



Album cover "Heavy Lifting"

## MC5

### Heavy Lifting

Album Release: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Boys Who Play with Matches

Single Release: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### Formats:

- CD (Digisleeve)
- LP (black, 180g, Gtf.)
- Ltd. Arctic Pearl LP (180g, Gtf.)
- 2CD (Digisleeve)
- 2LP (black, 180g, Gtf.)

#### Tracklisting (CD/LP):

1. Heavy Lifting (feat. Tom Morello)
2. Barbarians At The Gate
3. Change, No Change
4. The Edge Of The Switchblade (feat. William Duvall & Slash)
5. Black Boots (feat. Tim McIlrath)
6. I Am The Fun (The Phoney)
7. Twenty-Five Miles
8. Because Of Your Car
9. Boys Who Play With Matches
10. Blind Eye (feat. Dennis Thompson)
11. Can't Be Found (feat. Vernon Reid & Dennis Thompson)
12. Blessed Release
13. Hit It Hard (feat. Joe Berry)

#### Additional Tracklisting (2CD/2LP):

1. Ramblin' Rose
2. Kick Out The Jams
3. Come Together
4. Motor City Is Burning
5. Borderline
6. Gotta Keep Movin'
7. Future/Now
8. Poison
9. Shakin' Street
10. Sister Anne

#### MC5 online:

[Website](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)

e·a·r @ MUSIC

[www.ear-music.net](http://www.ear-music.net)

**PRESS RELEASE** Embargoed until June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**earMUSIC TO RELEASE FIRST NEW ALBUM IN 53 YEARS FROM LEGENDARY DETROIT PUNK ROCK PIONEERS MC5 "HEAVY LIFTING" ON OCTOBER 18 IN ADVANCE OF ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION**

**DEBUT TRACK "BOYS WHO PLAY WITH MATCHES" OUT DIGITALLY TODAY, JUNE 6**



MC5 founding member Wayne Kramer

Photo: Jim Newberry

*"The MC5 represents a kind of uncompromising vision of the future and that is eternal...the flame keeps burning on." – Wayne Kramer*

**Led by founding member Wayne Kramer and recorded with iconic producer Bob Ezrin (Lou Reed, Alice Cooper, Kiss), the album features original MC5 drummer Dennis 'Machine Gun' Thompson on two tracks along with special guests including Slash, Tom Morello, William DuVall (Alice in Chains), Vernon Reid (Living Colour), Don Was, and Tim McIlrath (Rise Against).**

**STREAM/DOWNLOAD THE NEW SONG [HERE](#)**

**WATCH VISUALIZER [HERE](#)**

*Hamburg, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024* – Emerging from the gritty streets of Detroit in the mid-60s, **MC5** revolutionized rock'n'roll with their blistering fusion of garage rock, blues, soul, free jazz, and proto-punk. Infamous for incendiary live performances and a radical left-wing stance, their status as pioneers of punk and protest rock has inspired many musicians like **Ramones, The Clash, Rage Against The Machine, The White Stripes, Slash**, and countless others and continues to shape the sound of punk and alternative rock for generations to come.

**earMUSIC** will release the first new music from **MC5** in 50+ years (following 1971's 'High Time') with the album **HEAVY LIFTING** due **October 18** - one day prior to the band's induction into 2024's **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame** when they will receive the **"Musical Excellence Award."**



Single cover "Boys Who Play With Matches"

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**HEAVY LIFTING** features guitar and vocals by founding **MC5** member Wayne Kramer, who also co-wrote 12 of the album's 13 songs together with Oakland singer/songwriter Brad Brooks. Prolific for five decades, Kramer was the last remaining active member of **MC5**. He passed away suddenly in February, followed by the death of drummer **Dennis 'Machine Gun' Thompson** in May. It is Thompson's final studio recording.

The album's debut track "**Boys Who Play with Matches**" is out digitally today, **June 6**. Stream/download it [HERE](#).

In an interview with **UNCUT** in November 2023, **Kramer** discussed the album and said: *"Live long and stay creative is my attitude. This album continues from where 'High Time' left off, in that I think it's an artist's responsibility to reflect the times they're going through. We made an album that is in sync with the challenges we're facing today, and that carries a positive message."*

**HEAVY LIFTING** was recorded with iconic producer **Bob Ezrin** (Lou Reed, Alice Cooper, KISS) and features an all-star lineup of Kramer's friends and musical colleagues including **Slash**, **Tom Morello**, **William DuVall (Alice in Chains)**, **Vernon Reid (Living Colour)**, **Don Was**, and **Tim McIlrath (Rise Against)**, allowing for a collaborative effort that bridges the gap between generations of musicians inspired by **MC5's** fearless approach to music and activism. The breadth of **MC5's** impact can be heard by all the album's players, including Vicki Randle (Aretha Franklin), Stevie Salas (Parliament Funkadelic, Rod Stewart), Abe Laboriel Jr. (Paul McCartney), Winston Watson Jr. (Bob Dylan), and Joe Berry (M83). Far more than a trip down memory lane, **HEAVY LIFTING** is a resounding affirmation that the spirit of punk endures.



Wayne Kramer and Bob Ezrin. Photo: Margaret Saadi Kramer

*"It's very heavy," Ezrin reports on **HEAVY LIFTING**. "It has a revolutionary message but also a good sense of humor. There's a little bit of heavy metal. There's quite a bit of funk. But it is a heavy record, and it's a guitar record left, right and center. Just a wall of guitars most of the time, and mostly driven by Wayne and his ethos. It's a snapshot of a guitar man at the height of his powers. We all feel a responsibility to make sure that his work is heard, and he is celebrated. We poured our hearts into the project."*



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In addition to the 13-track album, a 2CD / 2LP bonus disc will be released including previously unreleased live recordings from the **MC50** tour in 2018 celebrating the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of **MC5's** revered 1969 debut album, **Kick Out the Jams**, which features classic anthems like "Kick Out the Jams" and "Ramblin' Rose." Alongside **Kramer**, the **MC50** live band features **Soundgarden** guitarist **Kim Thayil**, **Fugazi** drummer **Brendan Canty**, **Faith No More's** bassist **Billy Gould**, and frontman **Marcus Durant (Zen Guerrilla)** with a special guest appearance by **Mark Arm (Mudhoney)**. See the full track listing below.

Pre-order **HEAVY LIFTING** on CD, Vinyl and digital download in addition to bonus 2CD and bonus 2LP [HERE](#).

Find more information on MC5 online at: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

#### MC5 - HEAVY LIFTING CD/Vinyl Track List:

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#### MC5 - HEAVY LIFTING Bonus CD/Vinyl Track List:

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