

Matti Ranta

The Best Bands and Songs of the Popular Music in English

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Writing this book has depended totally on the information in internet. Second the information of Billboard music magazine, which also can be found in internet, has been very useful. When one is looking for all the best pieces of music, that there exist, he or she should first know all the best artists. The music magazine mentioned above has listed the (100) best songs of the year since the year 1946 till this day. These lists include the best artists of the world.

When you are aware of the best artists, you can find their best songs through listening to all the albums of the band, or you just check the best hits.

There exist videos and information of all the important bands in internet. Subsequently I have studied the production of more than thousand bands. In this book you find about 550 artists. Writing this kind of book has been possible only during the period, that internet has existed and a great quantity of music videos in it. Accordingly it would not have been easy to write this kind of book f.ex. in the 60's, 70's or 80's.

MATTI RANTA

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INTRODUCTION

How do you find the best bands and songs of the popular music? I first made a long list of considerably excellent artists with the help of the information in internet and in the Billboard magazine. Then I studied the best hits of these artists, even all albums of some bands. In this way it is possible to rank the bands and the songs according to splendides.

Earlier I have written a book of 311 pages in English year 2014 - " The best popular music artists and the best pieces of popular music after World War II till 2014, 1200 artists and 8500 songs" (ISBN 978-952-933933-4) - which is a quite thorough handbook. On the contrary this new book is a short one and is useful for those, who want to know only the best songs.

The great USA is clearly the most productive music land. They have more top artists and more songs written and composed than f.ex. England, Canada, Ireland and Australia.

If you count the quantity of the female artists among the fifty best artists of USA and England, you notice that this quantity is 28 female and 22 male artists for United States. For England the corresponding quantities are 13 and 37. The explanation for these states of matters is probably the popularity of female country in America.

USA could be invited to Eurovision music contest. Also Russia participates in this show. One more artist doesn't make the time constraint worse. Suggesting such a thing is natural because of the importance of USA in music.

It is interesting also to compare the quantity of white and black artists of the book in the USA whole. The percentage of the white and black artists has been calculated first in the group of fifty best artists, second in the group of those artists that have five songs in their list and third the quantity of those artists that have two songs reserved for them.

Among fifty best American artists seven are black this meaning 14% of 50, which is about exactly the percentage of the coloured ones in US population. I mention, that it would also have been natural to choose to top fifty even more than ten blacks because the list of fifty best artists is a subjective one.

Among those American artists that have five songs in the book, 19 of 79 that

is 24% are coloured. Of those artists that have two songs in the book 77 of 261 are black. This means about 30% share of the total.

In my opinion ten artists perhaps even twenty artists of top fifty could have been selected in another way. I think that at least thirty ones belong to the list objectively, but ten or twenty could have been chosen in a different way.

After having introduced the fifty best bands of the United States for them we also have made a list of 150 other very good bands. Among these exist the possible ten or twenty bands that could have been selected instead of the actually chosen ones to the top fifty. All 150 bands appear later in the book and their five or two top songs have been mentioned.

When you suggest a list of the fifty best bands, it is ofcourse a subjective one. The list is, however, useful as it makes becoming acquainted with the best pieces of music a rapid process. If each song has a duration of about three minutes, it takes time to listen to two songs of fifty artists, that means hundred songs, in sum 300 minutes or five hours. The long time that is required to get acquaintance with different bands justifies the distinction between better and not so good bands and songs.

As far as the list of fifty best bands of England is concerned, it might be a quite objective one, as England has not had after World War II much more than fifty really super bands. However, the fifty best bands of USA and England are about equally excellent. Smaller music lands than these two don't posses fifty totally super bands.

The book introduces excep fifty best bands of USA, England and of "other lands -group" also about 450 excellent bands of various countries and their five or two top songs.

The understanding of the content of the popular music in English becomes even more complete, when we also introduce the music of Bob Dylan. Real pearls of the popular music are various interpretations of the songs of Bob Dylan by many famous artists. To the book is selected eighty songs of Bob Dylan. Of each song exist one to ten covers and the quantity of the cover artists is about 130.

FIFTY BEST AMERICAN ARTISTS AND THEIR TWO TOP SONGS

1 AEROSMITH

Crazy

Full circle

2 THE BAND PERRY

Postcard from Paris

Don't let me be lonely

3 THE BANGLES

Where were you when I needed you

Anna Lee

4 MARY J. BLIGE

One

Hard times don't come again no more

5 THE BYRDS

I'll feel a whole lot better

Satisfied mind

6 J.J. CALE

Cocaine

My baby and me

7 KELLY CLARKSON

Breakaway

My life would suck without you

8 RITA COOLIDGE

Loving her was easier

Higher and higher

The popular music in English is introduced in the book in three parts:

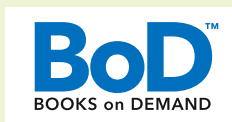
1. 50 best American, 50 best British and 50 best bands of other countries and their two top songs.
2. One to ten covers of 80 songs of Bob Dylan by 130 artists.
3. 456 best bands of the popular music and their five or two best songs. 123 bands have five songs and 333 bands have two songs.

For the composer and text-writer Bob Dylan was given the Nobel price of literature in October 2016. The poems of his songs can be found in internet. Write to the internet-box for example: Bob Dylan Desolation Row, lyrics.

You may listen to and watch at every song mentioned in the book with the help of internet. Just write to the box first the name of the band and then the name of the song.



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