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The Shins

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The Shins are an American [indie rock](#) band comprising [singer, songwriter, and guitarist James Russell Mercer](#), [keyboardist/guitarist/bassist Martin Crandall](#), [bassist/guitarist Dave Hernandez](#), [drummer Jesse Sandoval](#), and Eric Johnson of the [Fruit Bats](#). Their sound draws on several musical genres, including [pop](#), [alternative rock](#), [alternative country](#), and [folk](#). The Shins formed in [Albuquerque, New Mexico](#), but are now based in [Portland, Oregon](#).

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From Flake Music to The Shins (1992–2000)

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The Shins began in 1997 in [Albuquerque, New Mexico](#), as a side project of Mercer (previously of Blue Roof Dinner) and Neal Langford, both members of the [lo-fi](#) musical group Flake (formed in 1992). By 1999, Flake (now Flake Music) had disbanded and its former members became The Shins. (The name was based on a fictional family in the Broadway show *The*

The Shins



The Shins performing in [London](#), March 2007

Background information

Origin	Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States
Genre(s)	Alternative rock Indie rock Indie pop
Years active	1997–present
Label(s)	Sub Pop (2000–2009) Transgressive (distributing label) Cargo Records (distributing label)
Website	www.theshins.com ↗

Members

[James Mercer](#)
[Martin Crandall](#)
[Dave Hernandez](#)
[Eric Johnson](#)
[Jesse Sandoval](#)

Former members

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- Avoid personal attacks
- Be welcoming

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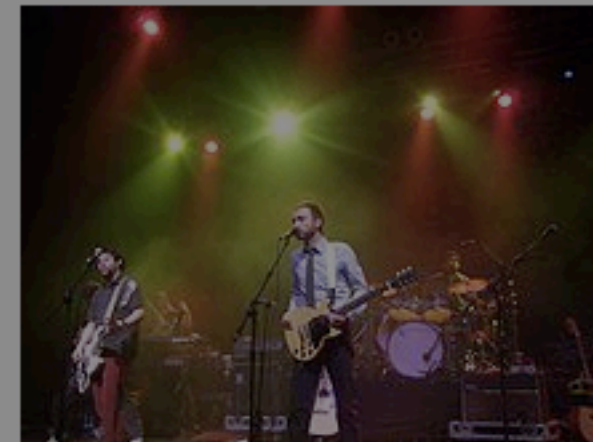
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