

Boston 1976 Boston album



Band members during 1976 album

- Brad Delp-Lead Vocals
 - Tom Scholz-Guitar
 - Barry Goudreau-Guitar
 - Fran Sheehan-Bass Guitar
 - Sib Hashian-Drums
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There are 8 songs on the original Boston (1976) album

Here are the songs listed in original order and roughly how long they are.

- **“More Than a Feeling” – 4:45**
- **“Peace of Mind” – 5:02**
- **“Foreplay / Long Time” – 7:47**
- **“Rock & Roll Band” – 3:00**
- **“Smokin’” – 4:20**
- **“Hitch a Ride” – 4:12**

- **“Something About You” – 3:48**
 - **“Let Me Take You Home Tonight” – 4:44**
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Descriptions on album songs

1. “More Than a Feeling”

The album opens with its most iconic track, built around chiming acoustic guitars that explode into massive, layered electric harmonies. Lyrically, the song centers on nostalgia and the emotional power of music itself, as memories of a girl named Marianne trigger an almost spiritual escape. Brad Delp’s soaring vocals especially in the chorus are a defining feature, conveying longing and uplift in equal measure. The meticulous production and dynamic shifts make it a masterclass in arena rock songwriting, and it remains one of the most enduring rock songs of all time.

2. “Peace of Mind”

“Peace of Mind” blends muscular guitar riffs with introspective lyrics about resisting societal pressure and choosing personal fulfillment over ambition. The song’s steady groove and confident tone give it a grounded feel, contrasting slightly with the more ethereal opener. Scholz’s guitar work is crisp and controlled, while Delp delivers a warm, reassuring vocal performance. The track resonates as both a motivational anthem and a critique of corporate rat-race mentality.

3. “Foreplay / Long Time”

This two part epic begins with “Foreplay,” an instrumental section driven by swirling organ lines, synthesizers, and dramatic shifts that showcase the band’s progressive rock influences. It then transitions seamlessly into “Long Time,” a more straightforward rock song with a catchy, celebratory chorus. The lyrics focus on perseverance and delayed success, mirroring Boston’s own long road to recognition. The complex intro and the accessible main song highlights the band’s technical skill and pop sound.

4. “Rock & Roll Band”

Fast paced and energetic, “Rock & Roll Band” tells a semi fictionalized story of

Boston's rise from small clubs to stardom. The driving rhythm, crunchy guitars, and upbeat chorus give the song a celebratory, almost autobiographical feel. While the lyrics gloss over the band's actual history, the spirit of youthful ambition and love for live performance rings true. It's one of the album's most straightforward rockers and a staple of classic rock radio.

5. "Smokin'"

"Smokin'" is a hard driving track built around a stomping rhythm and gritty guitar riffs, paired with prominent organ flourishes. The song's raw energy and bluesy edge give it a looser feel than much of the album, emphasizing groove over polish. Delp's vocals are playful and powerful, matching the song's swagger. It's a fan favorite that showcases Boston's ability to rock hard without sacrificing musicianship.

6. "Hitch a Ride"

This song shifts the mood dramatically, starting as a gentle, reflective ballad before gradually building into a powerful, multi layered climax. Lyrically, "Hitch a Ride" explores loneliness, emotional exhaustion, and the desire to escape, making it one of the album's most introspective tracks. The gradual accumulation of harmonies and guitars mirrors the emotional journey of the narrator. It stands out for its depth and dynamic structure, revealing a more vulnerable side of the band.

7. "Something About You"

"Something About You" is a specific, upbeat love song driven by a tight rhythm section and bright guitar lines. Its lyrics focus on the magnetic pull of romantic attraction, delivered with sincerity rather than melodrama. The song's punchy structure and catchy hooks make it one of the album's most radio friendly tracks. While simpler than some others, it reinforces the album's consistent sense of melody and polish.

8. "Let Me Take You Home Tonight"

Closing the album, this slow burning ballad emphasizes emotional intimacy and youthful longing. Beginning softly with delicate guitar and restrained vocals, the song gradually swells into a dramatic, heartfelt finale. Delp's vocal performance is especially expressive, capturing vulnerability and desire without excess. As an album closer, it provides a reflective, romantic contrast to the bombast elsewhere, ending Boston on a deeply human note.



Band Members

Tom Scholz – The Founder



- Background- Tom Scholz was the mastermind behind Boston. He studied mechanical engineering at MIT and worked as a product design engineer for Polaroid.

- Early years- While at MIT and afterward, Scholz played in several local bands, including Freehold, Mother's Milk, and Middle Earth.
- Recording experiments: Scholz spent years perfecting demos in his home studio. These demos would eventually form the basis and core of Boston's debut album.

Barry Goudreau – Guitarist



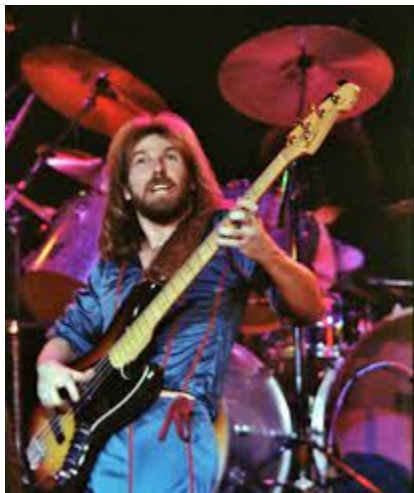
- Connection- Goudreau and Scholz met in the early 1970s when they both played in local Boston-area bands, most notably Mother's Milk.
- Role- He became Scholz's main guitar partner, helping record early demo tapes and later joining the official Boston lineup when the band was signed to Epic Records.

Brad Delp – Lead Vocals



- Connection: Brad Delp was introduced to Scholz and Goudreau through mutual friends in the local music scene.
- How he joined- Scholz had recorded instrumental demos but needed a strong vocalist. Goudreau suggested Delp, who had previously sung in a band called Beatle Juice which was a Beatles tribute act.
- Impact- Delp's soaring tenor and powerful range became a defining feature of Boston's sound.

Fran Sheehan – Bassist



- Connection: Sheehan was a seasoned local Boston-area musician who had played in several bar bands.
- How he joined: When Epic Records asked Scholz to assemble a “real” band to perform live (since the demo recordings were mostly Scholz’s work), Sheehan was recruited through mutual acquaintances.
- Role: He became the group’s bassist for the debut album and the subsequent tour.

Sib Hashian – Drummer



- Connection- Originally, Scholz had worked with drummer Jim Masdea, who helped him with early demos. However, Epic’s producer John Boylan wanted a “more professional” drummer for the signed band.
- How he joined: Barry Goudreau recommended his friend John Hashian, who had been drumming in the local club scene.
- Role: Sib played drums on the Boston debut album and Don’t Look Back (1978).

Putting It All Together

Scholz's demo recordings, featuring himself, Goudreau, and Masdea, with Delp's vocals, were what got the attention of Epic Records in 1975.

The Making of the album

The band Boston came together in the early 1970s, built around the musical vision of guitarist and engineer Tom Scholz. Working largely on his own in his basement studio, Scholz recorded a series of demo tapes featuring songs he wrote and arranged. He teamed up with vocalist Brad Delp, whose powerful voice completed the sound Scholz imagined. After recruiting additional musicians to form a full performing band group. The group caught the attention of certain record labels, eventually leading to their 1976 debut album which was named after the band Boston. The project that began as Scholz's home-studio experiment quickly grew into one of rock's most iconic acts.

Boston (1976) is the self-titled debut album by the American rock band Boston, and it quickly became one of the most successful debut albums in music history. Driven by Tom Scholz's nicely crafted production, much of it recorded in his home basement studio, the album features a polished, soaring sound that defined arena rock of the late 1970s. Anchored by iconic songs like "More Than a Feeling," "Peace of Mind," and "Foreplay/Long Time," the record blends layered guitar harmonies, powerful vocals by Brad Delp, and a sense of epic melody that set it apart from contemporary releases. Upon its release, Boston was crazy famous, selling millions of copies and leaving a lasting influence on mainstream rock with its blend of technical precision and emotional resonance.

- When Epic wanted to sign the band, Scholz had to present it as a "real" group, not just his solo project, so he and producer John Boylan assembled the lineup: Tom Scholz (guitar, keys, main songwriter), Brad Delp (vocals), Barry Goudreau (guitar), Fran Sheehan (bass), and Sib Hashian (drums).

That group once together officially recorded the famous debut album Boston (1976) Boston, one of the best-selling debut albums in rock history. Forever remembered as one of the best albums of its era and one of the best ever.

I chose to do this album because it has been one of my favorite albums my whole life and I find it easy to write about songs that you know and love. I personally think Boston is the best arena rock band of all time and one of the best bands of the late 70s early 80s. It goes to show how great this album was for the bands popularity and fame considering the majority of Boston's greatest hits were from this one album. Not saying that their other albums like "Don't Look Back" for example weren't masterpieces, it's more that it's hard to top an album that is so good like the original "Boston"



By Eric Darnell

