

KRM's Greatest Hits of All Time 1955-1975

Wow, here they are already: the Greatest Hits of our lives!! The best of the cull! This is the Fifth Level. Tier One would be all the thousands of hits ever recorded by Billboard Magazine. Tier Two consists of those which came to my attention between the years 1955 to 1963 and were recorded in my own high school journals; Tier Three is a selection of some 500 of these, a particularly memorable part of the landscape...; Tier Four is a selection of about 185 of these which I thought had particular merit (as opposed to merely being a popular part of the scene); Tier Five are approximately 50 of these which simply were in my opinion the best artistically of all that time. My criteria are documented [elsewhere], but here's a simple test: Can I repeat-click the song on CD-ROM for two hours in a row, without noticing? Read 'em and weep!

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- 1955 ... You Belong to Me ... The Duprees
1956 ... Eternally ... Doris Day
1956 ... Why Do Fools Fall In Love ... Franky Lymon & the Teenagers
1956 ... In the Still of The Night ... The Five Satins
1957 ... EarthAngel ... The Penguins
1957AB ... Little Darling ... The Diamonds
1957B ... Diana ... Paul Anka
1958A ... Little Star ... The Elegants
1958A ... Twilight Time ... The Platters
1958B ... Dream Dream Dream ... Everly Brothers
1958B ... When ... The Kalin Twins
1958B ... Born Too Late ... The Poni-Tails
1959A ... The Twelfth of Never ... Johnny Mathis
1959A ... Donna ... Ritchie Valens
1959A ... Susie Darling ... Robin Luke
1959A ... Broken Hearted Melody ... Sarah Vaughn
1959A ... Smoke Gets in Your Eyes ... The Platters
1959A ... Tragedy ... Thomas Wayne
1959AB ... Dream Lover ... Bobby Darin
1959AB ... There Goes My Baby ... The Drifters
1959B ... Till I Kissed Ya ... Everly Brothers
1959B ... Sea of Love ... Phil Phillips
1959B ... Sleepwalk ... Santo & Johnny
1959B ... Come Softly To Me ... The Fleetwoods
1959B ... Hush-a-bye ... The Mystics
1960 ... A Thousand Stars ... Kathy Young & the Innocents
1960 ... Crying ... Roy Orbison
1960A ... Where or When ... Dion & The Belmonts
1960A ... Poetry in Motion ... Johnny Tillotson
1960A ... El Paso ... Marty Robbins
1960A ... This Magic Moment ... The Drifters
1961 ... Can't Help Falling In Love ... Elvis Presley
1961A ... Runaway ... Del Shannon
1961AB ... Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow ... The Shirelles
1962A ... Crying In The Rain ... Everly Brothers
1962AB ... Sealed With A Kiss ... Brian Hyland
1963 ... She Loves You ... The Beatles
1963 ... Pipeline ... The Chantays
1963 ... Till Then ... The Classics
1963 ... Mr Tambourine Man ... Bob Dylan
1964 ... House of the Rising Sun ... The Animals
1965 ... Sounds of Silence ... Simon & Garfunkel
1966 ... American Pie ... Don MacLean
1966 ... Eleanor Rigby ... The Beatles
1966 ... Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands ... Bob Dylan
1967 ... Sergeant Pepper LP ... The Beatles
1968 ... Long and Winding Road ... The Beatles
1968 ... Abbey Road LP ... The Beatles
1968 ... Whiter Shade of Pale ... Procul Harum
1969 ... He Ain't Heavy ... The Hollies
1972 ... Crocodile Rock ... Elton John
1975? ... Dust In the Wind ... Kansas
1980 ... Sultans of Swing ... Dire Straits

Now, I got a surprise myself when I looked closely at the songs I picked as the top fifty. Had I guessed beforehand, I would have said that they would cluster around the years 1960 and '61: but they peaked quite strongly around 1959! In fact, more than ten percent were from that year, twice as many from next closest. Approximately half were by big names in the history of pop music, career recording artists with strings of other hits to their name; but half were from essentially one-hit wonders. Similarly, half were from individual singers, and half from groups. Female singers were comparatively well-represented, in proportion to the general division between male and female singers over these years. I was pleased to see the Beatles, The Everlies and the Drifters emerge as singers with multiple representation in the top echelon. There are two instrumentals; almost all the other songs are about young love, about half being about the anguish thereof; but *Eleanor Rigby* and *Dust in the Wind* cleanly sound more serious themes; and *Abbey Road* is a symphony of exuberance and ominous strains, the pinnacle of pop.

1954 to 1963

Acker Bilk ... Annette ... Barry Mann ... Ben E King ... Big Bopper ... Bill Haley & the Comets ... Bill Withers ... Bing Crosby & Grace Kelly ... Bo Diddley... Bob Dylan... Bobby Darin ... Bobby Pickett ... Bobby Rydell ... Bobby Vee ... Bobby Vinton ... Bonnie Guitar ... Brenda Lee ... Brian Hyland ... Brook Benton ... Bruce Channel ... Buddy Holly ... Chuck Berry ... Claude King ... Cliff Richards ... Clyde McPhatter ... Cogie Grant ... Connie Francis ... Connie Stevens ... Conway Twitty ... Curtis Lee ... Danny & The Juniors ... Dave Brubeck ... Dean Martin ... Debby Reynolds ... Dee Clark ... Del Shannon ... Della Reese ... Diana Shaw ... Dick & DeeDee ... Dion ... Dion & The Belmonts ... Dodie Stevens ... Domenico Medugno ... Don Gibson ... Doris Day ... Duane Eddy & the Reb ... Earl Grant ... Eddy Fisher ... Elvis Presley ... Ernie Kayto ... Everly Brothers ... Fabian ... Fats Domino ... Ferrante & Teicher ... Floyd Kramer ... Frank Ifield ... Franky Avalon ... Franky Lymon & the Teenagers ... Freddy Cannon ... Gene Chandler ... Gene MacDaniells ... Gene McDaniels ... Guy Mitchell ... Hank Ballard & the Midneters ... Jack Scott ... Jacky Wilson ... Jan & Dean ... Jerry Butler ... Jerry Keller ... Jerry Lee Lewis ... Jerry Wallace ... Jim Lowell ... Jimmy Clanton ... Jimmy Jones ... Jimmy Rodgers ... Jo Stafford ... Joe Turner ... Joey Dee & the Starlites ... Johnny & the Hurricanes ... Johnny Burnett ... Johnny Cash ... Johnny Horton ... Johnny Maestro & The Crests ... Johnny Mathis ... Johnny Otis ... Johnny Tillotson ... Johnny Preston ... Joni Summers ... Jorgan Ingman ... Kathy Young & the Innocents ... Katie Blaine ... Kay Wining ... Kingston Trio ... Kokomo ... Kyo Sukamoto ... Lawrence Welk ... Les Paul & Mary Ford ... Linda Scott ... Little Anthony & the Imperials ... Mario Lanza ... Mark Dinning ... Marty Robbins ... Nat King Cole ... Neil Sedaka ... Nicky & Sylvia ... Pat Boone ... Paul & Paula ... Paul Anka ... Paul Evans ... Peggy Lee ... Peggy March ... Percy Faith ... Perry Como ... Peter Paul & Mary ... Phil Phillips ... Ray Charles ... Ray Peterson ... Rick & the Teens ... Ricky Nelson ... Ritchie Valens ... Robin Luke ... Rosemary Clooney ... Roy Orbison ... Ruby & the Romantics ... Sam Cooke ... Santo & Johnny ... Sarah Vaughn ... Shep & The LimeLites ... Shep Woolley ... Shirley Fabares ... Skeeter Davis ... Skip & Flip ... Sonny James ... SonnyTil & the Orioles ... Steve Lawrence ... Sue Thompson ... The Ames Brothers ... The BeachBoys ... The Beatles... The BellTones ... The Big Bopper ... The Bobbets ... The Brothers Four ... The Browns ... The Capris ... The Cascades ... The Chantays ... The Chantels ... The Chiffons ... The Classics ... The Clovers ... The Coasters ... The Crests ... The CrewCuts ... The Crystals ... The DanLeers ... The DelVikings ... The Diamonds ... The Dovells ... The Drifters ... The Dubs ... The Duprees ... The Edsels ... The Elegants ... The Everly Brothers ... The Fireflies ... The Five Satins ... The Flamingos ... The Fleetwoods ... The Fontaine Sisters ... The Four Seasons ... The Four Aces ... The Four Lads ... The Four Preps... The GayLords ... The HighwayMen ... The Hollywood Argyles ... The Impalas ... The Impressions ... The InkSpots ... The KalinTwins ... The Kingston Trio ... The Lenin Sisters... The Lettermen ... The Little Dippers ... The Marcells ... The Marvellettes ... The McGuire Sisters ... The Moonglows ... The Mystics ... The Olympics ... The Paris Sisters ... The Penguins ... The Peptones ... The Pips ... The Platters ... The Playmates ... The Poni-Tails ... The Questros ... The Shangri-Las ... The Shirelles ... The Silhouettes ... The SkyLiners ... The Spaniels ... The StringAlongs ... The Surfaris ... The Teen Queens ... The Tempos ... The Tokens ... The Tornados ... The Velvets ... The Ventures ... The Village Stompers ... Thomas Wayne ... Tommy Dee ... Tommy Edwards ... Tommy Roe ... Toni Fisher... Travis & Bob ... Troy Shondell ... Wilbur Harrison ...



... *the Stars to 4th measure*

Psst. If you require your very own copy of "Star Cluster: 500 Greatest Hits of our Time!", the truly memorable songs from 1955 to 1975, send a convivial note to PP Productions, 24 Hannebury Drive, Dartmouth, NS. Canada. B2V 1P6. (Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery).