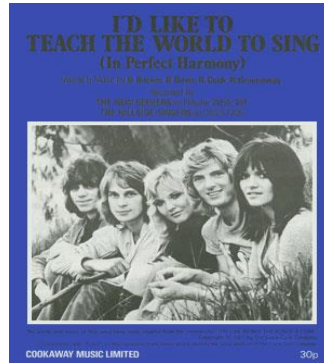


# The Top 1750 Songs Dissected

## 1750 The Hillside Singers – “I’d Like To Teach the World to Sing”

The American folk band were formed when “the New Seekers” were too busy to record the song written for them, “I’d Like to Give the World A Coke”. The commercial was so popular, they altered the words and released it as a single. Later on, the New Seekers did record a version of it.



## 1748 Donny & Marie Osmond – “Hey Girl”

Originally recorded by Freddie Scott in 1962.

## 1747 BJ Thomas – “Don’t Worry Baby”

Hillside Singers

The

Originally recorded by the Beach Boys in 1964. The song was believed to be written about Brian Wilson’s car. And if you listen closely, you just might hear something that sounds like Garbage’s song “Push It”.

## 1746 Stylistics, the – “Rockin’ Roll Baby”

First of the 7 songs on the countdown from this Philadelphia soul group.



## 1745 Bobby Vinton – “Sealed With A Kiss”

Originally recorded by the Four Voices in 1960.

## 1744 Simon & Garfunkel – “My Little Town”

Written years after their breakup, it was written by both and appeared on both artists solo albums in 1975. Also, this was played live by the duo on the 2nd ever episode of Saturday night Live.

## 1743 Rick James – “You & I”

His very first top 40 hit, from his debut album, “Come Get It”

## 1742 War – “The World Is A Ghetto”

The title track of the 1973 War album that was the best selling album in the US that year!

## 1741 Denise LaSalle – “Trapped By A Thing Called Love”

This is about all Denise had to say during the 70’s.

## 1740 Fireball – “Strange Way”

Fireball was founded by Rick Roberts from the Flying Burrito Brothers.

## 1739 Silvers, the – “High School Dance”

The Sylvers consisted of 10 siblings, last name...Sylvers! Though, at the time of “High School Dance” only 8 were left (2 departed previous to the albums release)

## 1738 Isley Brothers, the – “Pop That Thang”

Whole lotta Isley’s here. 7 to be total, though 2 are now dead. And in 1973 Chris Jasper became the only Non-Isley in the band.

**1737 Ray Stevens – “Misty”**

“Misty” is a jazz standard written in 1954 by Erroll Garner. Everyone on earth has covered this song.

**1736 Johnny Nash – “Stir It Up”**

Written by Bob Marley in 1967 and released by Bob in Jamaica only. Their label folded and Bob Marley & the Wailers began writing songs for Johnny Nash, one of them being this one. Nash’s version became popular in 1972, while Marley didn’t re-release his version until the next year on the “Catch A Fire” album.



**1735 William Bell – “Tryin’ To Love Two”**

Bell is an accomplished soul singer, sampled on countless hip hop records of today.

**1734 Gwen McRae – “Rockin’ Chair”**

One Hit Wonder Number 3 of the countdown (Hillside Singers and Denise Lasalle were the other two, if you’re keeping score!

**1730 Barry Manilow – “Somewhere In The Night”**

Originally recorded by Helen Reddy in 1975.

**1729 Glen Campbell – “Country Boy (You Got Your Feet In L.A.)”**

Campbell is credited with giving Alan Jackson his first big break. Campbell met Jackson’s wife (a flight attendant with Delta Air Lines) at the Atlanta Airport and gave her his publishing manager’s business card. Jackson went to work for Campbell’s music publishing business in the early 1990s and later had many of his hit songs published in part by Campbell’s company, Seventh Son Music.

**1728 ABBA – “Name of the Game”**

ABBA is an acronym for the 4 band members, Agnetha, Benny, Bjorn and Anni-Frid



**1724 Larry Groce – “Junk Food Junkie”**

One hit wonder number 4 already, thanks Larry.

**1722 Dickie Goodman – “Mr. Jaws”**

Goodman is one of the earliest proponents of sampling in music. Pretending to be “John Cameron Cameron” Goodman would Pretend to interview people and play samples of songs as their answers.

**1721 Chicago – “Old Days”**

This is the first of 16 Chicago songs on this countdown.

**1719 Robin McNamara – “Lay A Little Lovin’ On Me”**

One of many many one-hit wonders of the 1970’s, this was his only hit and the only song of his on this list.

**1715 Fancy – “Wild Thing”**

Originally recorded by the Wild Ones in 1965.

**1713 Bobby Sherman – “La La La (If I Had You)”**

Sherman built a one-fifth scale model of Disneyland's Main Street, made entirely by hand in his yard at home.

**1707 Richie Havens – “Here Comes The Sun”**

Originally recorded by the Beatles in 1969.

**1705 George Harrison – “What Is Life?”**

The song is written about George Harrison's wife, Pattie Boyd, a model whom he married in 1966. Eric Clapton, who was a good friend of Harrison's, had an affair with Boyd. Boyd divorced Harrison, and two years later married Clapton. Harrison remained friends with Clapton, and actually showed up to the wedding.



While Harrison and Boyd were still married, Eric Clapton recorded the song "Layla" with his band at the time, Derek and the Dominos, about the affair with Boyd, making "What Is Life" and "Layla" written about the same woman.

**1702 Eruption – “I Can’t Stand The Rain”**

Originally recorded by Ann Peebles in 1974 (number 736 in this countdown)

**1701 Jim Stafford – “My Girl Bill”**

Clever Alert: Though it sounds like this song is about a girl named Bill, listening closely to the words, the title would more aptly be “My Girl, Bill”

**1697 Paul McCartney & Wings – “Helen Wheels”**

The song is said to be a homage to Paul and Linda McCartney's Land Rover, which they nicknamed "Hell on Wheels".

**1696 Don McLean – “Vincent”**

a tribute to Vincent Van Gogh. It is also known by its opening line, "Starry Starry Night", a reference to Van Gogh's painting Starry Night. The song describes a different painting by Van Gogh in each of its stanzas.

**1687 Eddie Rabbitt – “Suspiscions”**

Rabbitt wrote the Elvis Presley hit “Kentucky Rain”. Rabbitt died in 1998.

**1685 Tanya Tucker – “Delta Dawn”**

This song is in the countdown twice. Once by Tanya and once by Helen Reddy. Though, the song was actually written by Larry Collins.

**1679 Joe Tex – “Ain’t Gonna Bump No More”**

His style of speaking over music, which he called "rap", made him a predecessor of the modern style of music.



**1678 David Ruffin – “Walk Away From Love”**

Formerly the lead singer of the Temptations, this

solo hit of his was produced by Van McCoy. Ruffin died of a drug overdose in 1991.

**1670 High Inergy – “You Can’t Turn Me Off”**

Fashioned after Martha and the Vandellas and The Supremes (they were actually named after a 1970s Supremes album with just the 'e' changed to an 'i' in "energy"),

**1669 Badfinger – “No Matter What”**

It was the first original hit single offered by Badfinger, reaching #8 on Billboard Hot 100 and #5 in the UK in January 1971. The song is notable for being one of the first successful records associated with the Power Pop sound, utilising all of the elements attributed to the genre.

**1665 Pipkins, the – “Gimme Dat Ding”**

The Pipkins are really Tony Burrows’ project. Burrows also sang with Edison Lighthouse, White Plains & First Class (all 3 others songs on this countdown).

**1660 Al Martino – “Volare”**

In the U.S., Martino had eleven top 40 hits in the Billboard pop singles chart in the 1960s and 1970s, with 1963's "I Love You Because" and 1964's "I Love You More and More Every Day" both reaching the Top Ten.

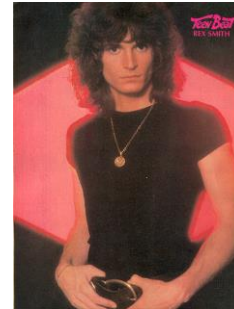


**1657 Buoy, the – “Timothy”**

Written by Rupert Holmes and recorded by the Buoy in 1971, presenting the unnerving story of three men trapped in a collapsed mine, two of whom apparently resort to cannibalism against the third (the titular character Timothy). Despite being censored or even banned outright by many U.S. radio stations due to its subject matter, the song managed to reach #17 on the Billboard Hot 100, making the Buoy one of the most unlikely one-hit wonders in American music history.

**1656 Rex Smith – “Take My Breath Away”**

Another one-hit wonder. Smith sang this Stephen J. Lawrence song for the movie “Sooner or Later”



**1654 Aretha Franklin – “Call Me”**

Franklin has won nineteen Grammy Awards in total during her nearly half-century long career (she first charted in 1961), and currently holds the record for most Best Female R&B Vocal Performance wins with eleven to her name (including eight consecutive awards from 1968 to 1975 - the first eight ever awarded in that category). Rex Smith

**1653 Originals, the – “The Bells”**

Written by Marvin Gaye and his wife Anna Gordy Gaye.

**1650 Prince – “Soft & Wet”**

This was the first single from Prince’s debut album. The opening lyrics "Hey lover, I've got a sugarcane/that I wanna lose in you, baby can you stand the pain" started a long-running career of sexual metaphors in Prince's music.

**1646 Babys, the – “Everytime I Think Of You”**

Vocalist for the Babys was John Waite. He was also the vocalist for Bad English and had solo hits such as “Missing You”

**1643 Beginning Of The End, the – “Funky Nassau”**

The only band on the countdown from the Bahamas.



**1641 Anne Murray – “Love Song”**

Murray was the first Canadian female solo singer to reach #1 on the US charts, and also the first to earn a gold record (for one of her signature songs, 1970's "Snowbird").

**1637 Freddie Hart – “Easy Lovin’”**

This song was the Country Music Association Song of the Year award two years in a row, in 1971 and 1972.

**1636 Perry Como – “It’s Impossible”**

Perry Como himself is a seventh son of a seventh son.

**1634 Tower Of Power – “What Is Hip”**

Bass guitarist for Tower of Power was Victor Conte, who went on to found and presides over the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (BALCO).

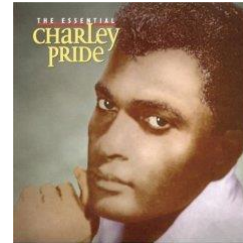
**1624 Neil Sedaka = “Breaking Up Is Hard To Do”**

Originally an up-tempo song, Sedaka re-recorded it as a ballad in 1975 and the new version peaked at number eight in February of the following year plus went to number one on the Adult Contemporary chart.

**1623 Charley Pride – “Kiss An Angel Good Morning”**

Not too many African-American country artists, but Pride was very successful.

"Kiss an Angel Good Morning" not only made Pride a lot of money, but it is also one of his signature tunes. Besides being a country #1 in 1971, the song was also his first that reached the pop charts, reaching #21, and it went into the Top Ten of the Adult Contemporary charts.



**1620 Bob Welch – “Sentimental Lady”**

Welch was a member of Fleetwood Mac from 1971 to 1974.

**1619 Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen – “Hot Rod Lincoln”**

The band’s name was inspired by 1950s film serials featuring the character Commando Cody and from a feature version of an earlier serial, King of the Rocket Men, released under the title Lost Planet Airmen. The band’s founder and leader, George Frayne, took the stage name Commander Cody.

**1616 Player – “This Time I’m In It For Love”**

Player was named Billboard's Best New Singles Artist of 1978. Eric Clapton became so impressed with Player that he invited them to open for him during his 1978 North American tour.

**1615 David Bowie – “TVC15”**

The song was inspired by Iggy Pop who, during a drug-fuelled period at Bowie’s LA home, hallucinated and believed that the television set was swallowing his girlfriend.

**1614 Mac & Katie Kissoon – “Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep”**

Originally recorded by Middle of the Road in 1971.

**1613 Humble Pie – “I Don’t Need No Doctor”**

Originally recorded by Ray Charles in 1966.



**1612 Santa Esmeralda – “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood”**

Originally recorded by Nina Simone in 1964.

**1604 B.T. Express – “Express”**

AKA, the Brooklyn Trucking Express.

**1602 Dean Friedman – “Ariel”**

"The internet makes it possible to get rid of the middleman, once and for all!"

— Dean Friedman

**1600 Human League, the – “Being Boiled”**

The song received a mixed reception among established artists of the time. David Bowie declared it to be "the future of music", but former Sex Pistols singer John Lydon, reviewing the single for the New Musical Express, dismissed the band as "trendy hippies".

**1599 Dionne Warwick – “I’ll Never Fall In Love Again”**

Dionne Warwick is second only to Aretha Franklin as the female vocalist with the most Billboard Hot 100 chart hits during the rock era (1955-1999). Warwick charted a total of 56 hits in the Billboard Hot 100.

**1595 Art Garfunkel – “All I Know”**

Art Garfunkel's website contains a year-by-year listing of every book he has read since 1968.



**1594 Linda Ronstadt – “Heat Wave”**

Originally recorded by Martha & the Vandelles in 1963.

**1593 Bobby Womack – “Lookin’ For A Love”**

Womack originally released this in 1962, and re-released it in 1974, where it had much more success.

**1589 Robert Palmer – “Every Kinda People”**

It was Palmer's first hit song in the US, reaching the Top 20. The song was written by Andy Fraser.

**1585 Eagles, the – “James Dean”**

The song is about American actor and cultural icon James Dean (1931-1955). He starred in such films as Rebel Without a Cause, Giant and East of Eden before his tragic death in 1955. The lyrics, "too fast to live, too young to die" reflect his mischievous and dangerous lifestyle.

**1584 Electric Light Orchestra – “Turn To Stone”**

Out of four singles from the album Out Of The Blue, "Turn to Stone" was the only song not to reach the top ten in the U.K. singles charts.

**1583 Donny Osmond – “Puppy Love”**

Originally recorded by Paul Anka in 1960.

On March 15, 1972, D.J. Robert W. Morgan played the Donny Osmond version for 90 minutes straight on KHJ in Los Angeles. LAPD mistakenly raided the station studios after receiving numerous calls from listeners. Confused, the officers left without making any arrests



**1581 Byron MacGregor – “Americans”**

This tribute to Americans was actually done by a Canadian. MacGregor was the news

director at CKLW, an Ontario AM radio station in 1973 when Gordon Sinclair of CFRB-Toronto wrote a speech about America and delivered it on air. MacGregor recorded his own version, with "America the Beautiful" as the background music.

**1578 New Riders of the Purple Sage – “I Don’t Need No Doctor”**

Original members included Jerry Garcia, Mickey Hart and Phil Lesh, who would then form the Grateful Dead.

**1576 Conway Twitty – “Hello Darlin”**

Twitty had 55 singles reach number 1 on various national music charts, yet only managed this song on the countdown.

**1575 Pointer Sisters, the – “Yes, We Can Can”**

The debut single for Anita, Bonnie and Ruth Pointer.

**1574 Bobby Caldwell – “What You Won’t Do For Love”**

There are 12 Bob’s, Bobbies & Bobby’s on this countdown.

**1572 Matthews’ Southern Comfort – “Woodstock”**

Joni Mitchell wrote the song from what she had heard from then-boyfriend, Graham Nash, about the festival. She had not been there herself, since she was told it would be more advantageous to appear on The Dick Cavett Show by a manager. She wrote this song crying at home watching the show on television. CSNY’s original version is later in the countdown.

**1571 Helen Reddy – “Peaceful”**

Helen Reddy has 9 songs in this countdown. She has sold more than 15 million albums and 10 million singles worldwide, and was the first Australian-born performer to win a Grammy award.

**1570 John Martyn – “Solid Air”**

Dedicated to a friend of Martyn’s, Nick Drake, who was suffering from depression and died of an antidepressant overdose 18 months after the album was released.

**1569 Barbara Streisand – “Stoney End”**

Originally recorded by Peggy Lipton in 1968.



**1565 Roberta Flack – “Where Is The Love?”**

Flack resides at the famous "Dakota" apartment house (73rd Street and Central Park West) in New York City, which was also the residence of John Lennon and Yoko Ono at the time of the his death.

**1559 Tim Curry – “I Do The Rock”**

Curry was more of an actor than singer. He played Dr. Frank-N-Furter in the Rocky Horror Picture Show and was Wadsworth the Butler in the movie “Clue”.

**1558 Silver – “Wham Bam”**

Members of the group included John Batdorf (formerly of Batdorf & Rodney), Brent Mydland (later of the Grateful Dead), as well as Tom Leadon, brother of the Eagles' Bernie Leadon. Phil Hartman designed the cover art for Silver, the group's lone album.

**1557 Rod Stewart – “Handbags & Gladrags”**

Originally recorded by Chris Farlowe in 1967. But was written by Mike d’Abo, from Manfred Mann.

**1556 Carole King – “You’ve Got A Friend”**

King has won four Grammy Awards and has been inducted into both the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for her songwriting, along with long-time partner Gerry Goffin.

James Taylor’s version of this song is also in the countdown.

**1555 Marshall Tucker Band – “Fire On The Mountain”**

There was no band member named "Marshall Tucker". Originally, the band called itself The Toy Factory (named after lead-guitarist Toy Caldwell).



**1551 Aretha Franklin – “Don’t Play That Song”**

Originally recorded by Ben E. King in 1962.

**1546 Redbone – “The Witch Queen Of New Orleans”**

The name Redbone is a joking reference to a Cajun term for a mixed-race person, the band's members being of mixed blood ancestry.

**1545 Temptations, the – “Psychedelic Shack”**

This is the 2nd of 5 Temptations songs in this countdown.

**1541 Chris Rea – “Fool (If You Think It’s Over)”**

Although Rea has sold over 30 million albums worldwide, this song was his first and biggest hit, in 1978.

**1537 Robert Wyatt – “Sea Song”**

Wyatt was a founding member of “the Soft Machine”.

**1536 Three Dog Night – “Never Been To Spain”**

Three Dog Night has earned 14 gold albums and recorded 21 Billboard Top 40 hits, 9 of which went gold.



**1533 Toby Beau Band – “My Angel Baby”**

Like the Marshall Tucker Band, no one named Toby Beau in this band!

**1532 James Brown – “The Funky Drummer”**

The recording’s drum solo, performed by drummer Clyde Stubblefield, is one of the most frequently sampled rhythmic breaks in hip hop and drum and bass music. By some accounts "Funky Drummer" is the single most sampled recording ever.[1]

**1531 Musique – “In The Bush”**

Due to the controversial lyrics of the song, many radio stations banned it in 1978. Because of limited airplay it only climbed to #58 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100, although it did top the Hot Dance Club Play chart at #1.

**1529 Cher – “The Way Of Love”**

Originally recorded by Kathy Kirby, among others, but made popular by Cher.

**1527 Monkees, the – “Oh My My”**

This was the last Monkees single to chart in the US or UK, they broke up in 1971.



**1521 Donna Fargo – “The Happiest Girl In The Whole USA”**

Fargo's debut single, became a No. 1 country hit in the spring of 1972, and subsequently became a major success on the Billboard Hot 100 and Billboard Easy Listening Singles charts.



**1515 Traffic – “Empty Pages”**

Traffic’s vocalist was Steve Winwood.

**1512 Normal, the – “Warm Leatherette”**

The Normal is the recording artist name used by English music producer Daniel Miller, a film editor at the time, who is best known as the founder of the record label Mute Records.

**1506 Tim Buckley – “Song To The Siren”**

Tim was the father of Jeff Buckley, also a famous singer/songwriter (also dead).

**1503 Carpenters, the – “I Won’t Last A Day Without You”**

Originally recorded by Paul Williams in 1973.

**1495 Mel & Tim – “Starting All Over Again”**

This was also the title track of their second album in 1972, recorded in Muscle Shoals and produced by Phillip Mitchell.

**1489 Tee Set, the – “Ma Belle Amie”**

One of the few artists from Holland in the countdown. This is their only hit single.

**1485 Kris Kristofferson – “Why Me”**

Kristofferson wrote the song “Me & Bobby McGee”. FYI.

**1480 Crosby, Stills & Nash – “Immigration Man”**

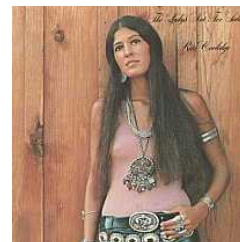
Nash wrote "Immigration Man" about an unfortunate moment he had with a U.S. Customs official when he tried to enter the country. The customs official held him up interminably, and soon people started coming up to Nash for his autograph. When that happened, Nash was allowed to go through, but he remained angry with the treatment he received.

**1477 David Bowie – “The Jean Genie”**

The B-Side to this single was “Ziggy Stardust”

**1475 Rita Coolidge – “We’re All Alone”**

Originally recorded by Boz Scaggs in 1976.



**1470 Walter Egan – “Magnet & Steel”**

Prior to his solo career, Egan had briefly been a member latter-day version of Spirit.

of a

**1468 Aretha Franklin – “Bridge Over Troubled Water”**

Originally recorded by Simon & Garfunkel in 1970.

**1464 Bobby Bloom – “Montego Bay”**

A song about the Jamaican city. Bloom was killed on 28 February 1974 in an accidental shooting after suffering from depression at age 28.

**1459 Steely Dan – “Show Biz Kids”**

Steely Dan members Donald Fagen and Walter Becker met at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York[1] in 1967 and began playing in local groups (one of these, The Bad Rock Group, included future comedy star Chevy Chase on drums).

**1424 – Cat Stevens “Morning Has Broken”**

"Morning Has Broken" was an obscure Christian hymn that became widely known when Cat Stevens included it on his 1971 best-selling album Teaser and the Firecat.

Writing credit for "Morning Has Broken" has often been erroneously attributed to Stevens because of his version of the song which brought it out of obscurity.

**1420 – Humble Pie “Hot N Tasty”**

Humble Pie (1969-1975) a blues, hard rock band from England and one of the first so-called supergroups of the 1970s.



The original band line-up featured Steve Marriott (former lead singer, songwriter and lead guitarist of Small Faces), Peter Frampton (former lead singer and guitarist of The Herd), Greg Ridley (former bass guitarist of Spooky Tooth) and seventeen-year-old drummer Jerry Shirley.

**1419 – Carl Carlton – “Everlasting Love”**

Originally recorded by Robert Knight’s “Love Affair” in 1968.

**1417 – Barry Manilow – “Weekend In New England”**

"Weekend in New England" is a song written by Randy Edelman, and released by Barry Manilow on his 1976 album This One's For You. The song was released as a single in 1976, reaching the #1 spot on the U.S. Adult Contemporary chart and #10 on the Billboard Hot 100. It is a classic example of Manilow's popular style of big ballad, including a romantic theme, swelling orchestration and a dramatic finish.

The Reba McEntire hit song, "Whoever's in New England," is seen by many as an "answer song" to Barry's "Weekend In New England" hit, as sung by the wife of a philandering husband who has an ongoing affair with someone in New England.

**1416 – Focus “Hocus Pocus”**

A song by the Dutch rock group Focus.

There are no actual lyrics to the song. It consists of alternation between a powerful rock chord riff and varied solo "verses" (in the original all performed by Thijs van Leer) which include yodeling, organ playing, gibberish lyrics, flute riffs and whistling. Focus recorded a special, faster radio version (which became a hit). When performing live, the group would play the song even faster.



**1410 – Jackson Browne “Late For The Sky”**

You might remember this song from the movie "Taxi Driver"

**1403 – Stylistics, the – "You'll Never Get To Heaven (If You Break My Heart)"**

Originally recorded by Dionne Warwick in 1964.

**1402 – Jermaine Jackson – "Daddy's Home"**

Originally recorded by Shep & The Limelites in 1961.

**1399 Lynyrd Skynyrd – "You Got That Right"**

The band was named after Leonard Skinner, a gym teacher/basketball coach for some of the members at Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville, Florida.



**1394 Neil Diamond – "If I am..I Said"**

Neil Diamond was born Noah Kaminsky

**1391 – Leo Sayer "Long Tall Glasses (I Can Dance)"**

Lynyrd Skynyrd

A 'Leo Sayer' is cockney rhyming slang for 'all-dayer', or an all-day drinking session.

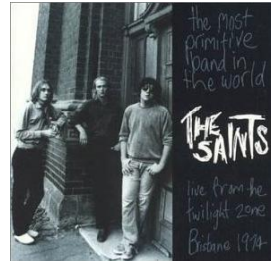
**1388 Marie Osmond – "Paper Roses"**

Originally recorded by Anita Bryant in 1960.

Also The song has been sung by the supporters of Scottish football club Kilmarnock FC since the 1970s.

**1385 Saints, the – "(I'm Stranded)"**

This Australian punk band's single pre-dated the Sex Pistols, Buzzcocks and the Clash and may have been one of the first punk singles ever released.



**1379 Eric Weissberg – "Dueling Banjos"**

Made famous for its appearance in Deliverance. The scene depicts Billy Redden playing the song opposite actor Ronny Cox on guitar. Redden plays "Lonnie"—a mentally retarded, inbred, extremely gifted banjo player.

**1371 – Chakachas, the – "Jungle Fever"**

Sold over a million copies in the U.S. and reached #3. In the UK# it fared less well: despite some airplay soon after release it was later banned by the BBC, who took exception to the moaning and heavy breathing heard on the record, first by a woman and later by a man as well. It peaked at #29.



**1370 – Linda Ronstadt – "Tracks of my Tears"**

Originally recorded by the Miracles in 1965

**1367 Bobby Vinton – "My Melody Of Love"**

If you can't understand what he's saying in part of this song, it's because you don't speak Polish.

**1360 Lobo – “I'd Love You To Want Me”**

Lobo began his musical career in 1961 as a member of a local band, The Rumours. The band included Gram Parsons and Jim Stafford

**1348 Cramps, the – “Human Fly”**

The Cramps are a punk rock band originally formed in 1972. Their line-up has rotated much over the years, with Lux Interior and Poison Ivy, the lead singer and lead guitarist respectively as the only permanent members.

They were part of the early CBGBs punk rock movement that had emerged in New York. The band is sometimes credited as one of the founders of the psychobilly genre of music, though they deny this.

**1345 Michael Martin Murphy – “Wildfire”**

The Late Show with David Letterman currently uses a snippet of the song "Wildfire" as Letterman flings one of his blue cards through the window behind his desk.

**1335 King Harvest – “Dancing In The Moonlight”**

This is King Harvest's only appearance in the countdown!

**1334 Beach Boys, the – “Rock & Roll Music”**

Originally recorded by Chuck Berry in 1957.



**1333 Sylvester – “Dance (Disco Heat)”**

In some countries Sylvester (or Silvester) is the name used to refer to December 31st (New Year's Eve).

**1329 John Lennon – “Stand By Me”**

Originally recorded by Ben E King in 1961

**1327 Barbara Streisand – “The Main Event”**

The Main Event is a 1979 comedy starring Barbra Streisand and Ryan O'Neal, written by Gail Parent and directed by Howard Zieff.

The film received negative reviews from critics, but was one of the among the Top 10 highest grossing films of the year at the box office. It was also the impetus for Barbra Streisand's first foray into disco, singing the theme song written by Paul Jabara and Bruce Roberts.

**1326 Johnny Rivers – “Boogie Woogie Flu”**

Originally recorded by Huey Smith & The Clowns in 1957

**1323 Television – “Little Johnny Jewel (Parts 1 & 2)”**

One of Television's Original members, Richard Hell, left the band in 1975 to form the Heartbreakers (not Tom Petty's band) with former members of the New York Dolls and later Richard Hell & The Voidoids.

**1322 Rick Dees – “Disco Duck”**

Rigdon Osmond "Rick" Dees III is a radio disc jockey who is best known for his syndicated radio show Rick Dees Weekly Top 40 and for the novelty song "Disco Duck." Dees currently hosts the morning show at Movin' 93-9 FM in Los Angeles, along with Patti "Long Legs" Lopez, and Mark Wong.

**1315 The Ides Of March – “Superman”**

Singer in the Ides of March is Jim Peterik, who later formed and sang in the band Survivor. The Ides were also among the participants in the legendary "Festival Express" train tour documented in a 2003 film, although the Ides were not featured in the film.

**1309 Roxy Music – “Mother Of Pearl”**

Roxy Music is an English art rock group founded in the early 1970s by art school graduate Bryan Ferry . The other members are Phil Manzanera, Andy Mackay and Paul Thompson. Former members are Brian Eno and later famous producer and musician, and Eddie Jobson, replacing Eno.

**1308 Mark Lindsay – “Arizona”**

Mark Lindsay is also the singer for Paul Revere & The Raiders.

**1306 Jimmy Castor Bunch – “Troglodyte”**

Origin of the highly sampled line “what we gonna do now is go back, way back”



**1303 Frank Zappa – “Don’t Eat Yellow Snow”**

Zappa was born in Baltimore, MD.

Jimmy Castor Bunch

**1302 Ricky Nelson – “Garden Party”**

"Garden Party" was a 1972 hit song for Rick Nelson from his album Garden Party. It tells of his being booed off the stage at Madison Square Garden, seemingly because he was playing his newer, country-tinged music instead of the 1950s-era rock that he had been successful with earlier, and his realization that "you can't please everyone, so you've got to please yourself".

**1300 Weather Report – “Birdland”**

"Birdland" was named after the New York jazz club Birdland on 52nd Street, which is named after jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker. The song is a tribute to Parker and the club. 1295 Marvin Hamlisch – “The Entertainer

Originally written in 1902 by Scott Joplin.

**1294 Boz Scaggs – “It’s Over”**

An original, but brief member of the Steve Miller Band.

**1290 Joni Mitchell – “Free Man In Paris”**

Free Man In Paris is about music agent/promoter David Geffen, a close friend in the early 1970s and a trip they made to Paris with Robbie and Dominique Robertson.

**1287 Three Dog Night – “The Show Must Go On”**

Originally recorded by Leo Sayer in 1973

**1282 David Gates – “Goodbye Girl”**

Gates was also the vocalist for the group Bread.

**1278 Albert Hammond – “It Never Rains in Southern California**

Albert’s son, Albert Hammond Jr. is the guitarist for the Strokes.

**1277 Pink Floyd – “Have A Cigar”**

The lyric "Oh, by the way, which one's Pink?" is rumored to have actually been asked of the band in their formative years of the mid-to-late 1960s by a record label executive, who met them in the recording studio. Rumor has it that the executive shook hands with all the band members, complimented them highly, and then proceeded to ask the question. Later, the name Pink was used for the main character in the Wall.



**1272 Rod Stewart – “The Killing of Georgie”**

The song's lyrics tell the poignant tale of a homosexual man, the titular Georgie, who was killed by a New Jersey gang.

**1268 Johnathan Edwards – “Sunshine”**

Sunshine was not even originally planned for release, but when an engineer accidentally erased the master of a track called "Please Find Me" near the end of sessions for the album Jonathan Edwards, Sunshine was used to fill the hole

**1266 Doobie Brothers – “Jesus Is Just Alright”**

Originally recorded in 1969 by The Byrds

**1260 Bonnie Pointer – “Heaven Must Have Sent You**

Bonnie is one of the Pointer Sisters. In 1977, she left the band to do a solo career and they haven't gotten along since.



**1257 Neil Young – “My My, Hey Hey (Out Of the Blue)”**

The acoustic rendition of “Hey Hey, My My (Into the Black)

**1255 Main Ingredient – “Just Don’t Want To Be Lonely”**

Group featured Cuba Gooding Sr.

**1253 Archies, the – “Jingle Jangle”**

The Archies are a garage band founded by Archie Andrews, Reggie Mantle, and Jughead Jones, a group of adolescent fictional characters of the Archie universe, in the context of the animated TV series, The Archie Show.

**1248 Rolling Stones, the – “Fool To Cry”**

Keith Richards famously fell asleep onstage in Germany once, while playing this song.

**1244 John Lennon – “God”**

The first movement of the song discusses Lennon's disdain for religious belief. He believed that God was something different to everyone. He describes God as "a concept by which we measure our pain".

In the second section of the song, Lennon lists many idols that he does not believe in (including The Beatles), ending by stating that he just believes in himself and Yoko. Other idols he listed included magic, I Ching, the Bible, tarot, Hitler, Jesus, Kennedy, Buddha, mantra, Gita, yoga, kings, Elvis, and Zimmerman (Bob Dylan).

The final section of the song describes Lennon's change since the breakup of The Beatles. He states that he is no longer the "Dreamweaver" or "The Walrus," but just "John." The final line of the song, "The dream is over," represents Lennon's stance that the myth of the Beatles had come to an end.



**1243 Velvet Underground, the – “New Age”**

New Age, in its final draft, is considered a sarcastic homage to actress Kim Novak.

**1242 Manfred Mann’s Earth Band – “Spirits In The Night”**

Originally recorded by Bruce Springsteen in 1973.

**1238 Captain & Tennille – “Muskrat Love”**

Originally recorded in 1972 by Willis Alan Ramsey

**1233 Jessi Colter – “I’m Not Lisa”**

Jessi is the wife of Waylon Jennings

**1232 Shaun Cassidy – “Da Do Ron Ron”**

Originally recorded by the Crystals in 1963.

**1229 Dave Loggins – “Please Come To Boston”**

David Allen Loggins, really is from Tennessee 😊

Jessi Colter

**1226 Neil Diamond – “Forever In Blue Jeans”**

Neil Diamond is his real name!!!!

**1224 Clarence Carter – “Patches”**

Originally recorded by Chairmen of the Board in 1969.

**1203 Paper Lace – “The Night Chicago Died”**

"The Night Chicago Died" is written by Peter Robin Callander and Mitch Murray. Its subject matter is a fictional gang shootout in Chicago between gangsters tied to Al Capone and the Chicago Police. The narrator retells his mother's anguish in awaiting news of the fate of her husband, a Chicago policeman.

**1201 Deep Purple – “Woman From Tokyo”**

After original lead singer Ian Gillan left the band in 1973, they hired a replacement singer, David Coverdale, who sang for them until 1976 when Deep Purple broke up and a year later, in 1977, formed his own band, Whitesnake.

**1194 Wire – “Three Girl Rumba”**

The Guitar riff was later used for a song by the band Elastica on their hit song “Connection”.

**1192 Cyndi Grecco – “Making Our Dreams Come True”**

Theme song from Laverne & Shirley. Grecco never actually made an album, but she did sing the theme song to “Blansky;s Beauties” as well.

**1181 Elvin Bishop – “Fooled Around And Fell In Love”**

Elvin doesn’t sing this song, just plays the guitar. Vocals are by Mickey Thomas, who later joined Jefferson Starship.



**1180 Raydio – “Jack & Jill”**

Raydio was formed in 1977 by singer Ray Parker Jr. who, of course, went on to sing the “Ghostbusters” theme song. Another Raydio member, Jerry Knight, went on to form “Ollie

& Jerry” who sang “Breakin’...There’s No Stopping Us” and “Electric Boogaloo” from the 2 “Breakin’” movies.

**1178 Sammi Smith – “Help Me Make It Through The Night”**

Originally composed by Kris Kristofferson in 1970. Sammi’s real first name was Jewel. And she was never paid for this song, as she didn’t write it. (It was her biggest hit) She didn’t make it through 2005, either, she died 2/12/05.



**1176 Emerson, Lake & Palmer – “Lucky Man”**

Gary Lake from the band King Crimson (and the Lake in ELP) wrote this song, in school, in the late 60’s.

Sammi Smith

Carl Palmer joined Asia in 1979 when Emerson, Lake & Palmer broke up. Lake later joined him.

**1169 Paul Anka – “Times of Your Life**

Paul wrote this as a jingle for a Kodak commercial. The jingle became so popular, he recorded it as a full song, and it became a hit a year later.

**1167 Shirley Bassey – “Diamonds Are Forever”**

Shirley is the only singer to have ever recorded more than one James Bond theme song. She did 3 (Goldfinger, Diamonds Are Forever & Moonraker).

**1166 Jerry Reed – “Amos Moses”**

Jerry played “Snowman” in the Smokey & The Bandit movies, as well as singing the soundtracks.

**1159 Electric Light Orchestra – “Roll Over Beethoven”**

Originally recorded by Chuck Berry in 1956.

**1151 Captain Beefheart – “Big Eyed Beans From Venus”**

Captian Beefheart, or Don Van Vliet, was a childhood friend of Frank Zappa while living in Lancaster and it shows! Quirky music with odd lyrics and almost zero commercial success, yet immeasurable influence on future music. It has been rumored Captain Beefheart was Kurt Cobains number one musical influence.

**1142 Righteous Brothers, the – “Rock & Roll Heaven”**

Bill Medley & Bobby Hatfield were in a group called the Paramours, when during one performance an fan shouted out “That was righteous, brothers”. And when the 2 went solo, that’s the name they chose!

**1141 Henry Gross – “Shannon”**

Former member of Sha-Na-Na, Gross wrote “Shannon” about the passing of Beach Boy Carl Wilson’s dog....who’s name was Shannon, of course.

**1138 Big Star – “Thirteen”**

The band was named after a Memphis supermarket.

**1135 Judy Collins – “Send In The Clowns”**

A Song from the 1973 musical “A Little Night Music” in which the character Desiree reflects on the ironies and disappointments in her life.



**1134 Kraftwerk – “The Robots”**

In German, Kraftwerk means “power plant”.



**1132 Ringo Starr – “No No Song”**

Originally written and recorded by Hoyt Axton and David Jackson.

**1130 Billy Preston – “Outa Space”**

Preston is one of only two non-Beatles to receive a credit on a Beatles single; the other is Tony Sheridan. However, as noted elsewhere, the Beatles were actually Sheridan's backing band for those records, so the real honor goes to Preston alone.

**1129 L.T.D. – “(Every Time I Turn Around) Back In Love Again**

L.T.D. stands for Love, Togetherness & Devotion.

**1128 Carly Simon – “That’s The Way I Always Heard”**

Carly’s father is Richard Simon, co founder of Simon & Schuster.

**1125 Quicksilver Messenger Service – “Fresh Air”**

Quicksilver Messenger Service was also the name of a London-based firm of motorcycle couriers in the 1990s, almost certainly inspired by the name of the band. It is also the name of a San Francisco based bicycle courier firm that is still in existence. San Francisco also boasts its own Quicksilver Delivery Messenger Courier.



**1122 Cheryl Lynn – “Got To Be Real”**

Lynn appeared on The Gong Show in 1976, and won the show, singing Joe Cocker’s “You Are So Beautiful” She got a record deal soon after. See! Dreams really can come true.

**1121 Billy Joel – “The Entertainer”**

The song has references to the shortening of the song "Piano Man" on the it’s single from over 5 minutes to 3 minutes 5 seconds.

**1117 Steely Dan – “Deacon Blues”**

It was originally speculated that the song was written about the Wake Forest University Demon Deacons, but in a Rolling Stone interview, Donald Fagen said "Walter and I had been working on that song at a house in Malibu. I played him that line, and he said, "You mean its like, 'They call these cracker assholes this grandiose name like the Crimson Tide, and I'm this loser, so they call me this other grandiose name, Deacon Blues?' " And I said, "Yeah!" He said, "Cool! Let's finish it!"

**1115 J Geils Band – “Give It To Me”**

On August 17, 1971, at a show in the Boston Common, The Allman Brothers Band named The J. Geils Band as their favorite local band.

**1110 Frijid Pink – “House Of The Rising Sun”**

Originally recorded by the Animals in 1964.

**1108 Slave – “Slide”**

The very first single from the Ohio funk band.

**1104 Jim Croce – “One Less Set Of Footsteps”**

Jim’s personal motto: "If you dig it, do it. If you really dig it, do it twice."

**1101 Alice Cooper – “Department Of Youth”**

"Alice Cooper" was originally a band name with frontman Vincent Furnier portraying the lead persona. In 1974 Furnier legally changed his name to Alice Cooper and launched a solo career.

**1094 America – “Ventura Highway”**

Vocalist Dewey Bunnell has said that the "alligator lizards in the air" in the song are references to cloud shapes.[1] He also explained in their box set booklet Highway Highlight that the song is "about leaving," Dewey adds. "It reminds me of the time I lived in Omaha as a kid and how we'd walk through cornfields and chew on pieces of grass. There were cold winters, and I had images of going to California. So I think in the song I'm talking to myself, frankly: 'How long you gonna stay here, Joe?' I really believe that 'Ventura Highway' has the most lasting power of all my songs. It's not just the words — the song and the track has a certain fresh, vibrant, optimistic quality that I can still respond to.



**1078 Bay City Rollers – “I Only Wanna Be With You**

Originally recorded by Dusty Springfield in 1963.

**1064 Paul Stookey – “The Wedding Song (There Is Love)”**

Paul Stookey is the Paul from Peter, Paul & Mary. Paul wrote and first performed this song for his friend, Peter Yarrow, the Peter from Peter, Paul & Mary.

**1062 Dorothy Moore – “Misty Blue”**

A Song written by Bobby Montgomery as a pop standard and previously recorded by Eddy Arnold & Ella Fitzgerald.

**1058 Shaun Cassidy – “That’s Rock N Roll”**

Originally recorded by Eric Carmen in 1976

**1057 Edward Bear – “Last Song”**

Edward Bear is not a person, but a band. FYI

**1055 Tom T Hall – “I Love”**

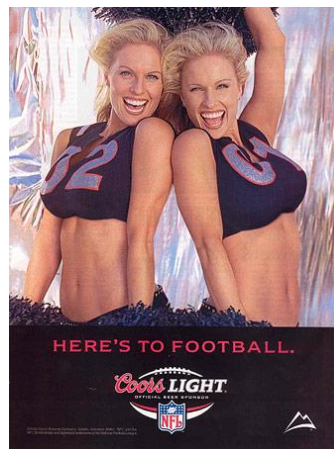
You may remember this jingle which was altered for the Coors Light “Heres To Football” ad campaign.

**1054 Badfinger – “Come & Get It”**

Penned by Paul McCartney for the movie “The Magic Christian”

**1053 Linda Ronstadt – “When Will I Be Loved?”**

Originally recorded by the Everly Brothers in 1960.



The Coors Light Twins

**1051 Kraftwerk – “Trans Europa Express”**

Germany’s Kraftwerk may be one of the most underrated bands in time. Their revolutionary style of electronic music paved the influential way for hundreds of bands’ sounds. In every song, you can hear tunes that you may recognize from other songs. Well Kraftwerk did them first. In this song for



instance, you may hear the keyboard playing the tune from “Planet Rock”.

Kraftwerk

**1043 Funkadelic – “Cosmic Slop”**

Originally the backing band for The Parliaments, the original members enlisted in the army and Parliaments’ leader, George Clinton, hired other members to tour with them. Parliaments record label then merged the acts together, calling them Parliament-Funkadelic for a while. In the 80’s they disbanded, but only sort of, now being the P-Funk All Stars, who still tour with Clinton.

**1041 Ocean – “Put Your Hand In The Hand**

This is the only song on the countdown from Canadian gospel act, Ocean.

**1040 Neil Sedaka – “Bad Blood”**

Yup, that’s Elton John singing in the background.

**1034 Supremes, the – “Someday We’ll Be Together**

Originally recorded by Johnny & Jacky in 1961. Johnny Bristol (the Johnny from Johnny & Jacky) is the male voice on the song and he produced the song as well

**1018 B.W. Stevenson – “My Maria”**

B.W. stands for “Buckwheat”.

**1016 Blues Image, the – “Ride Captain Ride”**

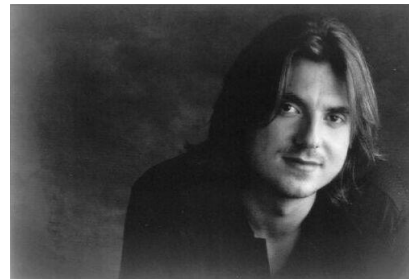
Although the song has been rumored to be about (among other things) the Pueblo incident of January, 1968 when 83 U.S. sailors were captured by North Koreans,[1] Pinera says the song was actually inspired by the number of keys on his Rhodes piano:

**1015 Elvis Presley – “Kentucky Rain”**

This song was actually written by Eddie Rabbitt. The piano in the background? Ronnie Milsap.

**1014 Peter Frampton – “I’m In You”**

Reminds me of a Mitch Hedberg joke. : "But I got to smoke fake pot with Peter Frampton. That's a cool story. It's as cool as smoking real pot with a guy who looks like Peter Frampton. I've done that way more."



**1013 Ike & Tina Turner – “I Want To Take You Higher”**

Originally recorded in 1969 by Sly & The Family Stone.

**1009 Frank Mills – “Music Box Dancer”**

One of the few instrumental songs on the list. You may still even hear it today, if you have seen “Kill Bill” or “the Wiggles” TV show or even when your neighborhood ice cream truck goes by. (and I am assuming a music box or two might play that tune!)

**1006 Starbuck – “Moonlight Feels Right”**

Though the band is from Georgia, they mention the Maryland area twice in this song. The line “And drop the top at Chesapeake Bay” and “You say you came to Baltimore from Ole Miss”.

**1003 Eddie Kendricks – “Boogie Down”**

Co-founder of the Temptations, Eddie died in 1992.

**1002 Sister Sledge – “He’s the Greatest Dancer”**



Kim, Joni, Debbie and Kathy Sledge. Must've taken them forever to think of their band name!  
They don't even look alike.

**1000 Creedence Clearwater Revival – “I Heard It Through the Grapevine”**

Originally recorded by the Temptations in \_\_\_\_.

**999 Nicolette Larson – “Lotta Love”**

Originally recorded by Neil Young in 1978. She also sang backing vocals for Van Halen, Neil Young and The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

**993 Chicago – Beginnings**

The song was initially released as the band's second single in 1969, but did not chart. Then after they had success with “Make Me Smile” and “25 or 6 to 4”, they re-released it and it went top 10!

**989 Allman Brothers Band – “Midnight Rider”**

"Midnight Rider" was never released as a single by The Allman Brothers Band, but it has charted three times in subsequent recordings.

**986 Little River Band – “Lady”**

Hailing from Melbourne, Australia. Named after a road sign for the Victorian township of “Little River”.

**985 King Floyd – “Groove Me”**

Floyd recorded this song in the same recording sessions that Jean Knight recorded “Mr. Big Stuff” and it's the only song in the countdown that says “sookie sookie now”.



King Floyd

**984 Willie Nelson – “Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain”**

Originally recorded by Roy Acuff a really really long time ago.

**983 Donny Osmond – “Sweet & Innocent”**

Donny's very first single! And his first US Top 10. He was only 14 when he sang this.

**982 Steely Dan – “Peg”**

The song describes a young female in a questionable debut scene or photo shoot. She is warned that those images may "Come back to [her]". Note the playful reference to mid-20th century cinema and perhaps less-than-savory Times Square movie houses or magazines in the chorus: "you see it all," then quietly "in 3-D!"

**977 Deodato – “Also Sprach Zarathustra”**

Originally a tone poem by Richard Strauss composed in 1896 and inspired by Friedrich Nietzsche's book of the same title. The intro also appeared in “2001: A Space Odyssey”. It was also pro-wrestler Ric Flair's theme song for a period.



**966 Black Sabbath – “Sabbath Bloody Sabbath”**

This is the first of 3 songs by Black Sabbath in this countdown.

**928 Devo – “Jocko Homo”**

This song was actually the B-side to Devo’s first single, Mongoloid. The title is taken from an anti-evolution tract called Jocko-Homo Heavenbound by B. H. Shadduck.

**927 Harry Chapin – “Taxi”**

The song, at 6 minutes, 44 seconds, tells the story of a cab driver in San Francisco (also named 'Harry') who encounters his last fare for the night in the rain, and discovers she is his ex-lover, 'Sue'. In 1980, Chapin wrote a successor to the song, titled Sequel (on the album of the same name). Written in the same style as Taxi, it continues the story of Harry and Sue with them meeting again ten years later. Harry Chapin died in 1981.

**925 Television – “See No Evil”**

Television was the first rock group to perform at CBGB’s in NYC. Also, the members of Television apparently constructed the first stage there.

**924 Rolling Stones – “Happy”**

Keith Richards on vocals, yay!!!!

**923 Engelbert Humperdink – “After the Lovin”**

In 1967, Humperdink toured with Jimi Hendrix of all people!

**920 Olivia-Newton John – “If You Love Me (Let Me Know)”**

In case you didn’t know, Olivia is Australian, though born in England. Isn’t that interesting?

**919 Carpenters, the – “Hurting Each Other”**

Originally recorded by Jimmy Clinton in 1965.

**918 Bruce Springsteen – “Tenth Avenue Freeze Out”**

The song loosely tells the story of the formation of The E Street Band. The song's protagonist, "Bad Scooter", is a pseudonym for Springsteen himself (as indicated by the initials they share). In the third verse, Bad Scooter is saved by "the Big Man" (Clarence Clemons, the band's saxophonist). After his name is sung, Clemons lets loose a big note on his sax.

**916 Ringo Starr – “Oh My My”**

The song was co-written by Starr (credited by his real name, "Richard Starkey"), and Vini Poncia, a frequent Ringo co-writer, who would later go on to produce the rock band, Kiss.

**915 Earth, Wind & Fire – “Sing A Song”**

One of EWF’s longtime members Philip Bailey recorded a duet with Phil Collins called “Easy Lover” in 1984.

**914 Major Harris – “Love Won’t Let Me Wait”**

Also a member of the Delfonics, this is his only solo song in this countdown.

**913 Jay Ferguson – “thunder Island”**

Ferguson was a member of the 60’s band Spirit and now works as a soundtrack composer for “The Office”

**911 Ray Stevens – “The Streak”**

The song's story is a series of three "news flashes" featuring the "Action News Reporter" (Stevens) on the scenes of reported streaking events--at the supermarket, the gas station, and the basketball playoffs. The reporter interviews a man (Stevens) who responds with his views of what happened. The responses contain several double entendres, and the man tries to warn his wife, Ethel, not to look



("Don't look, Ethel!"), but always too late. After the third chorus, the man sees the streaker again, but to his horror the streaker is joined by his fiancé, Ethel!

**909 John Williams – “Star Wars Theme”**

John Williams also composed the film scores to Jaws, Superman, ET, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Harry Potter, Jurassic Park and tons more. He also works as a conductor for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He has won Academy Awards, Emmy Awards, Grammy Awards and Golden Globe Awards. He's good!

**907 Raspberries, the – “Go All The Way”**

Raspberries vocalist Eric Carmen went on to have a successful solo career including the song “All By Myself”. The first of 2 songs in the countdown.

**906 Lynn Anderson – “Rose Garden”**

Originally recorded by Joe South in 1969.

**905 Randy Newman – “Short People”**

In 1978, legislation was introduced in the state of Maryland to make it illegal to play "Short People" on the radio. Contrary to popular myth, the bill did not pass. Apparently offended short people!

**904 Betty Wright – “Clean Up Woman”**

Does the opening guitar sound familiar? Well maybe you are thinking of Mary J Blige's “Real Love” or SWV's “I'm So Into You” or even Sublime's “Get Out. Better Wright, whether it's this song or a different song, is sampled in countless hip-hop and R&B records and is still recording!



Betty Wright

**903 Harold Melvin & The Bluenotes – “Wake Up Everybody”**

A version of this song was released in 2004 to coincide with the presidential election. It featured a collaboration of prominent R&B singers and rappers including Brandy, Mary J. Blige, Babyface, Akon, Jamie Foxx, Fabolous, Rev. Run (of Run DMC), Musiq, Faith Evans, Wycleaf Jean and Missy Elliott.

**900 Suicide – “Dream Baby Dream”**

Though Suicide never had a Top 40 hit, they are hugely influential and helped shape the direction of indie rock, industrial and dance music, influencing bands such as Joy Division, New Order, Radiohead, the Cars, REM and even Bruce Springsteen.

**897 Flamin' Grooves, the – “Shake Some Action”**

This San Francisco band enlisted British producer Dave Edmunds to make this record. Edmunds also has a couple songs of his own in this countdown, including one coming up at #868!

**896 Carpenters, the – “Top of the World”**

I seem to have given you the instrumental version of this song. Whoops!

So here are the lyrics, you can sing them yourself!

Such a feelins comin over me  
There is wonder in most everything I see  
Not a cloud in the sky  
Got the sun in my eyes  
And I won't be surprised if it's a dream

Everything I want the world to be  
Is now coming true especially for me  
And the reason is clear  
It's because you are here

You're the nearest thing to heaven that I've seen  
(\* ) I'm on the top of the world lookin down on creation  
And the only explanation I can find  
Is the love that I've found ever since you've been around

Your loves put me at the top of the world  
Something in the wind has learned my name  
And it's tellin me that things are not the same  
In the leaves on the trees and the touch of the breeze

Theres a pleasin sense of happiness for me  
There is only one wish on my mind  
When this day is through I hope that I will find  
That tomorrow will be just the same for you and me  
All I need will be mine if you are here

**895 Charlie Rich – “Behind Closed Doors”**

Charlie Rich AKA The Silver Fox

**894 Steely Dan – “Kid Charlemagne”**

Walter Becker told a taxi cab driver in New York City that he was with the band Steely Dan. The cab driver told him what he thought the worst song lyrics were. When Becker asked the driver what they were, the driver responded, "Is there gas in the car? Yes, there's gas in the car."



**893 Boz Scaggs – “Lowdown”**

Also a member of the Steve Miller Band. 1st of 2 solo songs on the countdown.

**890 Paul Anka – “Having My Baby”**

A duet with Odia Coates, who also sang on John Denver's hit “Country Roads”

**889 John Sebastian – “Welcome Back”**

John was a founding member of the Lovin' Spoonful and is the harmonica player on the Doors' song “Roadhouse Blues”

**885 Led Zeppelin – “The Battle Of Evermore”**

Sandy Denny of Fairport Convention sings the female part in this song. Also a fun task is to see how many references to JRR Tolkien you can find!!!

**863 George Harrison – “Give Me Love, Give Me Peace On Earth”**

The song was released as a single in May 1973, hitting number one in the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 at the end of June. Harrison's single replaced "My Love" by his former bandmate from The Beatles, Paul McCartney, at the top of the chart, and in turn was replaced at number one by "Will It Go Round in Circles" by Billy Preston, who played with Harrison and McCartney during the sessions for Let It Be in 1969.

**858 Hot Butter – “Popcorn”**

Yet another instrumental song on the countdown. This one is a cover or a famous instrumental tune from Gershon Kingsley in 1969.

**857 David Bowie – “Golden Years”**

Bowie allegedly got drunk to perform the song for the American TV show Soul Train; at the time he was one of the few white artists to appear on the program. The resultant video clip was used to promote the single and continued Bowie’s commercial success in the United States, where it reached #10 and charted for 16 weeks.

**856 Orleans – “Still the One”**

In 2004, the Bush campaign played the song at campaign events until Orleans co-founder (and future Democratic congressman and Bush critic) John Hall commented publicly that the campaign had never received permission to use the song. The campaign later dropped the song from its playlist.



**854 David Soul – “Don’t Give Up On Us”**

Soul played “Hutch” in the TV Series “Starsky & Hutch”

**853 Billy Joel – “Movin’ Out (Anthony’s Song)”**

"Movin' Out" is a hit song written and recorded by Billy Joel. Subtitled "Anthony's Song", the track details the singer's disgust with the upwardly-mobile bourgeois aspirations of working and lower-middle class New Yorkers who take pride at working long hours in order to afford the outward signs of having "made it". Named characters have stereotypically immigrant or first-generation American names (Anthony, Mama Leone, Sergeant O'Leary) and their jobs are blue-collar. Joel considers their rejection of their working-class roots (trading a Chevy for a Cadillac and buying a house in Hackensack) to be ultimately futile; In the end, the rewards are a "heart attack" or "a broken back"

**851 Supremes, the – “River Deep, Mountain High”**

Originally recorded by Ike & Tina Turner in 1966. This version is actually Diana Ross and the Four Tops, not the Supremes.

**850 Boz Scaggs – “Lido Shuffle”**

"Lido Shuffle" is played at Philadelphia Eagles games when Lito Sheppard gets an interception.

**848 Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young – “Helpless”**

The steel guitar part of this song is played by Jerry Garcia.

**847 Linda Ronstadt – “It’s So Easy”**

Cash Box named her the top-selling female pop singer of the 1970s



**845 John Lennon – “Mother”**

Though the song is called "Mother", it is actually a cry to both of his parents, who "abandoned" him in his childhood - Father Alf Lennon left the family when John was an infant, and mother Julia was hit by a car and killed on the street by a drunk-driving off-duty policeman, when her son was 17. Lennon bemoans the loss of his parents singing lyrics such as "Mother, you had me/but I never had you"; "Father, you left me/but I never left you"; "I needed you/you didn't need me"; and "Mama, don't go/Daddy come home". It is one of several songs which Lennon wrote for his mother.

**844 Billy Preston – “Will It Go Round In Circles?”**

Along with Janis Ian, he was a musical guest on the first episode of Saturday Night Live.

**843 Sugarloaf – “Don’t Call Us, We’ll Call You”**

The touch-tone numbers dialed in the song were a) an unlisted number at CBS Records and b) a public number at the White House respectively. The song also features Wolfman Jack!

**842 Jacksons, the – “Blame It On The Boogie”**

This song was actually written and recorded by Mick Jackson (some British dude) earlier in 1978, but wasn't a big hit and is often thought to be written by Michael Jackson.

**840 Kenny Nolan – “I Like Dreamin’”**

Nolan also co-wrote several hits with Bob Crewe, including Frankie Valli's "My Eyes Adored You" and Labelle's "Lady Marmalade" (both 1975).

**839 Neil Diamond – “I’m A Believer”**

Although this was recorded and made popular by the Monkees in 1966, Diamond actually did write this song and recorded in before the Monkees' covered it.

**838 Rush – “Fly By Night”**

This song hasn't been performed live since the Tour of the Hemispheres in 1978 and 1979. (Yes, there are still Rush concerts happening)

**833 Neil Young – “Old Man”**

The song was written for the caretaker of the northern-California Broken Arrow Ranch, which Young purchased for \$350,000 in 1970. The song compares a young man's life to an old man's and shows that the young man has, for some extents, the same needs of the old one. James Taylor played six-string banjo (tuned like a guitar) and sang on the song, and Linda Ronstadt also contributed vocals.



**827 Player – “Baby Come Back”**

This song was also used in the 2007 Transformers film, in a scene where Bumblebee purposely stalled to a nice romantic location so that the protagonist of the movie could have some time with the girl. When the girl was about to leave, Bumblebee eventually restarted and this song played.

**825 Blues Brothers, the – “Soul Man”**

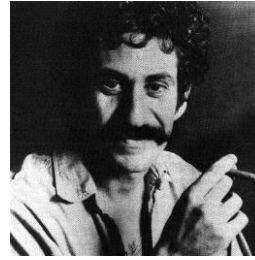
Originally recorded by Sam & Dave in 1967.

**824 Who, the – “Summertime Blues”**

Originally recorded by Eddie Cochran & Jerry Capeheart in 1958.

**822 Jim Croce – “Operator”**

Jim Croce, 30, died in a small commercial plane crash on September 20, 1973, one day before his third ABC album, I Got a Name was to be released.



**820 Rod Stewart – “Twistin’ the Night Away”**

Originally recorded by Sam Cooke in 1962.

**818 Augustus Pablo – “King Tubby Meets The Rockers Uptown”**

All Music Guide claims that the song is "widely regarded as the finest example of dub ever recorded."

**813 Led Zeppelin – “No Quarter”**

The title is derived from the military practice[1] of fighting to the death. When quarter was given, the defeated army had the option to pay the victor a ransom to spare their lives. Hence "No Quarter" indicates a battle to the death.

**812 Mungo Jerry – “In The Summertime”**

Due to me not really remembering the 70's, I labeled this song “Jerry Mungo” thinking it was a guy named Jerry Mungo. This is not the case, it's a band named Mungo Jerry. Sorry!

**811 Average White Band – “Cut The Cake”**

It was the usual kind of rockers' bash. On Sept. 23, 1974, after the Scottish group Average White Band's show at the Troubadour, Entrepreneur Ken Moss, 31, asked the lads back to his Hollywood Hills pad. Camp followers included Cher Bono. "We all sat around the coffee table and somebody started passing this vial of white powder," one guest told Rolling Stone later. "Everyone assumed it was coke." In fact, it was "China White" heroin.



Those who sniffed became ill, and nine hours later the band's drummer, Robbie McIntosh, 24, was dead of a heroin overdose. Cher, who didn't take a snort, is credited with saving Bassist Alan Gorrie's life by walking him around all night, preventing him from lapsing into a coma.

**810 Rufus feat Chaka Kahn – “Sweet Thing”**

Seventeen years later, the song was covered by then up-and-comer Mary J. Blige, whose own unique version reignited into a top forty hit on both sides for a second time with it reaching number twenty-eight pop and number-eleven R&B.

Initially Khan disliked the fact that Blige covered it but eventually Khan befriended Blige and the two singers later sang the song together during a VH-1 Divas Live concert in 2003.



**808 Bill Conti – “Gonna Fly Now (Theme From Rocky)”**

He also composed the themes to television's *Dynasty*, *Falcon Crest*, *Cagney & Lacey*, and *The Lifestyles of The Rich And Famous*.

#### **806 Edgar Winter Group – “Frankenstein”**

Another instrumental song and currently used as the theme for *Dancing with the Stars*.

Its name, coined by the band's drummer Chuck Ruff, is derived from the fact that the final version of the song was literally pieced together from many different sections of recording tape representing the various instrumental sections of the music, using a razor blade and splicing tape. Edgar is the only albino artist in the countdown!

#### **805 Bauhaus – “Bela Lugosi’s Dead”**

The band took their name from the German Bauhaus art movement, originally going by the name Bauhaus 1919, dropping the latter portion within a year of the band's formation. Singer Peter Murphy went on to a solo career, while Daniel Ash went on to form Love & Rockets.



The title references horror film star Bela Lugosi (1882-1956), who did much to establish the modern vampire image as the title character in the 1931 film *Dracula*.

#### **804 Dr. Hook & Medicine Show – “The Cover Of Rolling Stone”**

the BBC Radio network refused to play "The Cover of 'Rolling Stone'," as it was considered advertising a trademark name, which was against the BBC's policy. The song was re-released with a host of BBC DJs shouting 'On the cover of the Radio Times!' over the band's vocals in the choruses. The song was released as "Cover of the Radio Times" for the UK market. The BBC found no problem in playing the record, since they published the *Radio Times*, weekly.

#### **802 Gladys Knight & The Pips – “Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me”**

Knight joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1997. She has occasionally teased the LDS Church president, Gordon B. Hinckley, that his flock needs to inject some "pep" into their music. Knight created and now directs the LDS-themed choir *Saints Unified Voices* [3]. SUV has released a Grammy Award-winning CD titled *One Voice*, and occasionally performs at LDS Church firesides.

#### **799 Led Zeppelin - “Trampled Under Foot”**

It bears a strong resemblance to the Styx hit "Renegade," which was released in 1979. Likewise, there is an extremely strong resemblance between "Trampled Under Foot" and The Doobie Brothers 1973 release "Long Train Runnin'", originally pre-worked as "Osborne" in 1972.

#### **797 Ace – “How Long”**

The only thing notable about Ace is their one member, Paul Carrack, who went on to have a successful solo career as well as being in the bands *Squeeze* and *Mike & the Mechanics* (with Mike Rutherford of *Genesis*).

#### **795 Gordon Lightfoot – “Sundown”**

"Sundown" was inspired by his then girlfriend, Cathy Smith, later more infamously known for her involvement in the death of John Belushi.

#### **794 Tommy James – “Draggin’ the Line”**

Tommy James and the Shondells declined an invitation to play at the Woodstock Festival on the advice of their agent, who felt it would be a career killer.

#### **788 Donny Osmond – “Go Away Little Girl”**

Originally recorded by Steve Lawrence in 1962.

**787 Murray Head w/ Trinidad Singers – “Superstar”**

This is, of course, the song from Jesus Christ Superstar.

**785 David Naughton – “Makin’ It”**

This was the theme song for the TV show “Makin’ It” starring Naughton. It was written by Freddie Perren and Dino Fekaris, who also wrote Gloria Gaynor’s “I Will Survive”.

**782 Paul Revere & the Raiders – “Indian Reservation”**

Originally recorded by Don Fardon in 1968. The song refers to the forcible removal and relocation of Cherokee people from southeastern states of the United States to territories west of the Mississippi River.

**780 Randy Newman – “Sail Away”**

"Sail Away" is representative of Newman's trademark unconventional and clever approach to songwriting: it takes the form of "come on" or "pitch" from an American slaver to his potential future slaves. The slaver attempts to convince his listeners to climb aboard his ship and "sail away" with him to America (specifically Charleston), which he portrays as a land of happiness and plenty.



**778 Art Garfunkel – “I Only Have Eyes For You”**

Originally written in 1934 for the film “Dames”. Most notably recorded by Peggy Lee in 1950.

**777 James Taylor – “Your Smiling Face”**

During the late 1960’s James Taylor struggled a great deal with heroin addiction.

**776 Eagles, the – “Peaceful Easy Feeling”**

This song was written about the women of San Diego, California. This is also the song that “the Dude” requests his cab driver to turn off in “The Big Lebowski”.

**774 Brick – “Dazz”**

Dazz = disco-jazz, the term coined by Brick to describe their music. This song is sampled tons!



**772 Charlie Daniels Band – “The Devil Went Down To Georgia”**

Vassar Clements originally wrote the melody an octave lower, in a tune called "Lonesome Fiddle Blues". Charlie Daniels Band moved it up an octave and put words to it.

**769 Shirley & Company – “Shame Shame Shame”**

Shirley Goodman and her friends has one hit, and that’s it! Though Shirley had several hits in the 1950s.

**768 Alive & Kicking – “Tighter & Tighter”**

Yes, it sounds just like Janis Joplin’s “Piece of My Heart”.

**767 Daniel Boone – “Beautiful Sunday”**

"Beautiful Sunday" remains the biggest selling single by an international artist on the Japanese Oricon chart. (Basically, the Billboard of Japan).

**766 Glen Campbell – “Southern Nights**

Originally recorded by Allen Toussaint in 1975.

**765 Joe Cocker – “The Letter”**

Originally recorded by The Box Tops in 1967 (with future Big Star singer Alex Chilton).



**759 Neil Diamond & Barbara Streisand – “You Don’t Bring Me Flowers”**

In 1977, Diamond released an album "I'm Glad You're Here With Me Tonight," which included the track of the tune. "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" was then covered by Barbra Streisand on her album "Songbird." This led Gary Guthrie, then Program Director at WAKY Radio (Louisville) to combine the two in a "virtual" duet.

The popularity of the virtual duet motivated Diamond and Streisand to record the real thing, and it became a very large hit. Their performance of the song during the 1980 Grammy awards show has been featured on live music performance highlight reels ever since.

**753 Orleans – “Dance With Me”**

Orleans didn't play Woodstock, but they probably went there, as that's where they are from!

**752 Iggy Pop – “The Passenger”**

Backup “la la’s” provided by David Bowie.

**751 Ray Stevens – “Everything Is Beautiful”**

The children heard singing the chorus of the song, using the hymn, "Jesus Loves The Little Children," are from the Oak Hill Elementary School in Nashville, Tennessee.

**750 Andrew Gold – “Thank You For Being A Friend”**

Besides singing this catchy tune, Gold was a popular session musician playing guitars and other instruments on records by Linda Ronstadt and Art Garfunkel.



**748 Elton John – “Someone Saved My Life”**

Born Reginald Kenneth Dwight, in 1971 he legally changed his name to Elton Hercules John.

**746 Carole King – “I Feel The Earth Move”**

Given its upbeat nature, Ode Records selected "I Feel the Earth Move" as the A-side to Tapestry's first single. It achieved airplay, but then disc jockeys and listeners began to prefer the slower, lamenting B-side "It's Too Late". Both sides received airplay for a while, but eventually "It's Too Late" dominated.

**743 Joy Division – “She’s Lost Control”**

Surviving members of Joy Division formed the band New Order, after JD vocalist Ian Curtis hung himself in 1980. The band remains highly influential in music today, despite only recording 2 LPs.

**742 Sylvia – “Pillow Talk”**

Sylvia Robinson had originally hoped that Al Green would record this song, but Green declined because it was too risqué and against his religion. Her and her husband Joe Robinson founded Sugar Hill Records.

**739 Ian Dury & The Blockheads – “Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick”**

Dury turned down an offer from Andrew Lloyd-Webber to write the libretto for *Cats* (a gig which reportedly earned Richard Stilgoe millions). The reason, said Dury, "I can't stand his music." [1] "... I said no straight off. I hate Andrew Lloyd Webber. He's a wanker, isn't he?"

**736 Ann Peebles – “I Can't Stand The Rain”**

Eruption covered this song in the 70s as well, and it landed at 1702 on this list.

**735 Eagles, the – “Lyn’ Eyes”**

The song is about a woman who has married an older man for his money, and is now in a loveless marriage. She sneaks off and spends time with her boyfriend, and promises him that soon she will leave her husband and be with him.

**733 B.B. King – “The Thrill Is Gone”**

Originally recorded by Roy Hawkins in 1951.

**732 Clash, the – “Clash City Rockers”**

The Clash's first overt attempt at self-mythology, "Clash City Rockers" is, by and large, a song about positivity and moving forward, and revisits themes common in Clash songs of the era, specifically dead-end employment and having a purpose in life. The middle part of the song is based on an old nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons" and namechecks David Bowie, Gary Glitter and Prince Far-I,

**731 Kiss – “Hard Luck Woman”**

One of 2 Kiss songs on this countdown sung by drummer Peter Criss.

**730 Mary MacGregor – “Torn Between Two Lovers”**

MacGregor once admitted that she hated her own chart-topper, chiefly because she had little sympathy for the narrator of "Torn Between Two Lovers", a woman who confesses to her husband that she is having an affair, but pleads with her husband to stay with her and accept the situation. MacGregor also said that the song indirectly led to the breakup of her own marriage, because her career kept her away from home so often that her relationship with her husband strained, and they decided to separate

**729 America – “Sister Golden Hair”**

The song is about a man trying to get up the courage to take his girlfriend to the altar to marry, however he is plagued by self-doubts. He pleads for her understanding and re-affirms his love and affection for her, but he says he is not yet ready for the altar. She is only identified as "Sister Golden Hair". He asks her to meet him half-way, which is taken to be a proposal that they live together.

**728 David Bowie – “Life On Mars?”**

The song begins by telling the story of a young girl escaping an argument between her parents by going to the cinema, only to find the film a disappointment as she feels it echoes her life.

The song's second verse is made up entirely of social observations, with Bowie discussing the faults with American cultural imperialism and the state of Britain.

It has been suggested that Bowie is singing from the point of view of the filmmaker in the second verse as there is a switch from a third person perspective to a first person.

**727 Mountain – “Mississippi Queen”**

Mountain played their fourth live gig at the Woodstock Festival, but the band did not appear in the film of the event nor was it included on the first album.

**726 Rainbow – “Since You Been Gone”**

Originally recorded by Argent in 1976.

**725 Blondie – “Atomic”**

The first of 4 Blondie songs in the countdown.

**723 T. Rex – “Telegram Man”**

Perhaps best known for bringing the term "mainman" into popular culture!



**BLONDIE**



**722 Badfinger – “Day After Day”**

The song was written by Pete Ham and produced by George Harrison, who also plays some of the guitar parts of the song.

**718 Samantha Sang – “Emotion”**

Written by Barry & Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees. They also sing backup vocals on the track.

**717 Bad Company – “Good Lovin’ Gone Bad”**

Bad Company guitarist Mick Ralphs is also a founding member of Mott the Hoople.

**716 Public Image Ltd. – “Death Disco”**

Formed by Sex Pistols Johnny Rotten and ex-Clash member Keith Levene.



**715 Stevie Wonder – “Don’t You Worry Bout a Thing”**

On August 6, 1973, just days after the release of Innervisions, Wonder was in a serious automobile accident while on tour, when a log from a truck went through a passenger window and struck him in the head. This left him in a coma for four days and resulted in a permanent loss of his sense of smell.

**713 Band, the – “Up On Cripple Creek”**

the song tells story of a miner who goes to Lake Charles, Louisiana to stay with a local girl who he knows will put him up for free while he blows his money on drinks. Although he admits to having some feelings for "his little Bessie", he uses her hospitality to drink himself to oblivion. At the end of the song, he pushes off once more for greener pastures, although with the stated intention of coming back to his Bessie.

Also, Bob Dylan hired The Band for his famed, controversial tours of 1965 and 1966, his first wide exposure as an electrified rock and roll performer rather than his earlier acoustic folk sound.

**711 MFSB feat the Three Degrees – “TSOP (the Sound of Philadelphia)”**

MFSB = Mother, Father, Sister, Brother.

**710 Robert Gordon – “Red Hot”**

Robert Gordon grew up in Bethesda, Maryland

**709 Electric Light Orchestra – “Don’t Bring Me Down”**

The song is dedicated to the NASA Skylab space station, which reentered the Earth's atmosphere over the Indian Ocean and western Australia on July 11, 1979.

**707 Patti Smith Group – “Dancing Barefoot”**

Smith was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame March 12, 2007. Zach de la Rocha of Rage Against the Machine gave Smith's induction speech.

**705 Brook Benton – “Rainy Night In Georgia”**

One of 3 songs in this countdown about Georgia.

**704 Arlo Guthrie – “City Of New Orleans”**

This song is not really about the City of New Orleans, but “the City of New Orleans”! The Train! Amtrak’s nightly service from Chicago to New Orleans is called “the City Of New Orleans” and has been since the 1950s or before. Songwriter Steve Goodman used the train name for the title of his song, which describes a ride on that very train. Today, you can still take “the City Of New Orleans” south out of Chicago almost every night, 900 miles south to New Orleans.



**701 Paul Simon – “Loves Me Like A Rock”**

Paul is currently married to Edie Brickell and has been since 1992.

**700 Jam, the – “Eton Rifles”**

This single was released on November 3, 1979, making it one of the last songs eligible for this list.

**699 Todd Rundgren – “Hello, It’s Me”**

Rundgren helped raise actress Liv Tyler, who was led to believe that she was his daughter until she was 9. Her biological father, however, is Aerosmith’s Steven Tyler, whose drug excesses during Liv’s childhood led to her mother Bebe Buell’s paternity deception.

**697 Squeeze – “Up The Junction”**

group selected the name "Squeeze" as a facetious tribute to The Velvet Underground's oft-derided 1973 album of the same name.

**696 Bee Gees, the – “Too Much Heaven”**

It has been estimated that the Bee Gees' record sales total more than 220 million, easily making them part of the list of best-selling music artists. Their 1997 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame citation says "Only Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Michael Jackson, Garth Brooks and Paul McCartney have outsold the Bee Gees".

**695 Cheap Trick – “Ain’t That A Shame”**

Originally recorded by Fats Domino in 1955.

**694 Sweet, the – “Little Willy”**

Sweet’s drummer Mick Tucker was in a 1960’s band called Wainwright’s Gentlemen with future Deep Purple vocalist Ian Gillan.

**693 Fleetwood Mac – “You Make Loving Fun”**

"You Make Loving Fun" was also the first song ever officially released by singer Cyndi Lauper.

**692 Flying Lizards, the – “Money (That’s What I Want)”**

Originally recorded by Barrett Strong in 1959.

**691 Natalie Cole – “Our Love”**

Naturally, Natalie is the daughter of Nat King Cole.

**690 Curtis Mayfield – “Freddie’s Dead”**

The song laments the death of Fat Freddie, a character in the film Superfly, who is run over by a car.

**689 Lou Reed – “Satellite of Love”**

Former Velvet Underground frontman sings a song about a man who observes a satellite launch on television and contemplates what Reed describes as feelings of "the worst kind of jealousy" about his unfaithful girlfriend. David Bowie can be heard on background vocals.



**688 Commodores, the – “Sweet Love”**

The Commodores originally called themselves the Jays, but had to change their name because of the similarly named O'Jays. To choose a new name William King opened a dictionary and randomly picked a word. "We lucked out," he remarked with a laugh when telling this story to People Weekly Magazine. "We almost became The Commodes!"



**687 Chuck Berry – “My Ding-A-Ling”**

Originally recorded by Dave Bartholomew in 1952.

According to the flip side of "My Ding-a-Ling" (a live version of "Johnny B. Goode"), the crowd refused to leave the Locarno ballroom after Berry's performance, as they demanded an encore. The public address announcer told the crowd that the next act, Pink Floyd, could not perform until the ballroom was cleared.

**686 Yvonne Elliman – “If I Can’t Have You”**

Written by and originally meant for the Bee Gees, but they gave it to Yvonne.

**685 Only Ones, the – “Another Girl, Another Planet”**

Though the band is often considered a one-hit wonder for the song, ironically even that label eludes them since "Another Girl, Another Planet" failed to chart anywhere in the world and has only gained its current recognition in the intervening decades.

**684 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, the – “Mr. Bojangles”**

Originally recorded by Jeff Walker in 1962.

**682 Kiss – “Deuce”**

According to Gene Simmons, he simply copped the bassline of The Rolling Stones' "Bitch" and played it more or less backwards. He says he wrote the entire song nearly linearly; the riff came first, then the bridge, then finally the chorus.



**681 Loretta Lynn – “Coal Miner’s Daughter”**

tells the story of her life growing up "in a cabin on a hill in Butcher Hollar", while her father worked all night in the Van Lear Coal Mine.

**680 Doobie Brothers, the – “Takin’ It To The Streets”**

It was the first to feature Michael McDonald on lead vocals.

**679 Clash, the – “Remote Control”**

The band virtually disowned the song, following their record label CBS's decision to release the song as a single without consulting the band. The band had already told Melody Maker magazine that their next single would be "Janie Jones", and were irate that CBS had undermined them and made a decision to release "Remote Control" instead without the band's permission. To the band, the song became a symbol of everything they were fighting against. The incident was referred to in the first lines of a later song, "Complete Control", which is on the 1979 US release of the album

**676 Stories – “Brother Louie”**

Originally recorded by Hot Chocolate in the same year (1973).

#### **674 Madness – “The Prince”**

The Prince" is a tribute to Jamaican ska singer Prince Buster who highly influenced Madness (the band took their name from one of his songs, "Madness", which they also covered on the b-side of "The Prince").

#### **673 Five Stairsteps, the – “Ooh Child”**

Daryl Hall and John Oates actually met at a "battle of the bands" type show at the Uptown Theater in Philadelphia in the late 60's that featured the Five Stairsteps as the featured act. As legend has it, the Stairsteps had just taken the stage when someone fired a pistol. Daryl & John who had never met and were playing in different bands that night both escaped to a freight



elevator. The chance meeting led to the biggest duo in music history. Hall and Oates actually do a remake of "Ooh Child" on their "Our Kind of Soul" disc in 2004 as a full circle tribute to the group that likely started their career together, although the song had probably not been written at the time of that performance.

#### **672 Bobby “Boris” Pickett – “Monster Mash”**

This song is from 1962, but took 11 years to gain success in England!

#### **669 Van Morrison – “Tupelo Honey”**

Bob Dylan (who performed the song with Morrison during a concert tour in the 1990s) once remarked that "'Tupelo Honey' has always existed and that Morrison was merely the vessel and the earthly vehicle for it".

#### **668 Blue Ridge Rangers – “Jambalaya”**

Blue Ridge Rangers = John Fogerty. The reason Fogerty chose to issue the album under The Blue Ridge Rangers name was to put some distance between himself and the Creedence legacy. “Jambalaya” was originally recorded by Hank Williams in 1952.

#### **666 Gerry Rafferty – “Baker Street”**

Rafferty is a former member of the group Stealers Wheel.

#### **665 Andy Gibb – “(Love Is) Thicker Than Water”**

A demonstration of the Gibb brothers' U.S. chart domination in 1978, this song replaced the song by Andy's brothers, the Bee Gees, with their #1 single "Stayin' Alive". This song was replaced at number one by the Bee Gees' own "Night Fever". This was then replaced by Yvonne Elliman's "If I Can't Have You". Since Barry Gibb had a hand in writing all four of these songs, he became the only person in history to write four consecutive US Number One singles; this feat has not been matched to this day.

#### **663 Siouxsie & The Banshees – “Hong Kong Garden”**

At the time, the lyrics fueled speculation that Sioux and members of the band were racist (a rumor the band has consistently denied) due to lines such as "Slanted eyes meet a new sunrise / A race of bodies small in size / Chicken Chow Mein and Chop Suey / Hong Kong garden takeaway".

#### **662 Frankie Valli – “Grease”**

Former singer of the Four Seasons, Valli now sings the theme song to the movie "Grease".

**661 Yes – "I've Seen All Good People"**

Listen for the "Instant Karma" and "Give Peace A Chance" references, from these Lennon fans.

**660 Allman Brothers Band, the – "Melissa"**

Duane Allman died in a motorcycle accident on October 29, 1971 in Macon, Georgia (at the corner of Hillcrest and Bartlett) when he lost control avoiding collision with a flatbed truck used to carry heavy pipe. The loss of their leader was hard for the group to bear, but they quickly decided to carry on.



**659 Magazine – "Shot By Both Sides"**

Formed by former Buzzcock Howard Devoto. Radiohead in particular draws on the lyrical style of the group, and have often performed "Shot By Both Sides" in concert. What's more, Radiohead's 1995 single "Just", with its ascending guitar hook, bears a passing resemblance to "Shot By Both Sides".

**658 Olivia Newton-John – "Have You Never Been Mellow?"**

Newton-John received a Grammy nomination for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for her work on the song "Have You Never Been Mellow," but lost to "At Seventeen" by Janis Ian.

**655 Stevie Wonder – "You Haven't Done Nothin'"**

Featuring background vocals by the Jackson Five!

**654 Seals & Crofts – "Get Closer"**

Jim Seals is the older brother of Dan Seals of England Dan and John Ford Coley.

**651 Pink Floyd – "Welcome to the Machine"**

The song explores the band's negativity towards the music industry and the whole of industrialized society. The song centers around an aspiring musician who is getting signed by a seedy executive to the music industry, "The Machine". The voice predicts all the boy's seemingly rebellious ideas ("You bought a guitar to punish your ma, you didn't like school, and you know you're nobody's fool") The boy's illusions of personal identity are further crushed with lines such as..."What did you dream, its alright we told you what to dream".

**649 Johnathan Richman & the Modern Lovers – "Roadrunner"**

As a teenager Richman saw the Velvet Underground perform many times, and the format of "Roadrunner" is derived directly from the Velvets' song "Sister Ray". Richman apparently loves 3 things: the Velvet Underground, rock and roll, and Massachusetts!

**647 Ringo Starr – "You're Sixteen"**

Originally recorded by Johnny Burnette in 1960. Paul and Linda McCartney sing backup vocals on this version.

**646 ZZ Top – "La Grange"**

The real origin of the bands name, as told by Billy Gibbons and also recorded in his book Rock + Roll Gearhead, is derived from the name of blues master B.B. King. They wanted to call themselves Z.Z. King but sounded too similar to their blues legend hero. They figured that "King" was at the "top" so thus settled on ZZ Top.

**645 Paul Simon – “Kodachrome”**

The song is named after the Kodak film Kodachrome. The song became a major hit in the United States, but it was not a hit in Britain, most likely because British radio would not play the trademarked name. Although Kodak required the album to note that Kodachrome is a trademark of Kodak, decades later Kodak used the song in commercials to sell film in the late 1990s.



**644 ABBA – “Take A Chance On Me”**

ABBA's success subsequently opened the doors for many other European acts. In November 2006 plans for an ABBA museum in Stockholm were announced. The idea has the backing of the band and the museum is expected to open in the spring of 2009.

**643 David Bowie – “Starman”**

The lyrics describe Ziggy Stardust bringing a message of hope to Earth's youth through the radio, salvation by an alien 'Starman'. The story is told from the point of view of one of the youths who hears Ziggy. According to Bowie himself, speaking to William S. Burroughs for Rolling Stone magazine in 1973, Ziggy Stardust is not the Starman but merely his earthly messenger – contrary to received opinion which often paints Ziggy as an extraterrestrial

**642 Kate Bush – “Wuthering Heights”**

In 1974 and only 16 years old Bush was signed by EMI Records on the recommendation of Pink Floyd's David Gilmour. With this song, Bush became the first woman to reach number one in the UK charts with a self-penned song

**641 Ike & Tina Turner – “Proud Mary”**

Originally recorded by Creedence Clearwater Revival in 1969.

**640 Aerosmith – “Come Together”**

Originally recorded by the Beatles in 1969.

**639 Electric Light Orchestra – “Evil Woman”**

It was in the United States that the band were first successful, billed as 'The English guys with the big fiddles'



**636 Rainbow – “Man On The Silver Mountain”**

Rainbow was formed by former Deep Purple guitarist Ritchie Blackmore and Ronnie James Dio was the original singer in the band (and is the vocalist on this song).

**635 Lynyrd Skynyrd – “That Smell”**

After an attempt to sober up ended in guitarist Gary Rossington getting drunk and high and crashing his new car into a tree, Van Zant was inspired to write a song about the consequences of drugs and alcohol.

**633 Bee Gees, the – “How Can You Mend A Broken Heart?”**

Despite popular belief, the group's name was not derived from "Brothers Gibb" or "Barry Gibb", but from the initials of Australian radio DJ Bill Gates and racetrack promoter Bill Goode

**631 Sly & The Family Stone – “Thank You (For Letting Me Be Myself)”**

“the Family Stone” was really the Family Stewart, as that was Sly, Freddie and Rose's real last name.

**629 Who, the – “See Me, Feel Me”**

"See Me, Feel Me" produced one of the most memorable moments of the 1969 Woodstock Festival. The Who performed it just as the sun and almost half a million concert goers were rising on the third morning of the festival. This was captured on film in *The Kids Are Alright* and *Woodstock*.

**628 Cat Stevens – “Another Saturday Night”**

Originally recorded by Sam Cooke in 1963.

**626 Three Dog Night – “Shambala”**

The song is about the mythical kingdom of Shambala, said to be hidden somewhere within or beyond the peaks of the Himalayas and mentioned in various ancient texts including the Kalachakra Tantra and ancient texts of Tibetan Buddhism

**625 Richard Hell & the Voidoids – “Blank Generation”**

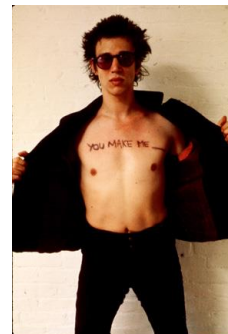
Hell was an originator of the punk fashion look, the first to spike his hair and wear torn, cut and drawn-on shirts, often held together with safety pins.

621 Linda Ronstadt – “Ooh Baby Baby”

Originally recorded by the Miracles in 1965.

**618 Sammy Johns – “Chevy Van”**

a song about a loose-loving man who picks up a woman while he's on the road.



**617 Pilot – “Magic”**

Although this song is a pop classic and has been on many commercials, it remains Scotland's Pilot's only hit song.

**614 Chicago – “Saturday In The Park”**

According to fellow Chicago member Walter Parazaider, Robert Lamm was inspired to write the song after a visit to New York City on July 4, 1971.

**612 Electric Light Orchestra – “Mr. Blue Sky”**

Reflecting Jeff Lynne's love of hidden messages, the coda to the song contains the barely discernible, heavily-vocoded words "Please turn me over". This message would make sense since on the 12" version of the album, it was the last song on the front side of the second disc.

**611 Queen – “Bicycle Race”**

To release this song, Queen staged a bicycle race with 65 naked girls. A clip from this race was used as the single cover. The video was originally banned, and the video had to be re-edited with colour added to censor out any offensive imagery. The song is famed for its 'bicycle bell solo', which fans would often replicate live at Queen concerts with their own such bells.

**609 Village People, the – “Macho Man”**

The band's name references New York City's Greenwich Village neighborhood, at the time known for having a substantial gay population. Band founders Jaques Morali and Henri Belolo got the inspiration for creating an assembly of American man archetypes based on the gay men of The Village who frequently dressed in various fantasy attire.

**607 Blondie – “Dreaming”**

Two former members of the original lineup were sisters Tish Bellomo and Eileen Bellomo (who is more commonly known as "Snooky"), who were both vocalists. The two left the band, and now they are famous for starting the company Manic Panic.

**606 Bob Dylan – “Tangled Up In Blue”**

The song contains one of the more famous mondegreens in rock and roll music: "We split up on a dark, sad night," understood by many listeners as "We split up on the docks at night."

**605 Supertramp – “Goodbye Stranger”**

The band was called Daddy from August 1969 to Early 1970, when the band became Supertramp, a name taken from W. H. Davies' 1908 novel *The Autobiography of a Super-Tramp*.



**604 Earth, Wind & Fire – “September”**

The song served as Al Gore's campaign theme during his 2000 US Presidential campaign.

**603 Janis Ian – “At Seventeen”**

Janis performed this live on the very first episode of Saturday Night Live in October 1975.

**602 Devo – (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction”**

Originally recorded by the Rolling Stones in 1965.



**601 Guess Who, the – “Share The Land”**

The Guess Who broke up in 1975.

**599 Eric Clapton – “Lay Down Sally”**

Although Clapton's grandparents had eventually told him the truth about his parentage — that he was the son of a Canadian serviceman — the precise identity of his father remained a mystery for many years. Clapton knew that his father's name was Edward Fryer, but few other details were known. This was a source of disquiet and speculation for Clapton.

A Toronto journalist named Michael Woloschuk researched Canadian Armed Forces service records and tracked down members of Fryer's family, finally piecing together the story that Clapton's father was Edward Walter Fryer, a musician (piano and saxophone) and a lifelong drifter, who was married several times, had several children and apparently never knew that he was the father of Eric Clapton. Clapton personally thanked Woloschuk in an encounter at Macdonald Cartier Airport, in Ottawa, Canada

**598 Elvis Presley – “The Wonder Of You”**

Originally recorded by Ray Peterson in 1959.

**596 Rolling Stones, the – “Tumbling Dice”**

"Tumbling Dice" was recorded in the basement of the chateau Villa Nellcôte, near Villefranche-sur-Mer, France. The recording schedule for *Exile on Main St.* had the band sleeping all day and recording with whomever was around at night.

**594 Alice Cooper – “Under My Wheels”**

Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols and Public Image Ltd. called *Killer* the greatest rock album of all time.

**593 Moody Blues, the – “Question”**

The name developed from a planned sponsorship from the M&B Brewery and was also a subtle reference to the Duke Ellington song, "Mood Indigo".

**591 Barry White – “You’re the First, the Last, My Everything”**

Peter Radcliffe originally wrote "You're the First, The Last, My Everything" as a country song with the title "You're My First, You're My Last, My In-Between", which went unrecorded for 21 years. White recorded it as a disco song, keeping most of the structure and two-thirds of the title, but he rewrote the lyrics.

**590 Jam, the – “Down in the Tube Station At Midnight”**

The back of the record jacket displayed a photo of Keith Moon, former drummer of The Who, who died of an overdose the month prior to the single's release.



**589 Eric Clapton – “I Shot The Sheriff”**

Originally recorded by Bob Marley & the Wailers in 1973. (that song is number 185 on this list).

**588 Alice Cooper – “Welcome To My Nightmare”**

Alice Cooper has 14 songs in this countdown.

**587 Bad Company – “Rock N Roll Fantasy”**

Bad Company was formed out of member of the bands Free, King Crimson and Mott the Hoople.

**586 Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel – “Make Me Smile (Come Up & See)”**

Cockney Rebel left Steve Harley before this song was written, in fact, the lyrics are directed at the band, who Harley felt abandoned him.

Paul Jeffreys of Cockney Rebel was killed in the 1988 Pan Am Flight 183 disaster.

**585 Van Morrison – “Jackie Wilson Said (I’m In Heaven When You Smile)”**

inspired by a line in Jackie Wilson's song "Reet Petite".

**583 Elton John – “Don’t Let The Sun Go Down On Me”**

The chorus of the song is supported with a horn arrangement by Del Newman, and features backing vocals of the Beach Boys' Carl Wilson and Bruce Johnston, and Toni Tennille.

**582 Eddie Money – “Baby Hold On”**

Money was sued by Ray Evans and Jay Livingston for plagiarizing the lyrics of the song "Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)". Money paid the damages in court.



**576 Eric Burdon & War – “Spill the Wine”**

Burdon received a phone call on 18 September 1970 from Monika Dannemann, informing him that her boyfriend Jimi Hendrix was not waking up and was unresponsive. He told her to call him an ambulance.

**575 Neil Young – “Cinnamon Girl”**

Young, along with Stephen Stills and Jim Messina (of Loggins & Messina) were all part of the 1960s band Buffalo Springfield.

**573 Natalie Cole – “This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)”**

Her debut and most successful single.

**571 AC/DC – “It’s a Long Way To The Top”**

On October 1, 2004 Melbourne, Australia's Corporation Lane was officially renamed "ACDC Lane" in honor of the band. This change was made in part because the music video for "It's A Long Way To The Top (If You Wanna Rock 'n' Roll)" was filmed on Melbourne's Swanston Street, near ACDC Lane. Bagpipers played "It's A Long Way To The Top (If You Wanna Rock 'n' Roll)" at the official renaming ceremony.



**570 Joan Baez – “The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down”**

Originally recorded by the Band in 1969.

**569 Jimmy Cliff – “The Harder They Come’**

Another one of the few Jamaican artists on the countdown. This was part of the soundtrack to the movie “They Harder They Come” which is a 1973 film about crime in Jamaica. Cliff also plays the main role in the film.

**568 Public Image, Ltd – “Public Image”**

In preparing their debut album, Public Image, the band spent their recording budget well before the record was completed. The members have since admitted that a significant amount was spent on drugs. As a result, the final album comprised eight tracks of varying sound quality, half of which were written and recorded in a rush after the money had run out.

**567 New York Dolls – “Personality Crisis”**

The original lineup's first performance was on Christmas Eve 1971 at a homeless shelter, the infamous Endicott Hotel. Their debut album was produced by Todd Rundgren.

**566 Van Morrison – “Domino”**

A musical tribute to Fats Domino.

**564 Bread – “Everything I Own”**

Ken Boothe’s cover of this song is also in the countdown at 973.

**563 Barry Manilow – “Ready To Take A Chance Again”**

In 1948, as a five-year old he recorded "Happy Birthday" with his grandfather in a coin-operated recording booth as a present for his cousin Dennis. [4] Twenty five years later, a sample of this recording, known as "Sing It," served as the opening track on his first album

**561 Johnny Cash – “One Piece At A Time”**

tells a story from the point of view of a Detroit auto worker who watches Cadillacs roll by day after day on the assembly line, all the while knowing that he will never be able to afford one on his salary. Envious, he decides to steal a Cadillac, avoiding getting caught by taking parts from the factory, as the title suggests, one piece at a time (presumably one part per day). The worker takes the small parts by hiding them in his large lunchbox, while larger parts are smuggled out via his friend's mobile home. Many years later, he finally achieves his goal, albeit with a very odd-looking vehicle: it was created from parts of many different models (years 1949 to 1973), requiring extensive effort to make all the parts fit together. The vehicle title weighed 60 pounds, requiring the entire staff at the courthouse to type it.

**559 Patti Smith Group – “Gloria”**

Originally recorded by Them in 1964.

**558 Television – “Marquee Moon”**





"Marquee Moon" developed from Television's early live shows in the mid-1970s, and even when first performed was an eight-minute epic with complex key changes. As it became more complex and challenging with repeated playing, Richard Hell was apparently forced to leave the band because he had not the requisite skill.

#### **557 Paul Simon – “Mother & Child Reunion”**

The song was recorded in Jamaica with singer Jimmy Cliff's backing group; guitarist Hucks (often "Hux") Brown and bassist Jackie Jackson were also long-time members of reggae legends Toots and the Maytals. Cissy Houston, mother of singer Whitney Houston, sang background vocals on this song.

#### **556 Van Halen – “Dance The Night Away”**

The first of 4 Van Halen songs in the countdown. David Lee Roth claimed, during a rant in a 2006 performance in San Diego, California, that he wrote this song in tribute to an intoxicated woman who was having sex in the back of a truck and ran with her pants on backwards into the bar where the fledgling band was playing to escape police officers.

#### **554 Johnny Rivers – “Swayin’ To the Music (Slow Dancin’)”**

Rivers is one of a small number of performers such as Paul Simon, Billy Joel, Pink Floyd (from 1975's *Wish You Were Here* onward), Queen, Genesis (though under the members' individual names and/or the pseudonym Gelring Limited) and Neil Diamond who have their name as the copyright owner on their recordings. (Most records have the recording company as the named owner of the recording.)



#### **553 Santana – “Evil Ways”**

The 1982 right-wing, Christian propaganda film *Rock: Its Your Decision* by Russ Doughten Films cites “Evil Ways” by title as an example of rock music’s soul-defiling capability.

#### **552 Elton John – “The Bitch Is Back”**

The song was inspired not by John or Taupin directly, but rather by Bernie Taupin's wife of the time. When discussing the *Caribou* album, Elton John threw one of his legendary tantrums. This led to Taupin's wife to claim "the bitch is back". Taupin then wrote the lyric.

#### **548 Fleetwood Mac – “Dreams”**

The song was the only U.S. number one hit for the group, and remains one of their best known songs. In the lyrics, a woman warns a man that he can be driven mad by loneliness in the wake of a broken love affair.

#### **547 Ohio Players, the – “Funky Worm”**

As I listened to and compiled this countdown there were a number of songs I recognized from commercials, cover songs, TV Shows, etc, and some were very surprising. None more so than this song, as I heard the funky worm was the, what I thought was so original, part of NWA's “Dope Man”.



#### **544 Who, the – “Love Reign O’er Me”**

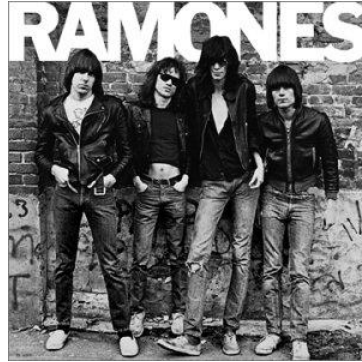
Roger Daltrey's vocal on this track has been widely praised, and is considered to be not only one of his best performances, but one of rock's overall best vocal performances

#### **543 Village People, the – “In The Navy”**

The music video for the song was shot with the help of the United States Navy which actually intended to use the song in promotional advertising until protests erupted over using taxpayer money for a music video of a controversial group

**541 Ramones, the – “Rockaway Beach”**

The initial version of the Ramones included Jeffrey Hyman on drums, John Cummings on guitar, and Douglas Colvin on bass and lead vocals. Colvin was the first to use the name Ramone, calling himself Dee Dee Ramone. He was inspired by the fact that Paul McCartney used the pseudonym Paul Ramone. He convinced the other members to take on the name, and came up with the idea of calling the band the Ramones.



**539 Bee Gees, the – “How Deep Is Your Love”**

In 1983, The Bee Gees were sued by a Chicago songwriter, Ronald Selle, who claimed that the Gibb brothers stole melodic material from one of his songs, "Let It End," and used it in "How Deep Is Your Love." At first, The Bee Gees lost the case. However, the verdict was overturned a few months later.

**538 Slade – “Cum On Feel The Noize”**

The song inspired Kiss to create their trademark rock anthem Rock and Roll All Nite.

**537 Led Zeppelin – “Immigrant Song”**

"Immigrant Song" is dedicated to the Icelander Leif Ericson. It is sung from the perspective of Vikings rowing west from Scandinavia in search of new lands.

**536 Chic – “Dance, Dance, Dance (Yowsah, Yowsah, Yowsah)”**

The "yowsah, yowsah, yowsah" of the title, which appears as a spoken interjection in the middle of the song, is a quotation from They Shoot Horses, Don't They?, a 1969 film about a Depression-era dance marathon.

**535 AC/DC – “TNT”**

A caricature of Angus Young can be seen on the cover of the 1994 Green Day album, Dookie. The image of Angus is located on the right-hand side of the cover. Young is standing on the roof of the building.

**533 Pink Floyd – “Time”**

Each clock was recorded separately in an antiques store.

**532 Marvin Gaye – “Mercy Mercy Me”**

this song, written solely by Gaye, became one of his most poignant anthems of sorrow at the world dealing with the environment.

**531 Paul McCartney & Wings – “Band On The Run”**

While in Lagos to record the album “Band On The Run”, both the McCartneys were mugged at knifepoint, and were accosted in the studio by legendary musician Fela Kuti for fear that Paul was plagiarizing African, and were persuaded to record at Ginger Baker's studio in Lagos by the man himself, once he heard that the McCartneys were in town. It was a most action-packed time, clearly, and one which only saw the recording of the ensuing album's backing tracks. The rest was recorded in London later.



**530 T. Rex – “20th Century Boy”**

The song did not feature on an original studio album but was included as a bonus track on a reissue of 1973 album Tanx.

**528 Aretha Franklin “Until You Come Back To Me”**

Originally recorded by Stevie Wonder in 1966.

**527 Joe Jackson – “Is She Really Going Out With Him?”**

Along with Elvis Costello and Graham Parker, Jackson was a part of the trio of British-based artists that challenged the punk scene and brought a New Wave sound to the United States in the late 1970s. He was popular for his power-pop and New Wave sound early on before moving to more eclectic, though less commercially successful, pop/jazz/classical musical pieces.

**526 Grateful Dead, the – “Sugar Magnolia”**

According to Deadbase X, "Sugar Magnolia" was the Dead's second-most played in concert song of their long career, with 596 performances, trailing only "Me & My Uncle".

**524 Undisputed Truth, the – “Smiling Faces Sometimes”**

The song was originally recorded by The Temptations in 1971. Producer Norman Whitfield had the song re-recorded by The Undisputed Truth the same year, resulting in a number-three Billboard Hot 100 for the group. "Smiling Faces" was the only Top 40 single released by the Undisputed Truth, and was included on their debut album *The Undisputed Truth*.



**523 David Bowie – “Heroes”**

Co-written by David Bowie and Brian Eno. While not a huge hit at the time, the song has gone on to become one of Bowie's signature tunes and is well-known today for its appearance in numerous advertisements. It has been cited as Bowie's most-covered song after "Rebel Rebel".

**521 Bread – “Make It With You”**

Bread very first single, and its only number 1 song.

**518 Alicia Bridges – “I Love The Nightlife (Disco Round)”**

Bridges had her own radio program on station WADA in Shelby, North Carolina at the age of 12. Her program, *The Alicia Bridges Show* was broadcast every Saturday. Occasionally, Bridges would sing on the show, but has said that what she is most proud of is that she “ran all the dials—the turntables—cued the records—and made all the announcements live on the air.”

**517 Creedence Clearwater Revival – “Travellin’ Band”**

Only the 2nd of 6 CCR songs in the countdown.

**516 David Bowie – “Space Oddity”**

Actually released as a single in 1969, it is about the launch of Major Tom, a fictional astronaut who becomes lost in outer space. Supposedly released to coincide with the Apollo 11 moon landing, it appears on the album of the same title. The BBC featured the song in its television coverage of the lunar landing.

**515 Herb Alpert – “Rise”**

Shortly after "Rise" became a hit in the United States, it became a hit in the United Kingdom when British disk jockeys were playing import copies of the record at the wrong speed (American 12-inch singles are played at 33 revolutions per minute, the same as an LP, while British and European 12-inch singles are played as 45 RPM).

**514 Parliament – “Flash Light”**

"Flash Light" marked a turning point in popular music, as it introduced the bass synthesizer into the forefront of its rhythm. Originally written for Bootsy Collins, it was re-worked as a Parliament song with Bernie Worrell on keyboards and lead vocals by bandleader George Clinton.



**513 Elton John – “Levon”**

The titular character's name derives from The Band drummer Levon Helm.

**512 Clash, the – “White Riot”**

This was the Clash's first single and is considered a classic in The Clash canon, although as the band matured, Mick Jones would at times refuse to play it, considering it crude and musically inept.

**510 Led Zeppelin – “Kashmir”**

Plant wrote the lyrics in 1973 while driving through the Sahara Desert in Morocco, despite the fact that the song is named for Kashmir, a region in the northernmost part of the Indian subcontinent. The original title was "Driving To Kashmir."

**509 Thin Lizzy – “Whiskey In The Jar”**

This is a traditional Irish song. Not written by Thin Lizzy.

"Whiskey in the Jar" is the tale of a highwayman who, after robbing a corrupt military or government official ("for you are a bold deceiver"), is betrayed by a woman named Jenny or Molly; whether she is his wife or sweetheart is not made clear. Various versions of the song take place in Kerry, Kilmagenny, Cork, Gilgarra Mountain, Sligo Town, and other locales throughout Ireland. The narrator of the song is not usually named. The only consistently named figures are the sweetheart who betrays the narrator, "Jenny"/"Molly", and the Anglo-Irish official, "Captain Farrell"/"Colonel Pepper", neither of which aids in the dating of the song. In some versions, the narrator remains imprisoned for his crime, in other versions, the narrator escapes from prison and flees the town of his imprisonment to pursue his love of 'the good life.'

**508 Jackson Browne – “Running On Empty”**

This song was recorded at a concert at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, Maryland on August 27, 1977.

**507 George McRae – “Rock Your Baby”**

Written and produced by Harry Wayne Casey and Richard Finch of KC and the Sunshine Band. They gave the song to George because they couldn't reach the high notes.

**505 Talking Heads – “Take Me To The River”**

Originally recorded by Al Green in 1974. (On this countdown at #1098)

**504 Bad Company – “Bad Company”**

The only song on the countdown where the artist and song are the same. 😊

**503 Tony Orlando & Dawn – “Candida”**

The song "Bitchin' Camaro" by Dead Milkmen contains the lines ' Bitchin' Camaro, Bitchin' Camaro / Donuts on your lawn / Bitchin' Camaro, Bitchin' Camaro / Tony Orlando and Dawn '

**502 Vicki Lawrence – “The Night The Lights Went Out In Georgia”**

Vicki was a regular on the Carol Burnett Show. The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia" was first offered to Cher, but her then-husband and manager Sonny Bono reportedly turned it down.

**501 Crystal Gayle – “Don’t It Make My Brown Eyes Blue”**



Crystal is Loretta Lynns younger sister (by nineteen years!).

**499 Steely Dan – “Rikki Don’t Lose That Number”**

This was Steely Dan’s only top 5 US hit. But its not their top song in this countdown.

**498 Miracles, the – “Love Machine (part 1)”**

it was one of two big hits by The Miracles featuring lead vocals by Billy Griffin, who replaced the group’s former lead singer Smokey Robinson in 1972.

**497 Billy Preston – “Nothing From Nothing”**

Billy’s only US Number 1 song. Preston had battled kidney disease in his later years, brought on by a lifetime of alcohol and drug abuse. Although he received a kidney transplant in 2002, his health continued to deteriorate. He died on June 6, 2006.

**495 Four Tops, the – “Ain’t No Woman (Like The One I’ve Got)”**

Frontman Levi Stubbs provided the voice of the carnivorous plant "Audrey II" in the movie version of the musical, Little Shop of Horrors (1986).

**494 Junior Murvin – “Police & Thieves”**

Co-written and produced by Lee “Scratch” Perry.

**493 Barry Manilow – “I Write The Songs”**

The title has been misunderstood to mean that the singer (or songwriter) "writes the songs," but the actual songwriter, The Beach Boys' Bruce Johnston, has stated that the "I" in the song is "music." He went on to say that songs come from the spirit of music in all of us: "I am music, and I write the songs."



**492 Morris Albert – “Feelings”**

Because of similarities of style "Feelings" is sometimes mistakenly associated with Barry Manilow, though Manilow has never recorded or performed the song.

**489 Cars, the – “Good Times Roll”**

The Cars were formed by Ric Ocasek and Benjamin Orr. They formed in Boston and were originally called Richard & The Rabbits.

**488 ABBA – “S.O.S.”**

"SOS" has a number of musical fans: John Lennon and Pete Townshend had both declared that it was one of their favourite pop songs. It sounds kinda like “Like A Prayer” by Madonna, no?

**487 Joe Cocker – “You Are So Beautiful”**

Originally written and recorded by Billy Preston in 1974. Though Cocker’s version ended up being much more popular.

**485 Neil Sedaka – “Laughter In The Rain”**

Ben Folds, an American pop singer; credited Neil Sedaka on his "iTunes Originals" album as being his inspiration when it came to song publishing. Hearing that Neil had a song published by the age of 13 gave Ben the goal of also getting a song published by his own 13th birthday.

**484 Peaches & Herb – “Shake Your Groove Thang”**

once comprising "Herb" Fame, and Francine "Peaches" Hurd Barker, Herb has remained a constant in "Peaches & Herb" since its creation in 1967, while five different women have filled the role of "Peaches". The Original duo was from Washington D.C.

**483 Alan O’ Day – “Undercover Angel”**

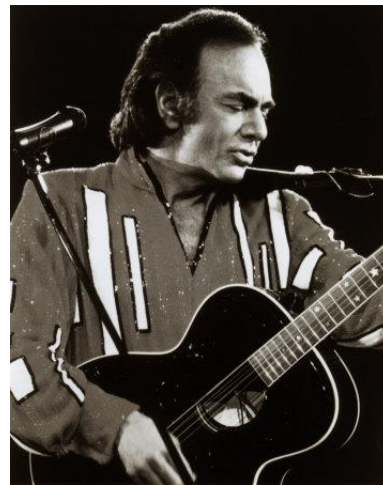
Ok, so maybe its only this high because it was number 1 on July 5, 1977. Alan also wrote a number of other songs on this countdown, including Helen Reddy’s “Angie Baby” and the Righteous Brothers “Rock & Roll Heaven”.

**482 Eagles, the – “Take It To The Limit”**

Vocals are by bassist Randy Meisner, who is, by the way, the only artist on the countdown to hail from Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

**481 Neil Diamond – “Cracklin’ Rosie”**

Cracklin' Rosie is a type of wine drunk by a native Canadian tribe that Diamond had visited in Canada. Apparently the tribe had more men than women. Cracklin' Rosie was the nickname they used for their homemade alcoholic brew, which the single men, who did not have dates, would sit around the fire and drink together.



**479 Five Man Electrical Band – “Signs”**

The only hit song for this quintet from Ottawa, Canada. The band would inspire the group Tesla to record a live album in 1990, Five Man Acoustical Jam, which included a cover of "Signs".

**477 Roxy Music – “Virginia Plain”**

Not a Bryan Ferry solo song, like listed on the countdown. It was written by Ferry but recorded as Roxy Music.

**476 Donna Summer – “Love To Love You”**

The Queen Of Disco has 8 songs in the countdown, and this is only the 3rd!

**475 Damned, the – “New Rose”**

Original Damned members Dave Vanian, Captain Sensible and Rat Scabies had been members of the Masters of the Backside, which included future Pretenders frontwoman Chrissie Hynde.

**474 Curtis Mayfield – “Superfly”**

Mayfield's career began in 1956 when he joined The Roosters with Arthur and Richard Brooks and Jerry Butler. Two years later The Roosters, now including also Sam Gooden, became The Impressions. In 1962, Jimi Hendrix opened for the Impressions, and apparently blew up Mayfield's amp one night.

**473 Faces, the – “Stay With Me”**

Yup, that's Rod Stewart singing! Rod left in 1975 for a solo career and that was the end of the Faces.

**471 Peter Frampton – “Show Me The Way”**

The intro to the song was one of Frampton's first to feature the Talkbox effect that he became known for. Frampton received the Talkbox in 1973 as gift from Bob Heil of Heil Sound who owned the patent for it at the time.

**470 Average White Band – “Pick Up The Pieces”**

It was the group's most successful song, and features one of the most recognizable grooves in funk music. It is essentially an instrumental, apart from the song's title being shouted at several points in the song.

**468 John Denver – “Rocky Mountain High”**

Primarily inspired by John Denver's move to Aspen, Colorado, United States three years earlier and his love for the state. The seventh stanza makes a reference to destruction of the mountains' beauty by commercial tourism. Its also now Colorado's official state song.



**467 Three Dog Night – “Mama Told Me Not To Come”**

Originally recorded by the Animals in 1967. The Three Dog Night version was number 1 the first week Casey Kasem hosted American Top 40 in 1970.

**466 Helen Reddy – “Delta Dawn”**

Helen Reddy is now a practicing Clinical Hypnotherapist based in Sydney and is Patron of the Australian Society of Clinical Hypnotherapists.

**465 Ian Dury & the Blockheads – “Sex, Drugs & Rock & Roll”**

The single did not chart, selling only around 19,000 copies (a small amount for a single in 1977) but won critical acclaim, a factor of this poor sales could be Stiff Record's singles deletion policy designed to promote initial sales and as such chart success, the original single was deleted after only two months.

**464 Rick Derringer – “Rock & Roll, Hoochie Koo”**

Along with Judas Priest, Derringer opened for Led Zeppelin at Zeppelin's last American tour.

**462 Stevie Wonder – “Sire Duke”**

The song was written about Duke Ellington, the great jazz artist who influenced Wonder's style. Ellington died in 1974 and the song was a tribute. The lyrics also refer to Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald.

**460 Debby Boone – “You Light Up My Life”**

Daughter of country music star Pat Boone. This song was written by Joe Brooks and originally recorded by Kasey Cisyk for the film “You Light Up My Life”. Boone's version was number one for 10 weeks on Billboards Hot 100.

**459 Sex Pistols, the – “Pretty Vacant”**

The first of four Sex Pistols songs on the countdown. Also, according to Glen Matlock (drummer) the riff was inspired by "S.O.S." by ABBA after hearing it on the radio.

**457 Andy Gibb – “I Just Want to Be Your Everything”**

This is the first single from Andy Gibb, co-written by brother and Bee-Gee, Barry. It was the first of 3 consecutive number 1 songs from Andy.

**456 Bee Gees, the – “You Should Be Dancin’”**

It was this song that first launched the Bee Gees into disco stardom, although rock-oriented drums and guitars can be heard in the background.

**455 Black Sabbath – “Iron Man”**

The Boston Red Sox all-star third baseman Mike Lowell uses this as his entrance song before every at-bat at Fenway Park

**454 Allman Brothers Band, the – “Jessica”**

Dickey Betts wrote this instrumental piece as a tribute to Django Reinhardt, as it only uses two fingers in the guitar part. Reinhardt was a famous jazz guitarist who could only use two fingers in his playing as a result of a childhood injury.

**452 Pretenders, the – “Stop Your Sobbing”**

Written by Ray Davies of the Kinks and produced by Nick Lowe.

**451 Chicago – “25 or 6 to 4”**

Lamm himself says that the title is "just a reference to the time of day," and that "the song is about writing a song. It's not mystical." The time of day in reference is 3:35 AM (or 3:34 AM), which would then be 25 (or 26) minutes to 4 AM.

**447 Toots & the Maytals – “Pressure Drop”**

Toots & The Maytals were invited to tour as the warm-up act for The Who during their North American Tour in 1975. The tour went poorly and Toots & The Maytals never went on the success of Bob Marley or Peter Tosh in the US



**445 Van Halen – “You Really Got Me”**

Originally recorded by the Kinks in 1964.

**444 Heart – “Barracuda”**

Ann Wilson revealed in interviews that the song was about Heart's anger towards Mushroom Records attempted publicity stunt involving sisters Ann and Nancy and a made up lesbian affair.

**443 Barry De Vorzon – “Nadia’s Theme”**

The melody, originally titled "Cotton's Dream", was written by De Vorzon and Botkin as incidental music for the 1971 theatrical film Bless the Beasts and Children. Two years later, Botkin wrote a rearranged version of the piece for The Young and the Restless; the show debuted on March 26, 1973. The melody was later renamed "Nadia's Theme" after the ABC television network lent the music for Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci's performance during the 1976 Summer Olympics. [

**442 REO Speedwagon – “Roll With The Changes”**

REO Speedwagon took its name from the REO Speed Wagon, a truck manufactured by the REO Motor Car Company (the predecessor to today's Nucor). ("R.E.O." are initials of the



company's founder, Ransom Eli Olds, who also founded the Oldsmobile division of General Motors.)

**441 Earth, Wind & Fire – “Boogie Wonderland”**

Though it was released in 1979, The song won the 1980 Grammy Award for Best R&B Instrumental Performance.

**439 Carpenters, the – “Superstar”**

Originally recorded by Delaney, Bonnie & Friends in 1969.



**437 Lou Rawls – “You’ll Never Find Another Love Like Mine”**

Rawls was a high school classmate of music giant Sam Cooke, and they sang together in the Teenage Kings of Harmony, a 50s gospel group.

**436 Olivia Newton-John – “I Honestly Love You”**

The song was Newton-John's first number-one single in the United States and Canada, thus cementing her as a household name in North America.

**435 Chairmen Of The Board – “Give Me Just A Little More Time”**

COTB were mostly the songwriting team of Holland-Dozier-Holland, who wrote countless Motown hits and are now in the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame.

**434 Cat Stevens – “Wild World”**

This song is in the form of the singer's words to his departing lover, inspired by Stevens' relationship with Patti D'Arbanville. Despite having continued feelings that are "breaking [his] heart in two," he accepts her decision and wishes her well, but warns her that life without him will not be so easy.



**432 Bonnie Tyler – “It’s A Heartache”**

Her only song in this countdown, and her biggest hit of the 1970s. She had another huge hit in the 80s with “Total Eclipse of the Heart”.

**430 A Taste Of Honey – “Boogie Oogie Oogie”**

One of 14 songs in this countdown with the word “Boogie” in the title.

**429 Linda Ronstadt – “You’re No Good”**

Originally recorded by Betty Everett & Dee Dee Warwick in 1963.

**428 Jackson Five, the – “Rockin’ Robin”**

Originally recorded by Bobby Day in 1958.

**427 Three Dog Night – “Black & White”**

Originally recorded by Sammy Davis Jr. in 1957. The song was inspired by the United States Supreme Court decision of Brown v. Board of Education that outlawed racial segregation of public schools.



**425 Al Green – “Love & Happiness”**

On October 18, 1974, Mary Woodson, a longtime friend of Al Green, assaulted him, then killed herself. It is believed that she ardently wished to be more than just a friend to Al Green. One night, she left the guest quarters, then entered the main section of the house without permission. She sneaked into his bathroom to make a surprise attack. With no warning whatsoever, she threw a large pot of sticky boiling grits over him as he was undressed and preparing to shower. As Al Green writhed in pain, she ran into another part of the house and committed suicide by shooting herself. The trauma of this incident deeply affected Green and he turned evermore toward God and his faith.

**423 Barry Manilow – “Mandy”**

Originally recorded as “Brandy” by Scott English in 1971.

**422 Thelma Houston – “Don’t Leave Me This Way”**

Originally recorded by Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes in 1975.

**420 Kiss – “Beth”**

When released as a single, however, "Beth" was initially as the B-side of "Detroit Rock City". But radio stations, particularly one in Atlanta, Georgia, began playing it more than "Detroit Rock City" and it quickly became a highly-requested selection. Kiss and Casablanca Records reissued "Beth" as a A-side with "Detroit Rock City" as the B-side and it was far more successful.

**419 Diana Ross – “Love Hangover”**

This song was released by Sylvester, Diana Ross & the Fifth Dimension almost simultaneously in 1976. It was written by Pamela Sawyer & Marilyn McLeod. It won Ross a Grammy nomination for Best R&B Female Vocal Performance.

**418 Bob Seger – “Rock & Roll Never Forgets”**

The 7th of 9 Bob Seger songs in the countdown!

**415 Temptations, the – “Ball Of Confusion”**

The lyrics list a multitude of problems that were tearing the world apart in 1970: the Vietnam War, segregation, white flight, drug abuse, crooked politicians, and more. "Round and around and around we go", the Temptations sing, "where the world's headed/nobody knows." The end of each section of the Temptations' lists of woes is punctuated by bass singer Melvin Franklin's line, "And the band played on."



**414 Eddie Holman – “Hey There Lonely Girl”**

After singing with such legendary Philadelphia groups as The Delfonics and The Stylistics, Holman finally struck personal gold in 1970 with this timeless love song. It was this song that would inspire Smokey Robinson to dub Holman, "The Man With The Voice Of An Angel."

**412 Dolly Parton – “I Will Always Love You”**

She has told numerous interviewers over the years that she wrote it for her one-time partner and mentor Porter Wagoner, with whom she was having a business splitting at the time.

**411 James Gang, the – “Funk #49”**

James Gang guitarist Joe Walsh probably had more solo success than the band, but here is their one big hit!



**410 Kinks, the – “Lola”**

"Lola" is a song written by Ray Davies and performed by the Kinks which details a romantic encounter between a man and a transvestite he meets in a Soho, London club.

**407 Genesis – “Follow You, Follow Me”**

This was the bands first American Top 40 hit.

**404 Commodores, the – “Three Times A Lady”**

Lionel Richie reportedly wrote the song about his love for a larger lady, hence 'Once, Twice, Three Times [the size of] a Lady'.

**403 Al Green – “Tired Of Being Alone”**

Though released on the 1971 album, Al Green Gets Next to You, the song was written in late 1968 and intended to be released on the 1969 album Green Is Blues. Problems occurred with the first recording, so it was postponed for production. It was altered and perfected the second time around.

**402 Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young – “Our House”**

The song refers to Nash's brief affair with Joni Mitchell at the time Crosby, Stills Nash and Young recorded the Déjà Vu album.

**400 Gary Wright – “Dream Weaver”**

Gary was a personal friend of George Harrison, and a former member of the band Spooky Tooth.



**399 Rufus – “Tell Me Something Good”**

Written by Stevie Wonder.

**398 Silver Convention – “Fly Robin Fly”**

This German act carries the distinction of being a Billboard chart-topper with one of the fewest numbers of unique words: six. The song was written with very few lyrics due to the group not being able to speak English, and therefore unable to memorize a page of lyrics in a language unfamiliar to them. The chorus simply repeats "Fly, robin, fly" three times, with an ending of "Up, up to the sky!"



**396 Eagles, the – “Heartache Tonight”**

This song was written by Don Henley, Glenn Frey, JD Souther & Bob Seger.

**394 Isley Brothers, the – “That Lady”**

Originally recorded by the same Isley Brothers in 1964, but they decided to remake their own song 10 years later, and it became their first top 10 hit in 6 years!



**392 Hues Corporation – “Rock The Boat”**

It was the first disco record to reach #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States.

**390 Neil Young – “Hey, Hey, My, My (Into The Black)”**

Inspired by proto-new wave artist Devo, the rise of punk and what Young viewed as his own growing irrelevance, the song today has become a song that crosses generations, inspiring admirers from punk to grunge and significantly revitalizing Young's then-faltering career. The song is about the alternatives of continuing to produce similar music ("to rust" or — in "My My, Hey Hey (Out of the Blue)" — "to fade away") or to burn out, as John Lydon did by abandoning his Johnny Rotten persona.

**388 Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young – “Ohio”**

"Ohio" is a protest song performed by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, and written by Neil Young in reaction to the Kent State shootings of May 4, 1970.

**385 Diana Ross – “Touch Me In The Morning”**

Charting for 20 weeks, this is Diana's longest charting solo hit in the US. The song marked a turning point in both the careers of Ross and Michael Masser (writer) as it reinvigorated Ross' singing career just as she was getting rave reviews for her acting debut in *Lady Sings the Blues* and introduced Masser to an audience that would become accustomed to his ballad-drenched songs.



**384 Rupert Holmes – “Escape (The Pina Colada Song)”**

This song was number one on the Hot 100 in 1979 and 1980, making it eligible for the 1980s countdown too!

**383 Three Degrees, the – “When Will I See You Again”**

Written by Kenny Gamble & Leon Huff, It sold 28 million copies in total internationally. Gamble and Huff have, both separately and together, written and produced over 170 gold and platinum records and were pioneers of Philadelphia soul and the in-house creative team for the Philadelphia International record label.

**382 Spinners, the – “I’ll Be Around”**

Written by Thom Bell, who wrote songs with Gamble & Huff. Small world.

**381 Ten Years After – “I’d Love To Change The World”**

Alvin Lee & Leo Lyons' only song on the 1970s countdown, as they broke up in 1974, and probably had the most success in 1969-1970, playing a blistering set at Woodstock and also playing Isle of Wright Festival in 1970.

**380 Peter Tosh – “Legalize It”**

Peter, once with the Wailers, was murdered in his home in Kingston, Jamaica on September 11, 1987. As Marley preached his "One Love" message, Tosh railed against the hypocritical "shitstem," and became a favorite target of the Jamaican police. He proudly wore his scars that he had received from the beatings he endured.



**379 Stephen Stills – “Love The One You’re With”**

In 1997, Stills became the first person to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice in the same night for his work with CSN and the Buffalo Springfield.

**378 Steve Miller Band – “Rock ‘N Me”**

If you were to drive from Phoenix, Arizona all the way to Tacoma and then to Philadelphia, Atlanta, LA. It would be about 7200 miles.

**376 Ted Nugent – “Cat Scratch Fever”**

While Cat Scratch Fever (or CSD) is an actual disease, its doubtful that’s what Ted is referring to.

**375 Kraftwerk – “Autobahn”**

German for “motorway”, the title track of their 1974 LP. This is not the 22 minute LP version, thankfully. This was their first Top 40 US Hit. It was also their first track to use sung lyrics.

**374 Eagles, the – “Take It Easy”**

The Eagles have eight songs in the top 500 and this is another. Co-written by Jackson Browne, this was the very first Eagles single. Browne later recorded the song for his second album.

**371 Barry White – “Cant Get Enough Of Your Love, Babe”**

This is Barry’s only US number 1 song, solo. He did reach number 1 with his Love Unlimited Orchestra’s “Love’s Theme”.

**370 Golden Earring – “Radar Love”**

"Radar Love" was the worldwide breakthrough hit by the Dutch rock band Golden Earring. The song is considered by many to be among the greatest "driving songs" ever due to its lyrics about driving all night, its up-tempo beat, and its catchy sing-along chorus.



**369 Peter Frampton – “Baby, I Love Your Way”**

Peter and David Bowie went to the same school, Bromley Technical School, where they played Buddy Holly songs on their lunch breaks.

**368 Aerosmith – “Sweet Emotion”**

It was 1975's Toys in the Attic that established Aerosmith as international stars competing with the likes of Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones. Originally derided as Rolling Stones knockoffs, Toys in the Attic showed that Aerosmith was a talented band in their own right.

**367 Joe Walsh – “Life’s Been Good”**

In it, he satirically reflects on the rockstar lifestyle ("My Maserati does 185 / I lost my license, now I don't drive"). Antics of all rockers of the era are reflected, such as the nod to Keith Moon and others: "I live in hotels/Tear out the walls." The 1979 Rolling Stone Record Guide called it "riotous", and "[maybe] the most important statement on rock stardom anyone has made in the late Seventies."



**365 Van Morrison – “Wild Night”**

Morrison suffers from stage fright when performing for large audiences. He once said in an interview about performing on stage, "I dig singing the songs

but there are times when it's pretty agonizing for me to be out there."

### **362 Rolling Stones, the – "It's Only Rock & Roll"**

We need a count on how many songs on the list David Bowie is on backing vocals. This is another one.

Recorded in the spring of 1974, "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (But I Like It)" is credited to usual Stones writers Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, but it is well known that Jagger wrote the song with the help of then-future Stones guitarist Ron Wood.

### **361 Elvis Costello – "Radio Radio"**

Costello wanted to play "Radio Radio" on SNL. Columbia Records, on the other hand, was interested in having an already-established song performed on SNL, to stoke the fires of interest in the band prior to the American release of *My Aim Is True* and *This Year's Model*. In the event, Costello began the SNL performance by playing "Less than Zero." However, after a few bars, he turned to the Attractions, waving his hand and yelling "Stop! Stop!," then said to the audience, "I'm sorry, ladies and gentlemen, there's no reason to do this song here," He then led the band in a performance of "Radio Radio." Costello was banned from Saturday Night Live for twelve years.



### **360 Johnny Cash – "Man In Black"**

Cash himself was known as "The Man in Black" for his distinctive style of on-stage costuming. Black.

### **359 Curtis Mayfield – "Move On Up"**

In 1970, Mayfield left The Impressions and began a solo career, founding the independent record label Curtom Records. Curtom would go on to release most of Mayfield's landmark 1970s records, as well as records by the Impressions, Leroy Hutson, The Staple Singers, and Mavis Staples, and Baby Huey and the Babysitters, a group which at the time included Chaka Khan. Many of these records were also produced by Mayfield.



### **358 Ram Jam – "Black Betty"**

"Black Betty" is a 20th century African-American work song often credited to Huddie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter as the author, though the earliest recordings are not by him.

### **357 Hollies, the – "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother"**

Released December 1, 1969, this song is one of the oldest on the list. But certainly one of the best. Elton John is on the pianos on this one too.

### **355 Charles Wright & Watts 103rd St. Band – "Express Yourself"**

The name, Watts 103rd Street Rhythm Band was originally coined by Los Angeles producer and Keymen Records owner Fred Smith in 1967. However, between 1967 and 1968, the Watts 103rd name applied to four different personnel configurations before settling into the final band who played on every Watts 103rd album from 1968 forward.

**354 Clash, the – “Lost In The Supermarket”**

The Clash had their first gig on July 4, 1976, supporting the Sex Pistols. Leading up to the gig, Simonon stated that he felt the band weren't good enough to play a live show. He decided to go on with it after meeting with Johnny Ramone earlier that day, who told him, "We stink. You don't have to be good, just get out there and play".



**351 Doobie Brothers, the – “What A Fool Believes”**

Written by Michael McDonald and Kenny Loggins.

**350 Eric Clapton – “Wonderful Tonight”**

The song is a narrative, dealing with a party the pair attended. Each of the three verses is a scene from a part of the night: preparing for the party, going to the party, and coming home from the party. In each scene, he mentions how wonderful she is: how beautiful she looks while preparing for the party, how happy he is to be at the party with her, and how grateful he is that she puts up with him after he drinks a bit too much.

**348 Pink Floyd – “Shine On You Crazy Diamond”**

One day, a heavysset man with a completely shaved head and eyebrows wandered into the studio while the band was recording "Shine On You Crazy Diamond," The band could not recognize him for some time, when suddenly one of them realized it was Syd Barrett. At that time, Barrett had gained a lot of weight and had shaved off all of his hair, including his eyebrows, and the seven-year gap meant that it took some time for his ex-band mates to identify him.

When they eventually recognized Barrett, Waters was so distressed he was reduced to tears.[2] Someone asked to play the song again and Barrett said a second playback wasn't needed when they'd just heard it. Apparently, when "Wish You Were Here" was played, "He [Barrett] stood up and said, 'Right, when do I put my guitar on?'" keyboardist Rick Wright recalled. "And of course, he didn't have a guitar with him. And we said, 'Sorry, Syd, the guitar's all done.'"[3]

**345 Iggy & the Stooges – “Search & Destroy”**

The Stooges disbanded in 1974 as a result of Iggy's heroin addiction.

**343 Bad Company – “Feel Like Makin’ Love”**

Not to be confused with Roberta Flack's song of the same name. This is a hard rocking top 10 hit, from Bad Company.

**342 Bee Gees, the – “Tragedy”**

In 1979, NBC aired The Bee Gees Special which showed how the sound effect for the explosion was created. Barry cupped his hands over a microphone and made an exploding sound. Several of these sounds were then mixed together creating one large boom heard on the record.

**340 Bruce Springsteen – “Thunder Road”**

The lyrics to "Thunder Road" describe a young woman named Mary, her suitor, their desperate lives and their "one last chance to make it real." Thematically, it reads as a nostalgic companion piece to "Born to Run".

**339 Grand Funk Railroad – “Some Kind Of Wonderful”**

Not to be confused with the Gerry Goffin / Carole King song of the same name. Though Grand Funk did record a cover of “the Loco-Motion” which is a Goffin/King written song and is later on in this countdown.

**338 Amii Stewart – “Knock On Wood”**

Originally recorded by Eddie Floyd in 1967. It was her only American pop chart hit and as a result she is considered a one hit wonder, although she also achieved several Top 10 and Top 20 U.S. dance chart hits.

**337 Alice Cooper – “I’m Eighteen”**

This is the song that Johnny Rotten mimed to at the Sex boutique, which got him the job of lead singer of the Sex Pistols.

**336 Eagles, the – “Desperado”**

Accompanied by Glenn Frey on piano, the lead vocalist, Don Henley, begs the subject of the song, a "desperado", to return home, and tells him that the things he enjoys doing will hurt him eventually.

**335 Hall & Oates – “Rich Girl”**

Several years later, Hall read an interview with David Berkowitz, the Son of Sam killer, in which Berkowitz claimed that "Rich Girl" had motivated him to murder (though interestingly, the song was not released until after the Son of Sam murders had already begun, casting doubts on that suggestion).

**334 David Bowie – “Rebel Rebel”**

This was effectively Bowie's farewell to the glam movement that had made him a star.

**333 Clash, the – “(White Man) In Hammersmith Palais”**

"(White Man) In Hammersmith Palais" helped The Clash assert themselves as a more versatile band musically and politically than many of their peers, and it broke the exciting but limiting punk mould that had been established by the Sex Pistols; from now on The Clash would be "the thinking man's yobs".

**330 Doobie Brothers – “Black Water”**

Vocals on this track by Patrick Simmons. Simmons is the one constant member of the ever-evolving Doobie Brothers. He has played on every album and participated in every tour the band has undertaken. When he finally quit after the 1981 tour, new leader Michael McDonald and the remaining members decided to disband rather than continue without him. True to form, he rejoined for a farewell tour in 1982.



**329 Chi-Lites, the – “Oh Girl”**

"Oh Girl" was the Chi-Lites first and only Number one single on the Billboard Hot 100, peaking at that position in May of that year for one week.

**328 Barry Manilow – “Copacabana”**



The song's title refers to the famous New York City nightclub, the Copacabana night club. As per the lyrics "... at the Copa, Copacabana, hottest spot north of Havana ...", and tells the story of Lola, a showgirl, and her lover Tony, a bartender at the club. This is the last of Barry's 10 songs in this countdown.

### **326 Paul Simon – “Still Crazy After All These Years”**

This album won the Grammy Award for Album of the Year in 1976. Simon's acceptance speech for the Album of the Year award was memorable in that he jokingly thanked Stevie Wonder, who had won the award the two previous years for Innervisions and Fulfillingness' First Finale, for not releasing an album that year.

### **324 Carly Simon – “Nodody Does It Better”**

Written by Marvin Hamlisch, Carly recorded this for the 1977 film James Bond film The Spy Who Loved Me.

### **321 Eric Clapton – “Cocaine”**

Originally recorded by J. J. Cale in 1976. When the album was first released, radio stations refused to play "Cocaine," for obvious reasons. Considering his limited fame, Cale was very easy to say no to at the time, but when Eric Clapton recorded it a year later, stations started to play it.

Cale also wrote Clapton's hit “After Midnight”.

### **320 Fleetwood Mac – “Say You Love Me”**

In what would be one of the more bizarre events in rock history, the band's manager, Clifford Davis, claimed that he owned the name Fleetwood Mac and put out a "fake Mac". Fans were told that Bob Welch and John McVie had quit the group, and that Mick Fleetwood and Christine McVie would be joining the band at a later date, after getting some rest. Fleetwood Mac's road manager, John Courage, worked one show before he realized that the line being used was a lie. Courage ended up hiding the real Fleetwood Mac's equipment, which helped shorten the tour by the fake band. But the lawsuit that followed put the real Fleetwood Mac out of commission for almost a year.



### **319 War – “Why Can't We Be Friends”**

It was played in space when NASA beamed it to the linking of Soviet Cosmonauts and U.S astronauts in 1975.

### **318 Queen – “Fat Bottomed Girls”**

The original cover to the album was different, however, the record company made them change the cover.



### **316 Doobie Brothers, the – “China Grove”**

The song is based on a real town in Texas with the same name. The connection is obvious given its real-life proximity to San Antonio, which is referenced in the lyrics. However, the rest of the song is largely a fictional account portraying China Grove as Texas' version of Chinatown. Notable is the mention of samurai, who in fact are Japanese, not Chinese.

### **315 Santana – “Oye Como Va”**

Originally recorded in 1963 by Tito Puente.

**313 Elton John – “Saturday Night’s Alright For Fighting”**

This song was the only song that came out of Elton's time in Jamaica, where he was going to finish the rest “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road”, but he only wrote this song because of riots happening while he was in Kingston, Jamaica. After the writing of this song, John went back to France to finish the album.

**312 Bob Dylan – “Hurricane”**

A protest song about the imprisonment of Rubin “Hurricane” Carter.

**310 Doors, the – “L.A. Woman”**

Jim Morrison sang his vocals for the song in the bathroom of the recording studio in order to get a fuller sound.

This would be their last hit before Jim Morrison’s death.

**308 Pink Floyd – “Hey You”**

Though it is on the Pink Floyd double disc “The Wall”, it does not appear in the movie of the same name.

**307 Eagles, the – “Life In The Fast Lane”**

Written by Glenn Frey , Don Henley & Joe Walsh. Glenn Frey revealed that the title came to him one day when he was driving on the freeway with a friend of his and when Glenn told the friend to slow down the friend responded what do you mean, we are in the fast lane.

**305 Foghat – “Slow Ride”**

This was Foghat's top single, peaking at number 20.

**303 John Denver – “Annie’s Song”**

"Annie's Song" was written as an ode to Denver's then-wife, Annie Denver (née Martell). The song has since become a wedding standard and an expression of love for many people, due to its grand imagery and the fact it could apply to anyone (Annie is not mentioned by name in any part of the song).

**302 Jacksons, the – “Shake Your Body”**

"Shake Your Body" sold over two million copies, attaining double-platinum status from the Recording Industry Association of America.

**300 Creedence Clearwater Revival – “Up Around the Bend”**

Though hailing from the Bay Area of California, the group was influenced by the swamp blues genre that came out of south Louisiana in the late 1950s and early to mid-1960s. CCR cultivated a Louisiana connection through its choice of song and album titles, such as "Born on the Bayou," Bayou Country, and Mardi Gras, as well as through the southern "good ol' boy" image projected by its members.

**299 Supertramp – “Give A Little Bit”**

The song became even more famous for its appearance in the 1978 film Superman, where ten seconds of the song were heard just prior to the earthquake sequence.

**298 Styx – “Come Sail Away”**

Styx is the first band to have 4 consecutive albums certified Multi-Platinum by the RIAA.

**296 Led Zeppelin – “Whole Lotta Love”**

The song entered the Billboard Top 40 singles chart on December 6, 1969. It remained on the chart for 13 weeks, peaking at #4 and becoming the band's only Top 10 single in the US.

**295 Paul Simon – “50 Ways To Leave Your Lover”**



It was written after Simon's divorce from first wife Peggy Harper and takes a humorous look at ways to end a relationship: "Just slip out the back, Jack / Make a new plan, Stan." Studio drummer Steve Gadd created the unique drum beat that became the hook and colour for the song consisting of an almost military beat. The song was recorded in a small New York City studio in the heart of Broadway.

**294 Stevie Wonder – “Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I’m Yours”**

The song was a series of firsts for the 20-year-old Wonder: "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" was the first single Wonder produced on his own, and was also the first to feature his female backup singing group Wonderlove. This song also marked Wonder's first Grammy nomination.

**292 Toto – “Hold The Line”**

Prior to the band's formation in 1977, the members of Toto were regulars on albums by the likes of Steely Dan[4], Seals and Crofts[5], Boz Scaggs[6], Sonny and Cher[7], and many others, contributing to many of the most popular records of the 1970s

The song was the band's very first single, and was featured on their debut self-titled album. It was also a top five single in the US during the winter of 1978-79.

**291 Marvin Gaye – “Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Holler)”**

The song helped Gaye make history by being one of the few artists to have three or more Top 10 songs off Billboard's Pop Singles chart peaking at #9 and one of the first to have three consecutive #1 hits on Billboard's R&B Singles chart where it stayed for two weeks.



**290 Beatles, the – “The Long & Winding Road”**

It became The Beatles' last #1 song in the United States on 13 June 1970.

**289 Bob Marley – “Jammin’”**

Marley & the Wailers have eight songs in the countdown, all in the Top 1000. This is only the fourth one.

**288 Van Morrison – “Into The Mystic”**

Containing perhaps one of the top ten lyrics of this whole countdown: “I want to rock your gypsy soul”.

**287 Kansas – “Carry On My Wayward Son”**

Yes, they are from Kansas.

**286 Paul McCartney – “Maybe I’m Amazed”**

McCartney wrote the song in 1969, just after The Beatles' breakup. He credited his wife Linda with helping him get through the difficult time. This is one of the four songs that he wrote for her, the other three being "I Will", "The Lovely Linda" and "My Love".

**284 Dead Boys, the – “Sonic Reducer”**

A few months after the breakup in 1979, the band had to reunite to record a live album and thus fulfill their contractual obligations. To exact revenge on the label, singer Stiv Bators purposely sang off mic and the resulting recording was unusable.

**283 Fleetwood Mac – “Don’t Stop”**

It was famously used by US presidential candidate Bill Clinton for his first campaign. Upon winning the election, President Clinton persuaded the then-disbanded group to reform to perform it for his inaugural ball in 1993.

**282 Heart – “Magic Man”**

"Magic Man" became Heart's first Top 10 hit in the United States, peaking at No. 9 on the Billboard Hot 100.

**281 Who, the – “Squeeze Box”**

"Squeezebox" is a slang term for accordions and related instruments, but it is also slang for vagina.

**280 James Taylor – “Handy Man”**

Originally recorded by Jimmy Jones in 1959.

**279 John Denver – “Take Me Home (Country Roads)”**

The song is the theme song of West Virginia University and has been performed at every home football pre-game show since 1972.

**278 Steely Dan – “Reelin’ In The Years”**

Legendary Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page has said that Elliott Randall's solo on Reelin' in the Years is his favorite guitar solo of all-time.

**276 Queen – “Killer Queen”**

It was their breakthrough hit, reaching #2 in the UK in early 1975.

**275 Van Halen – “Runnin’ With The Devil”**

In many ways, this track is the song that started it all, being the first song from the first album and that it sets the tone for the Van Halen attitude when David Lee Roth was the singer in the band.



**274 Shocking Blue, the – “Venus”**

The bands only number 1 hit. The bands only hit, actually.

**273 Warren Zevon – “Werewolves Of London”**

Featuring accompaniment by bassist John McVie and drummer Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac.

**270 Bay City Rollers – “Saturday Night”**

Formely the Saxons and seeking a less English-sounding moniker, they chose a new name allegedly by throwing a dart at a map of the United States. The dart landed on the map in the state of Arkansas, but since "Arkansas Rollers" did not sound quite right, and might also lead to problems with pronunciation, they tried again and this time the dart landed near the community of Bay City, Michigan.



**269 Led Zeppelin – “Over The Hills & Far Away”**

The song was first called "Many, Many Times", as shown on a picture of the original master on the Led Zeppelin website.

**268 Harry Chapin – “Cat’s In The Cradle”**

It was written by Harry's wife Sandy, a poet and writer, long before the birth of their son Joshua. When Sandy showed it to Harry, he had only casual interest. After Joshua's birth, Harry realized just how much the song meant to him and, after reworking the song, eventually recorded it. The song became the best known of Harry's work and a staple for folk rock music.

**266 Simon & Garfunkel – “Cecilia”**

The album “Bridge Over Troubled Water” has sold over 25 million copies worldwide.

**263 Joni Mitchell – “Big Yellow Taxi”**

Mitchell got the idea for the song during a visit to Hawaii. She looked out of her hotel window at the spectacular Pacific mountain scenery, and then down to a parking lot.

**262 Plastic Bertrand – “Ça Plane Pour Moi”**

Twenty years after Ça plane pour moi, Bertrand returned to the public eye as MTV declared him the "most wanted comeback artist".



**261 Tony Orlando & Dawn – “Knock Three Times”**

In the song, the narrator tells his beautiful downstairs neighbor, whom he's never met, but nonetheless is in love with, that she should knock on the ceiling three times, if she wants to meet him, twice on the radiator pipe, if she is not interested.

**260 Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band – “Night Moves”**

Released as a single, it charted in early 1977 and eventually reached number 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 pop singles chart. In doing so, it almost single-handedly changed Seger from being a popular regional favorite into a national star.

**259 Who, the – “Who Are You?”**

According to Townshend, the song is about an encounter he had with Steve Jones and Paul Cook of the Sex Pistols after a difficult 13-hour meeting with Allan Klein related to song royalties. Later, the drunken Townshend was awakened outside the bar by a policeman, but the man offered to let him go if he could "get up and walk away."

**258 John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John – “You’re the One That I Want”**

The single was number one in the UK for nine weeks in the summer of 1978, and as of 2005, is number six on the List of best-selling singles for that country where it sold over 1,975,000 copies (3x platinum). It also reached number one on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 for one week, where it sold over 2 million copies. It was the first of two songs from the Grease soundtrack to top the U.S. and UK pop charts

**257 Blue Swede – “Hooked On A Feeling”**

Originally recorded by B.J. Thomas in 1969.

**256 Earth, Wind & Fire – “Shining Star”**

This song is not only Earth, Wind & Fire's first major hit, but it is also their only song to hit #1 on both the U.S. Hot 100 and the U.S. R&B/Hip-Hop.

**254 Rolling Stones, the – “Miss You”**

"Miss You" would be one of the last truly huge Stones singles, becoming their eighth number-one hit in the U.S. on its initial release in 1978.



**252 Cure, the – “Boys Don’t Cry”**

"Boys Don't Cry" was the second single to be released by The Cure, released in June 1979.

**250 Eagles, the – “Best Of My Love”**

The song became the band's first number 1 single.

**249 K.C. & the Sunshine Band – “Boogie Shoes”**

Appearing on the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack, 12 of the 17 songs on this soundtrack are in the Top 1750.

**248 George Benson – “The Greatest Love of All”**

Recorded for the movie “The Greatest” about Muhammad Ali.

**247 Moody Blues, the – “Nights In White Satin”**

The spoken-word poem, which is heard near the six-minute mark in the song, is called Late Lament. It was written by drummer Graeme Edge and was read by keyboardist Mike Pinder. On Days of Future Passed, the poem's last five lines bracket the album, appearing also at the end of track 1 (“The Day Begins”).

**246 Frankie Valli – “Me Eyes Adored You”**

The single was Valli's first number one hit as a solo artist, and remained at number one for one week. Although it was released as a Valli solo effort, the song is sometimes included on Four Seasons compilation albums.

**245 Rare Earth – “Get Ready”**

Originally recorded by the Temptations in 1966.

**244 Eagles, the – “One Of These Nights”**

There are 15 Eagles songs in this countdown, and this is the 14th. One more to go, and its not for a while!



**243 Gilbert O' Sullivan – “Alone Again (Naturally)”**

In Casey Kasem's American 'Top 40 of the 1970s', "Alone Again (Naturally)" was #5

A song from the 1971 film Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. It was written by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley specifically for the film

**241 BJ Thomas – “Raindrops Keep Rallin On My Head”**

written by Hal David and Burt Bacharach. The version by B. J. Thomas was number one on the Billboard Hot 100 list in the United States in January, 1970.

**238 KC & the Sunshine Band – “I'm Your Boogie Man”**

The group was formed by Richard Finch and Harry Wayne Casey ("KC"), a record store employee and part-timer at TK Records in Miami.

**237 Jimmy Buffett – “Margaritaville”**

The song was a chart hit in the United States when it was released and contemporary popular culture references and remakes attest to its continuing popularity. It reached #8 on Billboard Hot 100 chart, topped the Easy Listening (Adult Contemporary) chart at #1, and peaked at #13 on the Hot Country Songs chart. It remains Buffett's highest charting solo single.

**236 Commodores, the – “Easy”**

Written by Commodores lead singer Lionel Richie, the song, a slow ballad with country and western roots, expresses a man's feelings as he leaves his lover and ends their

relationship. Since the narrator finds the girlfriend to be a bit of a drag, rather than being depressed about the break-up, he states that he is instead "easy like Sunday morning."

### **235 Grand Funk Railroad – “The Loco-Motion”**

Originally recorded by Little Eva in 1962.

### **233 Billy Joel – “My Life”**

Chicago members Peter Cetera and Donnie Dacus performed the backing vocals and sang along with Billy Joel during the bridge and in the outro ("Keep it to yourself, it's my life").

### **232 Elvis Costello – “Watching the Detectives”**

Released in 1977, this is Costello's first charting hit, though it was his fourth single overall. The Song went to #16 in the UK but didn't quite crack the US Hot 100. (He didn't do that until 1983).

### **231 Donna Summer – “MacArthur Park”**

Originally recorded by Richard Harris in 1968.

### **230 Van McCoy – “The Hustle”**

The Hustle is a catchall name for several disco dances which were extremely popular in the 1970s. Today it mostly refers to a unique partner dance done in ballrooms and nightclubs. It has some features in common with swing dance. In the 1970s there was also a line dance called the Hustle -- which is regaining popularity as people throw 70's theme parties or schools have 70's dance performances. Modern partner hustle is sometimes

Donna Summer

referred to as New York Hustle.



### **229 Four Seasons, the – “December, 1963 (Oh, What A Night)”**

The song was originally about the repeal of Prohibition, but the lyrics were changed at the urgings of Valli and lyricist Parker. The song became a nostalgic remembrance of a young man's "first time" with a woman.

### **228 Gary Numan – “Cars”**

Numan was formerly in the band Tubeway Army. It reached the top of the charts in several countries and today is considered a New Wave staple. However, its popularity was so enormous that it overshadowed much of the rest of Numan's career in the 1980s, causing him to be thought of in later years as a one-hit wonder in many countries.

### **227 Emotions, the – “Best Of My Love”**

The single achieved huge success remaining on top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart for 5 non-consecutive weeks.

### **226 Rolling Stones, the – “You Can’t Always Get What you Want”**

It features the London Bach Choir powerfully opening the song, highlighting throughout, and bringing it to an uproarious conclusion.

### **225 Jethro Tull – “Aqualung”**

Reportedly, Jimmy Page entered the studio, while Martin Barre was recording the guitar solo. It was during the first take, Martin didn't know Jimmy much, and was a little ashamed. Jimmy waved to Martin from the control room while he was playing, and Martin stopped playing for a short second, and waved with his right hand, while still sustaining the sound with the left hand. The solo on the record is actually this first take. Indeed, there is a short sustain with feedback during the



solo. Anderson once joked that if you turn up the volume you can even hear Martin waving

#### **224 Eric Clapton – “After Midnight”**

Written by JJ Cale. "After Midnight" was also in many ways the catalyst for Cale's solo recording career. Cale, languishing in obscurity, was unaware of Clapton's recording of the song until it became a radio hit in 1970.

#### **221 Creedence Clearwater Revival – “Lookin’ Out My Back Door”**

The song's lyrics, filled with colorful, dream-like imagery, led some to believe that the song was about drugs. According to the drug theory, the "flying spoon" in the song was a cocaine spoon, and the crazy animal images were an acid trip.[1] Fogerty, however, has stated in interviews that the song was actually written for his then three year old son, Josh and that he was writing from the viewpoint and imagination of a child. "I knew he would love it if he heard me on the radio singing - doot doot doo, lookin' out my back door", Fogerty has stated.

#### **220 Captain & Tennille – “Love Will Keep Us Together”**

Originally recorded by Neil Sedaka in the 1960s. But its Captain & Tennille's debut single and was number 1 for 4 consecutive weeks in 1975 and was the number 1 single of the whole year. It also won the Grammy for Record of the Year.



#### **219 Kiss – “Detroit Rock City”**

The song was written by Paul Stanley and Bob Ezrin and is about a real Kiss fan who was killed in a car accident on his way to a Kiss concert

(In the intro you can hear a report on a car accident).

#### **218 KC & the Sunshine Band – “(Shake, Shake, Shake) Shake Your Booty”**

The song became their third number-one hit on the Billboard Hot 100, and is currently considered one of the most popular disco songs in history. The song was originally controversial, since the lyrics were interpreted by many as having sexual connotations.

#### **216 Cars, the – “Just What I Needed”**

This song first appeared in 1977 on a Boston radio station, WBCN, as a demo tape for The Cars. Shortly after it became the radio's most requested song.

#### **214 Ramones, the – “Rock N’ Roll High School”**

A film of the same title was made in 1979 about high schoolers and Ramones fans in particular. Though the movie was initially supposed to be about Cheap Trick.

#### **213 Boston – “Peace Of Mind”**

Founder Tom Scholz was not from Boston, but an MIT graduate. The band formed in Boston though.

#### **211 Talking Heads – “Life During Wartime”**

The song's lyrics tell of a civil insurrection in the USA (the cities Houston, Detroit and Pittsburgh are mentioned by name) with the singer commenting on various activities involving an apparent guerrilla movement.



**210 Michael Jackson – “Don’t Stop ‘Til You Get Enough”**

The song was written and composed by Jackson himself in late 1978, with Quincy Jones producing.

**209 Kansas – “Dust In The Wind”**

It peaked at #6 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart the week of February 18, 1978, making it Kansas's only top ten Billboard Hot 100 charting single.

**208 Elvis Costello – “(What’s So Funny ‘Bout) Peace, Love & Understanding”**

Originally written and recorded by Nick Lowe. Lowe was Costello’s producer and when the song became a hit, quickly gave the song to Costello for his album Armed Forces.

**207 Stealers Wheel – “Stuck In the Middle With You”**

The song was released on their 1972 self-titled debut album "Stealers Wheel". The song is often mistaken as being performed by Bob Dylan, which was always believed to be the performers intention. The single sold over one million copies, climbing up to eventually the top 10 on both the US and UK pop charts.



**205 Helen Reddy – “I Am Woman”**

The song reached #1 on the Billboard charts in December 1972. It was the first No.1 in the Billboard chart by an Australian artist and the first Australian-penned song to win a Grammy Award (in her acceptance speech for Best Female Performance, Reddy famously thanked "God, because She makes everything possible"). It sold more than a million copies, has been played more than a million times on US radio, and helped propel Reddy to a successful pop career which made her more than \$40 million in America.

**204 Jean Knight – “Mr. Big Stuff”**

In May 1970, Knight went to Malaco Studios in Jackson, Mississippi for a recording session in which she recorded "Mr. Big Stuff." After the session was finished, the song was given to several national labels, who all rejected it.

**203 Elton John – “Daniel”**

John and lyricist Bernie Taupin collaborated on most of Elton’s hits over the course of his career, including co-writing 12 of the 21 Elton John songs on this countdown. There are 6 more Elton John songs on this list, by the way.

**202 Hot Chocolate – “You Sexy Thing”**

By far, Hot Chocolate most successful song, and the best of the 3 songs they have on this countdown. “I believe in miracles!”

**200 Bill Withers – “Ain’t No Sunshine”**

Withers holds the countdown record for saying "i know" the most consecutive times, at 26.



**199 Dobie Gray – “Drift Away”**

No, he is not saying “Give me the Beach Boys and free my soul”

**198 Minnie Riperton – “Lovin’ You”**

"Lovin' You" was the first song to reach number one without the help of a percussion instrument.

**197 Tony Orlando & Dawn – “Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree”**

It reached number one on both the UK and US charts for 4 weeks in April 1973 and number one on the Australian charts for 7 weeks from May to July 1973.

**196 Rolling Stones – “Wild Horses”**

Recorded between December of 1969 and February of 1970, "Wild Horses" is said to have been originally written by Richards in response to having to leave his then-infant son Marlon to go on tour with the band. Although it is said Jagger re-wrote most of this song to reflect the end of his relationship with Marianne Faithfull.

**194 David Bowie – “Fame”**

"Fame" was issued as the second single from Young Americans, and shot to number one on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 (ironically, a few months before a reissue of "Space Oddity" would give Bowie his first UK number-one single). In the UK, "Fame" would only reach number seventeen.

**193 Bee Gees, the – “Jive Talkin’”**

The song was originally called "Drive Talking". The song's rhythm was modeled after the sound a car would make crossing the Biscayne Bay into Miami. Producer Arif Mardin wished to market the song toward the teen market, and suggested the change to "Jive Talkin'" (the phrase "jive talkin'", slang for "telling lies", was a popular colloquialism at the time).

**192 Cher – “Gypsys, Tramps & Thieves”**

It hit #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 on November 6, 1971, and it remained for two consecutive weeks. The single also reached #1 in Canada, the Top 10 in many European countries and became the number-one selling single of 1971 having sold over 3 million copies worldwide.



**190 Andy Gibb – “Shadow Dancing”**

While Andy Gibb would have three more Top 10 hits in the U.S., this would be his final chart-topping hit in America.

**188 Clash, the – “I Fought The Law”**

Originally recorded by Sonny Curtis & the Crickets in 1959.

**187 B-52's, the – “Rock Lobster”**

The B-52's' first single, released in 1978 and in a longer version placed on the band's self-titled debut album, The B-52's, one year later. It has become one of their signature tunes, and it helped launch the band's success. "Rock Lobster" was the band's first single to appear on Billboard's Hot 100.

**186 Heart – “Crazy On You”**

Loaded with sexual innuendo, the song's lyrics tell of a woman's desire to forget all the problems of the world during one night of lust and passion. According to Ann Wilson, the lyrics were written under the influence of mushrooms.

**184 Led Zeppelin – “D’yer Mak’er”**

D'yer Mak'er" is one of the few Led Zeppelin songs where all four members share the composer credit. While it was released in the US, and the single peaked at #20 in December of 1973, it was ultimately never released in the UK.

**183 Nazereth – “Love Hurts”**

They took their name from the first line of The Band's classic song, "The Weight" ("I pulled into Nazareth / Was feelin' about half past dead...")

Originally recorded by the Everly Brothers in 1960.

**182 Police, the – “Message In A Bottle”**

The single was The Police's first number one hit in the United Kingdom, but only reached #74 in the United States.

**181 Sex Pistols, the – “Holidays In The Sun”**

It was released on October 15, 1977, and proved to be the last single from the group's original line-up.

**180 Marvin Gaye – “Got To Give It Up”**

The song, solely written by the singer and co-produced with Art Stewart, is about a man who was too shy to get on the floor and dance. But the groove allows him to lose himself in the music allowing a need for escape.

**178 Elton John – “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road”**

The song's flip side was a song called "Young Man's Blues," which was retitled from "Screw You" to not offend conservative record buyers.

**177 Cheap Trick – “Surrender”**

Cheap Trick Singer Richard Nielsen is currently co-owner of Piece Brewery and Pizzeria in Chicago, Illinois, a brewpub that has won several medals in the Great American Beer Festival for their microbrewed beer.



**176 Paul McCartney & Wings – “Jet”**

The song also spawned the name of Australian rock band Jet.

**175 Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers – “American Girl”**

The Strokes have admitted to taking the riff for their 2001 single, "Last Nite", from this song.

**174 Cat Stevens – “Peace Train”**

Along with John Lennon's "Give Peace A Chance," it is reputedly one of the most famous war-protest songs in history.

**173 Kool & the Gang – “Jungle Boogie”**

"Jungle Boogie" has been repeatedly sampled on songs including The Beastie Boys' 1989 release "Hey Ladies", Madonna's 1992 top ten hit "Erotica" and Janet Jackson's 1994 top ten single "You Want This". 24/7 Spyz has covered this song on their first album, Harder than You

**172 Styx – “Babe”**

The song was Styx's first, and only, U.S. number-one single and was written by member Dennis DeYoung as a birthday present for his wife Suzanne.

**171 Steve Miller Band – “Take The Money & Run”**

The two lines "They headed down to, ooh, old El Paso" and "Billie Mack is a detective down in Texas" are followed by claps in a manner similar to "Deep in the Heart of Texas." (duh!)

**170 Jackson Five, the – “The Love You Save”**

While "The Love You Save" is the least-known of the four Jackson 5 number-ones, it has one of the most distinctive melodies and is the most musically complex of the four singles.

Its also the first of those four number one hits you've heard in this countdown. Three more to go!

**169 Elton John & Kiki Dee – “Don’t Go Breaking My Heart”**

How many damn Elton John songs ARE there on this countdown????



21. to be exact, and there are still 5 more to be played.

**168 Jackson Five, the – “Dancing Machine”**

The song, which reached gold selling status, popularized the Robot dance routine, devised by Jackson 5 lead singer Michael Jackson. Jackson first performed the dance while singing "Dancing Machine" with the Jackson 5 on an episode of Soul Train and several other shows for the next three years.

**167 Grand Funk Railroad – “We’re An American Band”**

This song was the title track of Grand Funk Railroads 7th album. It was produced by Todd Rundgren. The original issue was on a translucent yellow disk. The label, above the side numbers, instructed listeners to play "at full volume."

**166 Johnny Nash – “I Can See Clearly Now”**

It is a common misconception that this song was written and/or performed by Bob Marley, possibly based on the fact that The Wailers were the backing band on Nash's original recording. Marley wrote Nash's next single, "Stir It Up."

**165 John Denver – “Thank God I’m A Country Boy”**

It has been a Baltimore Orioles tradition since the '70s to play "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" after "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh inning stretch. The song is also played during the seventh inning stretch at Atlanta Braves games.

**164 Kiss – “Rock & Roll All Nite”**

For the choruses, the band and Bogart brought in a large group of outside contributors to sing and clap, including members of the Kiss road crew, studio musicians, and Peter Criss's wife Lydia. Some of the road crew used their jacket zippers to create sound

**163 Meat Loaf – “Paradise By Dashboard Light”**

That's former Yankees announcer Phil Rizzuto in the background during the song, and yes, he sued Meat Loaf for that!!!

**162 James Taylor – “You’ve Got A Friend”**

Originally recorded by Carole King in the same year of 1971. Her version came in at 1556.

**161 Bob Marley – “Stir It Up”**

"Stir It Up" was Bob Marley's first successful song outside Jamaica. Another song written by Bob Marley, "I Shot The Sheriff", was made a hit by Eric Clapton in 1974.



**160 Anita Ward – “Ring My Bell”**

Released in 1979, the song hit number one on the Billboard Hot 100 and number one in Canada and the UK. It was Ward's only major hit.

**159 Hollies, the – “Long Cool Woman In A Black Dress”**

The song's first-person lyrics tell a story of an FBI agent (the narrator) who is scouting a speakeasy in advance of a raid. Prior to the police's arrival, the narrator meets the "long cool woman" of the title, a singer at the bar described as "5'9", beautiful, tall", and immediately falls in love with her. The raid results in a shootout during which he protects her. The narrator is given congratulations by the District Attorney ("the DA") and, presumably, a relationship with the woman when he gets legal immunity for her.

**158 Steve Miller Band – “The Joker”**

At the end of the song, Steve Miller references lines from the 1954 The Clovers song "Lovey Dovey" when he sings "Lovey dovey, lovey dovey all the time" and "Really love your peaches, wanna shake your tree".

**157 Stevie Wonder – “Higher Ground”**

It reached #4 on the U.S. Pop Singles chart and #1 on the U.S. Hot Soul Singles chart. And is perhaps more famously covered by the Red Hot Chili Peppers.



**156 Chicago – “If You Leave Me Now”**

Sixteen songs from Chicago in this countdown, all of them have now been played. Their highest song on the countdown was also Chicago's biggest hit worldwide after topping the charts in other countries such as Britain and Australia.

**154 Melanie – “Brand New Key”**

Taken from Melanie's album Gather Me the song (also known as "The Rollerskate Song") was her biggest hit, reaching #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart in December 1971 and January 1972. It reached #1 in Canada and Australia, and #4 in the UK charts. Apparently rollerskates used to have keys to them?

**153 Van Morrison – “Moondance”**

The final Van Morrison song on the countdown, Morrison imitates a saxophone and in the lyrics makes up a new word — fantabulous.

**152 T. Rex – “Get It On”**

At concerts (notably at the famous Empire Pool gig in 1972) singer Marc Bolan would rub a tambourine up and down the fretboard of his white Fender Stratocaster during the song's climax.

**151 Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes – “If You Don’t Know Me By Now”**

This was their first top 40 hit, and was chosen as one of the Songs of the Century by the RIAA.

**150 Pink Floyd – “Money”**

The Dark Side of the Moon spent 741 consecutive weeks on the USA-based Billboard 200 album chart, the longest duration in history.[9] It is also the fifth highest selling album globally of all time, selling more than forty million units.[10]

**149 Neil Diamond – “Sweet Caroline”**

Officially released in late 1969, the song reached #4 on the Billboard chart and eventually went platinum for sales of one million singles. "Sweet Caroline" was President John F. Kennedy's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, who was eleven years old at the time.[2] Diamond sang the song to her at her 50th birthday celebration in 2007.

They now sing it every night at Fenway Park, during the 7th inning stretch.

**148 Trammps, the – “Disco Inferno”**

Although not a big selling single until it was put on the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack, the song is now their most recognizable song, by far.

**147 Grateful Dead, the – “Uncle John’s Band”**

the song had an impact on the mainstream because of first using the word "Goddamn" in the unedited single, which many radio stations played instead of the edited version; together with the reference to cocaine in "Casey Jones", the two songs made the band a "thorn in the side of Nixon that became a badge of honor to the masses."



**146 Terry Jacks – “Seasons In The Sun”**

One of the biggest one hit wonders on the countdown. Jacks has a top 150 hit and that’s IT!

He only released two other singles, neither charted.

**145 Elvis Costello – “Alison”**

This was recorded before the Attractions were around. His backing band for this track was “Clover” featuring Huey Lewis.

**144 Barbara Streisand – “The Way We Were”**

Written for the movie of the same name, which also starred Barbara, as a Jewish woman, go figure!

**143 Free – “All Right Now”**

"All Right Now" was a #1 hit in over 20 territories and was recognized by ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers) in 1990 for garnering 1,000,000 plus radio plays in the US by late 1989, and in 2000 an Award was given to Paul Rodgers by the British Music Industry when "All Right Now" passed 2,000,000 plus radio plays in the UK.

Free’s lead singer Paul Rodgers would go on to form Bad Company.

**142 Talking Heads – “Psycho Killer”**

The lyrics are supposed to represent the thoughts of a serial killer. The bridge lyrics are in French and include the prominent chorus line, "Qu'est-ce que c'est?", which translates in English to "What is it?".



**141 Kenny Rogers – “The Gambler”**

I don’t even know what to write about the Gambler. " the secret to survivin' is knowing what to throw away and knowing what to keep" and that the best you can hope for is to "die in your sleep".

**140 Manfred Mann – “Blinded By The Light”**

Originally recorded by Bruce Springsteen in 1973.

**139 Allman Brothers Band, the – “Ramblin’ Man”**

Its Allman Brothers Band's first and only top ten single, topping out at #2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

**138 Bachman-Turner Overdrive – “You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet”**

Written by Randy Bachman as a joke for his brother, George. George had a stutter and Randy only intended to record it once with a stutter and send the only recording to George.

**137 Patti Smith Group – “Because the Night”**

Written by Smith with help from Bruce Springsteen. The song was a hit, rising to #13 on the U.S. pop singles chart, and helping propel sales of *Easter* to mainstream success — even as Smith was deciding to retire from a life of constant touring.

**136 Billy Joel – “Piano Man”**

"Piano Man" was Billy Joel's first major hit, and is considered Joel's signature song. It is a song about people who could have done things with their lives, but did not.



**135 Paul McCartney & Wings – “Silly Love Songs”**

McCartney had been often teased by John Lennon for writing lightweight, "silly love songs", and McCartney wrote this number in response.

**133 Who, the – “Behind Blue Eyes”**

Considered by many to be The Who's greatest album, *Who's Next* has also been named one of the best albums of all time by VH1 (#13) and Rolling Stone (#28).

**132 Elvis Presley – “Burning Love”**

Originally recorded by Arthur Alexander in 1971, but he's nowhere near as cool as Elvis so no one remembers his version.

**131 Mott the Hoople – “All The Young Dudes”**

Written By David Bowie. (if you couldn't tell!)

Bowie himself once claimed that the song was not intended to be an anthem for glam, instead it carried a darker message of apocalypse. According to an interview Bowie gave to Rolling Stone magazine in 1973, the boys are carrying the same news that the news guy was carrying in the song "Five Years" from Ziggy Stardust, a message that the Earth only had five years left to live: "'All the Young Dudes' is about this news. It is no hymn to the youth as people thought. It is completely the opposite."

**130 Alice Cooper – “School's Out”**

Cooper has said he was inspired to write the song when answering the question, "What's the greatest three minutes of your life?". Says Cooper: "There's two times during the year. One is Christmas morning, when you're just getting ready to open the presents. The greed factor is right there. The next one is the last three minutes of the last day of school when you're sitting there and it's like a slow fuse burning. I said, 'If we can catch that three minutes in a song, it's going to be so big.'"

**129 Elvis Costello & the Attractions – “Pump It Up”**

Though I never thought of this before, all the articles I read claim that this song is about masturbation. “pump it up!!!”

**128 Michael Jackson – “Rock With You”**

The original title was "I Want to Eat You Up", but it was quickly changed to fit Jackson's image.

**127 Edwin Starr – “War”**

Though it was originally intended to be sung by the Temptations, Starr's version of "War" was a number-one hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1970, and is not only the most successful and well-known record of his career, but is also one of the most popular protest songs ever recorded.



**126 Billy Joel – “Just The Way You Are”**

It was written as a birthday gift to Joel's first wife Elizabeth Weber. After they divorced, Joel said that when performing the song, he would imagine what he would eat for dinner or what he would do after the show, or even accidentally sing alternate lyrics written by Liberty DeVitto ("She took the dog, the house, the car"). This was his first US Top 10 (reaching #3) and UK Top 20 single, and it was also Joel's first Gold single in the US.

**125 Carpenters, the – “(They Long To Be) Close To You”**

Originally recorded by Richard Chamberlain in 1963. This is the 13th and final Carpenters song on this countdown.

**124 Jim Croce – “Time In A Bottle”**

"Time in a Bottle" was a posthumous No. 1 hit for singer-songwriter Jim Croce, reaching the top of the charts in December 1973, three months after his death in a plane crash. Even though it was on his first album back in 1972.

**123 Led Zeppelin – “Black Dog”**

The sounds at the beginning of the song are those of Jimmy Page warming up his electric guitar. He called it "waking up the army of guitars" — which are multitrack recorded in unison with electric bass guitar to provide the song's signature riff.

**122 Grateful Dead, the – “Truckin”**

"Truckin'" was recognized by the United States Library of Congress in 1997 as a National treasure. It also mentions the most US Cities in the countdown at 7 (Dallas, New York, Chicago, Buffalo, New Orleans, Detroit & Houston).

**121 Commodores, the – “Brick House”**

Despite not being one of the groups number 1 songs, this one is the highest ranked Commodores song on this countdown.

**120 David Bowie – “Ziggy Stardust”**

The song, the album, the alter-ego. Undeniably one of the most important musical happenings in the 70s, if not ever. The album is on almost everyone's top 50 albums ever made, and this song remains hugely popular to this day.

**119 Santana – “Black Magic Woman”**

Originally recorded by Fleetwood Mac in 1968.

**118 Jim Croce – “Bad Bad Leroy Brown”**

The song is about an apparent pimp or other small time criminal who harbors a reputation as the "baddest man in the whole damn town." One day, in a bar, he makes a pass at a married woman, whose husband proceeds to brutally kill Leroy in the ensuing bar fight. "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" was released in April 1973 and peaked at number one three months later.

It was still on the charts on September 20 when Croce died in a plane crash in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

**117 Rod Stewart – “Do Ya Think I’m Sexy”**

The song was criticized by many in the rock press as a betrayal of Stewart's blues-oriented rock-and-roll roots due to its disco-like arrangement, but Stewart and others were quick to point out that other widely respected artists, such as Paul McCartney and The Rolling Stones, had also released disco-flavoured songs.





**116 Creedence Clearwater Revival – “Have You Ever Seen The Rain?”**

This song peaked at #8 on the charts of the Billboard Hot 100 in 1971.

**114 Elton John – “Crocodile Rock”**

Blah blah blah, Elton John, Bernie Taupin, number-one....same old, same old.

Though, this WAS his very first US number-one single.

**113 Velvet Underground, the – “Rock & Roll”**

From the album Loaded, which was released in September 1970 and one month after Lou Reed’s departure. The album holds two of the best-known Velvet Underground songs, the aforementioned "Sweet Jane" and "Rock and Roll." These are two of the few Velvets songs that appear regularly on Classic Rock FM radio stations still to this day.



**112 Donna Summer – “I Feel Love”**

According to David Bowie, then in the middle of his own groundbreaking 'Berlin Trilogy', its impact on the genre's direction was recognized early on:

One day in Berlin ... Brian Eno came running in and said, 'I have heard the sound of the future.' ... he puts on 'I Feel Love', by Donna Summer ... He said, 'This is it, look no further. This single is going to change the sound of club music for the next fifteen years.' Which was more or less right.[2]

**111 Iggy Pop – “Lust For Life”**

Co-written by Iggy Pop and David Bowie, the song is known for its Motown Shuffle drumbeat (played by Hunt Sales) which opens the song. The rhythm was originally used in the song You Can't Hurry Love, written by the Holland-Dozier-Holland songwriting team and performed by The Supremes.

**110 Creedence Clearwater Revival – “Who’ll Stop The Rain”**

This was actually a B Side for “Travellin’ Band” though somehow it fared much better on the countdown!

**109 Stevie Wonder – “You Are the Sunshine Of My Life”**

The song opened 194 Radio City on 21 October 1974.

**108 Aerosmith – “Walk This Way”**

In addition to being one of the songs that helped break Aerosmith into the mainstream in the 1970s, it also helped resurrect their career and revolutionized rock and roll and hip hop music when it was re-made in 1986 with rappers Run-D.M.C. on their album Raising Hell. It became an international hit and won both groups a Soul Train Music Award for Best Rap - Single in 1987.

**107 Dire Straits – “Sultans Of Swing”**

The song's story is that of the diverse members of a working-class jazz group who only want to play their distinctive sound in a small London club, and don't care how popular they are. One player mentioned by name, "Guitar George", may have been a reference to musician George Borowski.[1]



**106 George Harrison – “My Sweet Lord”**

The song was originally intended for Billy Preston, who had a minor hit with it in early 1970, in his album Encouraging Words. It was written in December 1969, when Harrison and Preston were in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**105 Isaac Hayes – “Theme From Shaft”**

In 1972, Hayes performed "Theme from Shaft" as part of the Academy Awards ceremony in his trademark chainmail vest, but accepted the award later that night wearing a tuxedo

**104 Clash, the – “Train In Vain (Stand By Me)”**

The song was not originally listed on the album's track listing, appearing as a secret track at the end of the album. This was unintentional however, as the reason for it was that the track was added to the record at the last minute, when the sleeve was already in production.

**103 O' Jays, the – “Love Train”**

It was The O'Jays' first and only #1 record in the U.S..

**102 Sugarhill Gang, the – “Apache”**

Originally recorded by the Shadows in 1960. The Incredible Bongo Band has a version of this song at number 1073 on this list.



**101 James Taylor – “Fire & Rain”**

The signature single on his second album, Sweet Baby James, the song brought Taylor widespread attention.

**100 Freda Payne – “Band Of Gold”**

"Band of Gold" was originally offered to Diana Ross and the Supremes.[citation needed] However, because of the subject matter of the song - a marriage that ended on the wedding night - Ross did not want to record it.

**99 Fleetwood Mac – “Rhiannon (Will You Ever Win)”**

Although it only reached #46 in the UK singles chart after re-release in 1976, Rhiannon is well known and highly regarded as a rock anthem both within and outside the US.

**98 Nilsson – “Without You”**

Originally recorded by Badfinger in 1970. Badfinger's recording of the song, which is more brusque than its successors' versions, languished as an obscure album track until it was noticed a year later by Harry Nilsson. In an ironic twist to the lyrics, both Ham and Evans (original songwriters) later committed suicide by hanging.

**97 Gary Glitter – “Rock & Roll, Part II”**

This part, the instrumental part, is vastly more popular than “Rock & Roll, Part I” and may hold the record of being played at the most sporting events of all time.

It was played first in a sport setting at Colorado Rockies hockey games in the late 1970s,[1] and it is believed that the Denver Broncos are the first NFL team to play the song during games.

**96 Deep Purple – “Smoke On The Water”**

"Smoke on the Water" was included on Machine Head, which was released in early 1972, but was not released as a single until nearly a year later (the band has said that they did not expect the song to be a hit); the single would reach #4 on the Billboard pop chart in the U.S. in the summer of 1973, and propel the album to the top 10.



**95 Bob Dylan – “Knockin’ On Heaven’s Door”**

His real last name is Zimmerman. Dylan came as a tribute to poet Dylan Thomas. In 1962, he legally changed his last name.

**94 America – “A Horse With No Name”**

Despite — or perhaps because of — its being banned in some locales including Kansas City because of supposed drug references[2] ("horse" is a common slang term for heroin), the song rose to number one on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and the album quickly went platinum.

**93 Buggles, the – “Video Killed The Radio Star”**

“Video” reached number one in the UK charts the week of October 20, 1979, the first-ever number one for label Island Records. It also would top the Australian charts, but only barely made the Billboard Top 40 in the U.S.

The music video for the song, directed by Russell Mulcahy, was the first to be shown on MTV, when the music channel debuted on August 1, 1981, at 12:10 A.M. On February 27, 2000 it also became the millionth video to be aired on MTV.

**92 Knack, the – “My Sharona”**

According to lead singer/guitarist Doug Fieger, he met a girl named Sharona (who was 17 at the time), and fell in love with her. Whenever he thought about her, he would think of Averre's riff. The two worked out the structure and melody from there. The girl who inspired the song is Sharona Alperin, now a real estate agent in Los Angeles, California.



**91 AC/DC – “Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap”**

Toronto classic rock station, Q107 plays this song every night at 8:00 p.m.

**90 Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band – “Old Time Rock & Roll”**

Although Seger's version only reached number 28 on the U.S. pop charts when released as a single in 1979, it achieved substantial album-oriented rock radio airplay. In 2001 the song was chosen by RIAA as one of the Songs of the Century.

**89 Doors, the – “Riders On The Storm”**

Riders on the Storm" is loosely based on the notorious spree killer Billy Cook who posed as a hitchhiker and murdered an entire family.

**88 Guess Who, the – “American Woman”**

As a single, the track spent three weeks at the top of the Billboard Hot 100, an unprecedented success for a Canadian band; at the time, it competed with singles such as The Jackson 5's "ABC" and the Beatles' "Let it Be".

**87 Rose Royce – “Car Wash”**

Rose is a one-hit wonder, one of only 8 or 9 to have made that hit into the top 100 of this countdown. "Car Wash" sold two million copies, and was a number one hit on both the Billboard pop and R&B charts in the United States and a top ten hit in the United Kingdom. The song held the number-one spot on the Billboard Hot 100 for one week

#### **86 Starland Vocal Band – “Afternoon Delight”**

Speaking of one hit wonders!

The name for the song comes from the name of a special menu of the same name at Clyde's restaurant in Georgetown.

#### **85 Glen Campbell – “Rhinestone Cowboy”**

Originally recorded by Larry Weiss in 1974.

The song became Glen Campbell's signature song and won numerous awards from the Country Music Association, Academy of Country Music and American Music Awards. The song was also nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Country Song, but did not win.

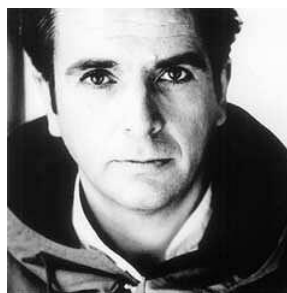
#### **84 David Bowie – “Changes”**

Of all of Bowie 14 songs on this countdown, this places the highest.

Despite missing the Top 40, "Changes" became one of Bowie's best-known songs. The lyrics are often seen as a manifesto for his chameleonic personality throughout the 1970s, and frequent reinventions of his musical style.

#### **83 Peter Gabriel – “Solsbury Hill”**

"Solsbury Hill" is a song by British musician Peter Gabriel, about a spiritual experience atop Solsbury Hill in Somerset, England. Gabriel wrote the song after his departure from Genesis, of which he had been the lead singer since its inception, explaining the reasons behind his departure. It was his debut single. The single was a Top 20 hit in the UK and reached the Top 70 on the Billboard Hot 100.



#### **82 Aerosmith – “Dream On”**

Written by lead singer Steven Tyler, this power ballad became their first major hit. Although it peaked at #59 when it was originally released as a single in 1973, it became a Top 10 single in 1976, when it was re-released as a single. It is also part of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll list.

#### **81 Pretenders, the – “Brass In Pocket”**

The band's third single, it proved to be their breakthrough hit, reaching #1 on the UK Singles Chart for two weeks in January 1980, #2 in Australia and peaking at #14 on the Billboard Hot 100 pop singles chart in the United States.

#### **80 Stevie Wonder – “Living For The City”**

The band's third single, it proved to be their breakthrough hit, reaching #1 on the UK Singles Chart for two weeks in January 1980, #2 in Australia and peaking at #14 on the Billboard Hot 100 pop singles chart in the United States.

#### **79 Sister Sledge – “We Are Family”**

It eventually went gold, becoming the number one R&B and number two pop song on the charts in 1979. It was also the theme song for the 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates.

#### **78 Wild Cherry – “Play That Funky Music”**

Vanilla Ice later released a cover of "Play That Funky Music", as the B-side of his single "Ice Ice Baby", which catapulted him to stardom. Vanilla Ice did not credit Parissi (the songwriter) for the piece, leading to a lawsuit that ended in a large settlement for Parissi. Vanilla Ice's version hit #4 in the US, and was his second and last hit song.

#### **77 AC/DC – “Highway To Hell”**

The song and album's title supposedly came after a reporter asked bandmembers if they could describe what life was like being constantly on tour. Angus replied that it was "a fucking highway to Hell", and the name stuck.

#### **76 LaBelle – “Lady Marmalade”**

"Lady Marmalade" replaced another Crewe/Nolan composition, The Four Seasons' "My Eyes Adored You", as the Billboard Hot 100 number-one single. This made Crewe and Nolan the third songwriting team in Billboard history (after Lennon-McCartney and Holland-Dozier-Holland) to replace themselves at number-one.

#### **75 Thin Lizzy – “The Boys Are Back In Town”**

Singer Phil Lynott is one of the few black men to achieve significant success in hard rock. As well as being a multiracial band, members were drawn from both sides of the Irish border and from both Catholic and Protestant communities.

#### **74 Carl Douglas – “Kung-Fu Fighting”**

A song about Kung-Fu Fighting, I have nothing else to say here.

#### **73 Blue Oyster Cult – “(Don’t Fear) The Reaper”**

Though this is Blue Oyster Cult's only song on this countdown, they aren't a one-hit wonder, as they scored another big hit, "Burnin' For You" in 1981.

#### **72 Queen – “We Are the Champions”**

The single featured "We Will Rock You" as a B-side, and followed the song on the album. The two songs were often paired to close Queen concerts, and are customarily played together on radio broadcasts (in album order). Keeping with tradition, it was also used to close the 1992 Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert with all the show's acts joining in behind the lead vocal of Liza Minnelli.

#### **71 Diana Ross – “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough”**

Originally written by Ashford & Simpson and recorded by Marvin Gaye in 1967.

This song does not feature the Supremes, the backup singers were the Andantes, Jimmy Beavers along with Ashford & Simpson.

#### **70 Who, the – “Baba O’ Riley”**

The title is never mentioned in the song and is sometimes mistakenly known as "Teenage Wasteland".

Many people guessed at what "Baba O'Riley" is actually about, and at a concert on November 25, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA, Pete Townshend said that even he doesn't know.

#### **69 Sex Pistols, the – “God Save The Queen”**

The single was released on 27 May 1977, and was regarded by much of the general public to be an assault on Queen Elizabeth II and the monarchy. The title is taken directly from "God Save the Queen", the British national anthem. At the time it was highly controversial, firstly for its equation of the Queen with a "fascist regime", and secondly for the apparent claim that England had "no future".

#### **68 Carly Simon – “You’re So Vain”**

The song is a sarcastic profile of a self-absorbed lover. The song was a number-one hit (it topped the Billboard Hot 100 for three weeks in early 1973, and also spent two weeks at the top of the Adult Contemporary chart, her first #1 song on either chart), and spawned what many fans consider to be the biggest musical mystery of the era. There has been much debate over who exactly the song is about. Popular guesses on the subject include Mick Jagger (who sang unaccredited



backing vocals on the song), Cat Stevens, Warren Beatty, Kris Kristofferson (with whom she had had brief relationships), unfaithful fiancé William Donaldson, and Simon's ex-husband, James Taylor.

Carly has never divulged this information publicly.

"You're So Vain" was voted #216 in RIAA's Songs of the Century.

#### **67 Bob Marley & the Wailers – “Get Up, Stand Up”**

Written by Marley along with Peter Tosh. "Get Up, Stand Up" was the last song Marley ever performed on stage, on September 23, 1980 at the Stanley Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

#### **66 Ramones, the – “Blitzkrieg Bop”**

It appeared as their very first single released in November 1975 in the U.S. and July 1976 in the U.K.. "Blitzkrieg Bop" is number 92 on the Rolling Stone list of The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

The band members all later explained that the song was inspired by the Bay City Rollers' 1976 song "Saturday Night", whose catchy chorus of "S-A-T-U-R-D-A-Y night" lent inspiration to the line "Hey ho, let's go".

#### **65 Donna Summer – “Bad Girls”**

The song became a number-one hit on the Billboard pop, R&B and dance singles charts simultaneously becoming, alongside "Hot Stuff", her most successful single.

#### **64 Roberta Flack – “The First Time I Ever Saw Your Face”**

Though the song first appeared on Flack's 1969 album First Take, it topped the Billboard Hot 100 and won the Grammy Award for Song of the Year three years later.



#### **63 Bill Withers – “Lean On Me”**

The best of Withers' four songs in the countdown. The song reached number one in the US, UK and Australia.

#### **62 Blondie – “Heart Of Glass”**

Almost immediately after its release, "Heart of Glass" became the subject of controversy because of its disco sound. At the time, Blondie was one of the bands at the forefront of New York's growing New Wave musical scene. Suddenly they found themselves accused of "selling out" for releasing a disco song. Everyone made a disco song sooner or later it seems!!!

#### **61 Police, the – “Roxanne”**

The single did not chart at first, but it was re-released in April 1979 and reached #12 in the UK and #32 in the U.S., and went on to become one of the classic Police songs as well as a staple of Sting's performances during his solo career.

#### **60 Elton John – “Candle In The Wind”**

Though the song is a tribute to Marilyn Monroe, co-songwriter Bernie Taupin used “candle in the wind” only after he had heard it used as a tribute to Janis Joplin.

#### **59 Velvet Underground, the – “Sweet Jane”**

When Loaded was originally released in 1970, Warner Brothers edited out the song's bridge, possibly to shorten the song for radio airplay. This greatly upset Reed, though since fans weren't familiar with the bridge, he would perform it as edited for years thereafter. With the release of the box set Peel Slowly and See, the bridge was restored to the studio version.

**58 Black Sabbath – “Paranoid”**

Supposedly, the members of Black Sabbath put together this song in 15 minutes based on a solo by Tony Iommi. This song was only meant to be a "filler", but became one of Black Sabbath's most well known songs.



**57 Chic – “Good Times”**

"Good Times" has become one of the most sampled pieces of music in history, most notably in rap and hip-hop music.

**56 Pink Floyd – “Wish You Were Here”**

The song's lyrics encompass writer Roger Waters' feelings of alienation from other people. Like most of the album, it partly refers to former Pink Floyd member Syd Barrett and his breakdown. However, unlike the Shine on You Crazy Diamond suite, Wish You Were Here is universal: it is directed at anyone who is missing a special person from their life.

**55 Queen – “We Will Rock You”**

Due to its prevalence in popular culture, "We Will Rock You" has been recognized by various authorities as being quite influential, including Rolling Stone, which ranked it ranked #330 of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time in 2004, and also the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) which placed it at #146 on its list of Songs of the Century.

**54 Lou Reed – “Walk On The Wild Side”**

Produced by David Bowie, the song received wide radio coverage, despite its touching on topics such as transsexuality, drugs, male prostitutes and oral sex, and is usually regarded as Reed's best-known solo work.

**53 Fleetwood Mac – “Go Your Own Way”**

Lindsey Buckingham wrote this song with regard to his bandmate Stevie Nicks, with whom he had just ended a romantic relationship.

**52 John Lennon – “Instant Karma”**

It ranks as one of the fastest-released songs in pop music history, recorded (at London's Abbey Road Studios) the same day it was written, and coming out only ten days later. Lennon remarked to the press, he "wrote it for breakfast, recorded it for lunch, and we're putting it out for dinner."

**51 Lynyrd Skynyrd – “Sweet Home Alabama”**

"Sweet Home Alabama" was an answer to two controversial songs, "Southern Man" and "Alabama" by Neil Young, which were critical of social conditions in the South. "We thought Neil was shooting all the ducks in order to kill one or two," said Ronnie Van Zant at the time (Dupree 1974). Van Zant's musical response, however, was equally controversial, with references to Alabama Governor George Wallace and the Watergate scandal.

**50 Norman Greenbaum – “Spirit In The Sky”**

This was actually released in 1969 but charted in 1970 as well. The single sold 2 million copies in 1969 and 1970 and got to number 3 in the U.S. Billboard chart, as well as number 1 on the UK charts in 1970.



**49 Neil Young – “Heart Of Gold”**

Neil Young's only number one hit single in his long musical career. Rolling Stone ranked it #297 on their list of the 500 greatest songs of all time [1]. It features the back-up vocals of James Taylor and Linda Ronstadt.

**48 Jackson Five, the – “I’ll Be There”**

The most successful single ever released by the Jackson 5, "I'll Be There" sold 4.2 million copies in the United States, and 6.1 million copies worldwide.



**47 Lynyrd Skynyrd – “Free Bird”**

Ronnie Van Zant would often dedicate this song to the late Duane Allman and many thought it to have been written in memory of him. The song was actually written in the late 1960s, before Allman's death.

**46 Elton John – “Your Song”**

The 2nd to last Elton John song in the countdown. It was released in the US in October 1970 as the B-side to "Take Me to the Pilot". Both received airplay, but "Your Song" was preferred by disc jockeys and replaced "Take Me to the Pilot" as the A-side, eventually making both the UK and U.S. Top Tens.

**45 Janis Joplin – “Me & Bobby McGee”**

Written by Kris Kristofferson and originally recorded by Roger Miller in 1969.

Joplin's version topped the charts to become only the second posthumous number one single in rock & roll history (the first was "(Sittin' on) the Dock of the Bay" by Otis Redding).

**43 Roberta Flack – “Killing Me Softly With His Song”**

The song was inspired by a poem by Lori Lieberman, "Killing Me Softly with His Blues", which she wrote after seeing a then-unknown Don McLean perform the song Empty Chairs live.

**42 Clash, the – “London Calling”**

The line "London is drowning/And I live by the river" comes from concerns that if the River Thames flooded, most of central London would drown, something that led to the construction of the Thames Barrier.

**41 Who, the – “Won’t Get Fooled Again”**

Won't Get Fooled Again" is about a revolution. In the first verse, there is an uprising. In the middle, they overthrow those in power, but in the end, the new regime becomes just like the old one ("Meet the new boss, same as the old boss").



**40 Bruce Springsteen – “Born To Run”**

Springsteen has sold more than 60 million albums in the US alone.

**39 Sugarhill Gang, the – “Rapper’s Delight”**

One of the first hip-hop singles ever, the song inspired Blondie's 1980 hit, "Rapture" and Queen's hit, "Another One Bites the Dust".

**38 KC & the Sunshine Band – “That’s The Way (I Like It)”**



The song was considered risqué at the time because of the obvious meaning behind the title as well as its chorus with multiple "uh-huhs" and its verses. (we've come a long way!!!)

**37 Temptations, the – “Just My Imagination”**

It is the final Temptations single to feature founding members Eddie Kendricks and Paul Williams.

**36 Smokey Robinson – “Tear Of A Clown”**

This was originally released in 1967 but re-released in 1970.

**35 Bee Gees, the – “Night Fever”**

After the success of "Night Fever," the Governor of Florida at the time, Reubin O'Donovan Askew, made the three men "honorary citizens" of the state, due to the amount of time they spent each year recording singles in Miami.

**34 Carole King – “It’s Too Late”**

"It's Too Late" peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 and Adult Contemporary charts, as a double A-side with "I Feel the Earth Move".

**33 James Brown – “Get Up (I Feel Like Being A) Sex Machine”**

On December 25, 2006, Brown died at approximately 1:45 a.m. from congestive heart failure resulting from complications of pneumonia, with his agent Frank Copsidas and his friend Charles Bobbit at his bedside. According to Bobbit, Brown uttered "I'm going away tonight," and then Brown took three, long quiet breaths and closed his eyes



**32 Ramones, the – “I Wanna Be Sedated”**

Rolling Stone Magazine recognized it as "The greatest God-does-the-road-ever-suck song". It is also number 144 on the Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

**31 Chic – “Le Freak”**

"Le Freak" bears the distinction of being the highest selling record ever on Atlantic Records, and the highest-selling single ever on WEA until it was displaced in 1990 (by Madonna's "Vogue").

**30 Rolling Stones, the – “Brown Sugar”**

The band has released 55 albums of original work and compilations, and have had 32 U.K & U.S top-10 singles. They have sold more than 200 million albums worldwide.

**29 Temptations, the – “Papa Was A Rolling Stone”**

Originally recorded by the Undisputed Truth in 1971. But that version has been pretty much forgotten, with this one winning 3 Grammy awards.

**28 Boston – “More Than A Feeling”**

Am I the only one that hears a little “Smells Like Teen Spirit” in the guitar riff here?

**27 Sly & the Family Stone – “Family Affair”**

"Family Affair" was the most successful hit of Sly & the Family Stone's career, peaking at number-one on the Billboard Hot 100 for three weeks, while achieving the same on the Billboard R&B Singles chart for five weeks.



**26 Jackson Five, the – “I Want You Back”**

Originally considered first for Gladys Knight & the Pips and later for Diana Ross, as "I Wanna Be Free", "I Want You Back" explores the familiar theme of a lover who decides that he was too hasty in dropping his partner.

#### **25 Donna Summer – “Hot Stuff”**

"Hot Stuff" would win Summer the Grammy Award for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance, making her the first African-American artist to achieve that feat.

#### **24 Gladys Knight & the Pips – “Midnight Train To Georgia”**

"Midnight Train to Georgia" was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.

#### **23 Bob Marley – “No Woman, No Cry”**

A more accurate rendering of the title in Jamaican patois would be "No, woman, nuh cry". The "nuh", which makes a shorter vowel sound for "no", is the equivalent of the contraction "don't".

#### **22 Al Green – “Let’s Stay Together”**

This song would be Al Green’s only number one single. It was ranked the 60th greatest song of all time by Rolling Stone magazine on their list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

#### **21 Village People, the – “YMCA”**

Dick Clark takes credit for his show American Bandstand being where the YMCA dance was originated. During the January 6, 1979 episode which featured the Village People as the guests throughout the hour, the dance is seen being done by audience members during the performance of YMCA and lead singer Victor Willis is seen practicing the dance himself at the beginning of the standard interview sequence.



#### **20 ABBA – “Dancing Queen”**

“Dancing Queen” was number one in the US, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe!!!!

It only went to number 2 in Canada.

#### **19 Elton John – “Tiny Dancer”**

A non-starter as a single at the time (reaching only No. 41 in the U.S. pop chart and not charting at all in the UK), "Tiny Dancer" did not fade away, but instead slowly became one of Elton John's most popular songs. A fixture on adult contemporary radio stations, but played by rock stations as well, the song simply grew in popularity.

#### **18 Derek & the Dominoes – “Layla”**

is considered one of rock music's definitive love songs,[2] featuring an unmistakable guitar figure, played by Eric Clapton and Duane Allman, as lead-in. Its famously contrasting movements were composed separately by Clapton and Jim Gordon.

#### **17 Pink Floyd – “Comfortably Numb”**

While most songs on The Wall were written by Waters alone, most of the music for "Comfortably Numb" was written by David Gilmour, who originally recorded it for his first solo album. Gilmour later decided not to use it for his album, and instead brought his demo of it to The Wall sessions.

#### **16 Queen – “Bohemian Rhapsody”**

The band released a Greatest Hits cassette in Iran a leaflet in Persian was included with translation and explanations of the lyrics. There Queen states that "Bohemian Rhapsody" is about a young man who has accidentally killed someone and, like Faust, sold his soul to

the devil. On the night before his execution he calls for God in Arabic, "Bismillah", and with the help of angels regains his soul from Shaitan.

#### **15 Marvin Gaye – “What’s Going’ On”**

This song was completed before the rest of the What's Going On album was finished. Motown chief Berry Gory deemed the record "infomercial" and initially tried to block its release as a single. He later relented after Gaye threatened to cease recording permanently. "What's Going On" proved to be a substantial commercial hit paving the way for his forthcoming seminal album release of the same title.

#### **14 Stevie Wonder – “Superstitious”**

Stevie Wonder was blind from infancy, Wonder signed with Motown Records as a pre-adolescent at age twelve, and continues to perform and record for the label to this day. A multi-instrumentalist, Wonder plays the piano, synthesizer, talk box, harmonica, congas, drums, bongos, bass guitar, organ, melodic, and clavinet.

#### **13 Jackson Five, the – “ABC”**

While looking for a house in California, Joseph, Jermaine, Tito, and Jackie lived with Berry Gory, while Michael and Marlon lived with Motown star Diana Ross. Diana Ross formally introduced the Jackson 5 to the public on August 11, 1969, at a Beverly Hills, California club called The Daisy.

#### **12 Eagles, the – “Hotel California”**

Hotel California touched on many themes, including innocence (and the loss thereof), addiction to drugs, death, the dangers, temptations, and transient nature of fame, shallow relationships, divorce and loss of love, the end results of manifest destiny, and the "American Dream." Don Henley said, "This is a concept album, there's no way to hide it, but it's not set in the old West, the cowboy thing, you know. It's more urban this time (. . .) It's our bicentennial year, you know, the country is 200 years old, so we figured since we are the Eagles and the Eagle is our national symbol, that we were obliged to make some kind of a little bicentennial statement using California as a microcosm of the whole United States, or the whole world, if you will, and to try to wake people up and say 'We've been okay so far, for 200 years, but we're gonna have to change if we're gonna continue to be around.' "



#### **11 Gloria Gaynor – “I Will Survive”**

The song was originally released as the B-side to a Gaynor song called "Substitute", a track thought to have more potential for mainstream success by her record label. Disc jockeys began flipping the single over and eventually copies of the record were pressed with "I Will Survive" as the A-side

It received the Grammy Award for Best Disco Recording in 1980, the only year that the award was given.

#### **10 Three Dog Night – “Joy To The World”**

Written by Hoyt Axton, and made famous by the band Three Dog Night. The song is also popularly known by its incipit, "Jeremiah was a bullfrog". The words are nonsensical. Axton wanted to convince his record producers to record a new melody he had written and the producers asked him to sing any words to the tune.

#### **9 Marvin Gaye – “Let’s Get It On”**

“Let’s Get It On was the most successful single ever released on a Motown label.

#### **8 Rod Stewart – “Maggie May”**

"Maggie May" expresses the ambivalence and contradictory emotions of a young man involved in a relationship with an older woman, and is thought to have been written from Stewart's own experience.

#### **7 Bee Gees, the – “Stayin’ Alive”**

Due to the death of drummer Dennis Byron's father in the middle of the song's sessions, the group first looked for a replacement. Oddly enough, the shortage of drummers in this area of France prompted the group to use a drum machine--yet it did not offer satisfactory results. After listening to the drum track of the already-recorded "Night Fever", the group (and engineer Aply Gluten) selected two bars from the song, re-recorded them to a separate track, and proceeded with sessions for "Stayin' Alive". This accounts for the unchanging rhythm throughout the song. As a joke, the group listed the drummer as "Bernard Lupe" (a takeoff on session drummer Bernard Purdue). Mr. Lupe became a highly sought-after drummer - until it was discovered that he did not exist.



#### **6 Sex Pistols, the – “Anarchy In The U.K.”**

The single was the only Sex Pistols recording released by EMI, and reached number 38 on the UK Singles Chart before EMI dropped the group on January 6, 1977, a month after the televised Bill Grundy incident.

#### **5 John Lennon – “Imagine”**

"Imagine" is widely considered as one of the greatest songs of all time. In 2004, Rolling Stone magazine voted "Imagine" the third greatest song of all time. Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter said, "In many countries around the world — my wife and I have visited about 125 countries — you hear John Lennon's song 'Imagine' used almost equally with national anthems."[

#### **4 Led Zeppelin – “Stairway to Heaven”**

It is the most requested and most played song on FM radio stations in the United States, despite never having been released as a single there.

The opening chord progression and verse in "Stairway to Heaven" are nearly identical to the 1968 instrumental "Taurus" by the group Spirit. In the liner notes to the reissue of Spirit's 1968 eponymous debut, songwriter Randy California mentions the fact that Jimmy Page took special interest in "Taurus". Led Zeppelin was the opening act for Spirit's 1968 tour



### 3 Simon & Garfunkel – “Bridge Over Troubled Water”

It reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart on February 28, 1970, and stayed at the top of the chart for six weeks. It was replaced at the number-one spot by The Beatles' "Let It Be". (foreshadowing!)

It won the Grammy Award for Record of the Year and Song of the Year in the Grammy Awards of 1971, with its album also winning several awards in the same year



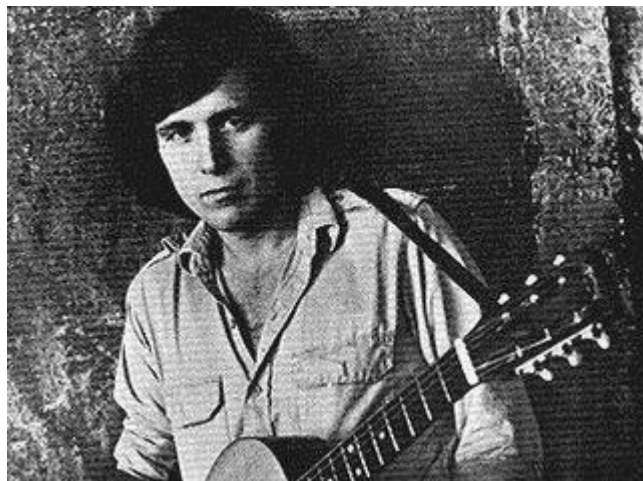
### 2 Beatles, the – “Let It Be”

McCartney said he wrote "Let It Be", after a dream he had had about his mother during the tense period surrounding the Get Back/Let It Be sessions. McCartney explained that his mother—who died of cancer when McCartney was fourteen—was the inspiration for the "Mother Mary" lyric.



### 1 Don McLean – “American Pie”

Recorded and released on the American Pie album in 1971, the single was a number-one U.S. hit for four weeks in 1972. The song is an abstract story of his life that starts with the deaths of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J. P. Richardson Jr. (The Big Bopper) in a plane crash in 1959, and ends in 1970. The



importance of "American Pie" to America's musical and cultural heritage was recognized by the Songs of the Century education project which listed the song performed by Don McLean as the number five song of the twentieth century.

The song's lyrics are the subject of much curiosity. Although McLean dedicated the American Pie album to Buddy Holly, none of the singers in the plane crash are identified by name in the song itself. When he was asked what "American Pie" meant, McLean replied "It means I never have to work again."<sup>[1]</sup> Later, he more seriously stated "You will find many 'interpretations' of my lyrics but none of them by me... sorry to leave you all on your own like this but long ago I realized that songwriters should make their statements and move on, maintaining a dignified silence."