "This ringing in my head, is this a cure, or is this a disease?"

The High Dials (Canadian psychedelic band) - *Can You Hear The Bells?* - "...sad to hear what I hear, so sharp and clear, like a ringing in my ear..."

Mark Knopfler - *All The Roadrunning* - "...And when there is only a ring in your ears, and an echo down memory lane, then if it's all for nothing, all the road running has been in vain..."

Thom Yorke (frontman and singer of Radiohead) - *Hearing Damage* - "...Your hearing damage, Your mind is restless, They say you're getting better, But you don't feel any better, Your speakers are blowing, Your ears are wrecking, Your hearing damage, You wish you felt better..."