

Vanilla Fudge

Original Members:

Carmine Appice, Vince Martell and Mark Stein!

... and with Pete Bremy on bass

Vanilla Fudge was one of the first American groups to infuse psychedelia into a heavy rock sound to create "psychedelic symphonic rock": Although, at first, the band did not record original material, they were best known for their **dramatic** heavy, slowed-down arrangements of contemporary pop songs which they developed into works of epic proportion.

Impressed by their heavy-rocking, trippy and psychedelic version of The Supremes' "You Keep Me Hangin' On," they got offered to record the song as a single. This resulted in a deal with the Atlantic subsidiary Atco. They were a white group singing and playing with the soul of the brothers.

The band toured extensively behind its covers-heavy, jam-oriented debut album, *Vanilla Fudge*, to expand their fan base. *Vanilla Fudge*, the album, was released on June 2, 1967 the day after The Beatles' released their *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. The *Vanilla Fudge* first album rose up the charts to # 4 without the aid of a big hit single.

In 1968, Vanilla Fudge headlined performed "You Keep Me Hangin' On" on The Ed Sullivan Show, and released their second album, "The Beat Goes On." Despite its avant-garde conceptualization and execution, the LP was a hit and climbed into the Top Twenty. It was followed by *Renaissance*, one of Vanilla Fudge's best albums, which also hit the Top Twenty. The band had three albums in the Top One Hundred, two of which were in the Top Twenty and one in the Top Five Single. The band toured with Jimi Hendrix, played dates **equal billed or headlined** with groups such as Cream, Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, among Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple.

Exhausted by the constant touring, the Vanilla Fudge decided that their late 1969 European tour would be their last. Following the release of their final album, *Rock & Roll*, they played a few U.S. farewell dates and disbanded in early 1970.

Bogert and Appice first formed the hard rock group Cactus, and then later joined up with Jeff Beck to form Beck, Bogert & Appice. Appice went on to become an active session and touring musician, working with a variety of rock and hard rock artists.

Mark Stein formed Boomerang and went on to tour with Alice Cooper, Dave Mason and The Tommy Bolin Band. Vince continued to perform, record teach and host his own radio shows in the tri-state New York area. In 1995, Vince's guitar work on the intro to "You Keep Me Hangin' On" was rated the number four heaviest guitar riff of all time in classic rock by *Guitar Magazine*. Tims unique combination of melodic ingenuity, and gutsy roaring speed, brought new dimensions to the role of the electric bass player. Tim went on to become a milestone teacher at Musician's Institute in Los Angeles and he is considered a bass legend.

Vanilla Fudge reunited in 2006 and were inducted the same year into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame for their contribution to music history. Other inductees were Billy Joel, Joan Jett, and Twisted Sister to name a few.

After forty-five years, Vanilla Fudge is still rocking the world in 2014 with concerts in Europe.