Radiohead

Radiohead, British rock group that was arguably the most accomplished art-rock band of the 1. _____ 21st century. This revered quintet made some of the most majestic—if most angst-saturated—music of the postmodern era. Formed in the mid-1980s at Abingdon School in Oxfordshire, Radiohead comprised singer-guitarist Thom Yorke, bassist Colin Greenwood, guitarist Ed O' Brien, drummer Phil Selway, and guitarist-keyboardist Jonny Greenwood.

Strongly influenced by American bands 2. _____ as R.E.M. and the Pixies, Radiohead paid early dues on the local pub circuit. With their university education completed, the group landed a deal with Parlophone in late 1991. 3. _____ its debut album, Pablo Honey (1993), barely hinted at the grandeur to come, the startling single "Creep"—a grungy snarl of self-loathing—made major waves in the United States.

Its album The Bends (1995) took even the band' s most ardent fans by surprise. A soaring, intense mix of the approaches of Nirvana and dramatic vocalist Jeff Buckley, the album' s powerful sense of alienation completely transcended the parochial 4._____ of mid-1990s Britpop. Driving rockers such as "Bones" were skillfully offset by forlorn ballads such as "High and Dry." The widely acclaimed OK Computer (1997) was nothing short of a premillennial version of Pink Floyd' s classic album Dark Side of the Moon (1973): huge-sounding and chillingly beautiful, with Yorke' s weightless voice enveloped on masterpieces such as "Lucky" by webs of dark, dense textures. In 5. _____ live performances, Radiohead became one of pop music' s most compelling acts.

The pressure to follow up one of the most acclaimed recordings of the 20th century told particularly on Yorke' s fragile psyche. The band made false starts in Paris and Copenhagen before 6. _____ back in England. When Kid A came out in October 2000, it signalled that Radiohead—and Yorke above all—wanted to leave the wide-screen drama of OK Computer behind. The resulting selection of heavily electronic, more or less guitar-free pieces (notably "Kid A" and "Idioteque") confounded 7._____ but repaid the patience of fans who stuck with it. Though the album was a commercial success, it initially met with mixed critical reaction, as would the similar Amnesiac (2001), produced during the same sessions as Kid A. But if Radiohead had seemingly disavowed its musical past on these two albums—moving away from melody and rock instrumentation to 8. _____ intricately textured soundscapes—it found a way to meld this approach with its guitar-band roots on the much-anticipated album Hail to the Thief (2003), which reached number three on the U.S. album charts. In 2006 Yorke, who had reluctantly become for some the voice of his generation, collaborated with the group' s modernist producer, Nigel Godrich, on a solo album, The Eraser.

The band, having concluded its six-album contract with the EMI Group in 2003, broke away from major label distribution and initially released its seventh album, In Rainbows (2007), via Internet download. An estimated 1.2 million fans downloaded the album within its first week of availability, paying any 9. _____ they wished to do so.

The group' s eighth release, The King of Limbs (2011), debuted using the same online distribution model as In Rainbows, but it adhered to a standard pricing model rather than a "pay what you wish" system. The album' s title was a reference to a 1,000-year-old oak tree in Wiltshire' s Savernake Forest, and its eight tracks played on the interaction of technology and the natural world. Radiohead' s ninth album, A Moon Shaped Pool (2016), densely textured and emotive, reached the top of the U.K. charts.

As Radiohead entered its third decade as recording artists, its members often pursued projects outside the context of the band. Yorke, for instance, sang for the electronic-influenced group Atoms for Peace, which in 2013 released the intricately textured Amok. He later composed the film 10. _____ for Suspiria (2018). Jonny Greenwood also recorded soundtracks, among them Phantom Thread and You Were Never Really Here (both 2017). Radiohead was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2019.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. a) late	b) early	c) firstly
2. a) like	b) such	c) example
3. a) because of	b) due to	c) although
4. a) issues	b) situation	c) trouble
5. a) their	b) his	c) its
6. a) moving down	b) settling down	c) going down
7. a) much	b) many	c) any
8. a) create	b) do	c) make
9. a) prize	b) price	c) accomplishment
10. a) lyrics	b) soundtrack	c) songs

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