

Chapter 1 : Top 10 Best Songs of 20th Century

The "Songs of the Century" list is part of an education project by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the National Endowment for the Arts, and Scholastic Inc. that aims to "promote a better understanding of America's musical and cultural heritage" in American schools.

The songs of the eighties and nineties were more popular than the songs of the sixties and seventies because the last decades of the 20th century made singing a worldwide phenomenon, thanks to TVs and radios that had reached every home and people could listen to their favorite songs any time. So, while preparing the list of the top 10 best songs of the 20th century, a number of factors are to be kept in mind. Some classic songs had their origin in the early sixties and thirties, but they were recorded so many times that their popularity far exceeded the songs of the last two decades of this century. Thus, this list is made with a lot of effort keeping in mind the influence of a song over time. This song is an expression to the wish of a girl to go beyond the clouds into another world where there are no worries and tribulations to torment her. This song is in the form of an address by a lady to her man asking for nothing except a bit of respect. It is the feministic touch imparted to the song that makes it stand apart. Every time it was performed by new artists, it became more famous than ever before. This speaks volumes about the popularity of this evergreen classic ragtime that has a universal appeal to make it an immortal artistic composition. The original version of the song sung by Bing Crosby in achieved phenomenal success with over 50 million copies being sold till date. This is a love song dealing with true and sincere feelings of the lover for his beloved who has left him for some other fellow. The lover feels dejected and heartbroken at being rejected. The song has seen countless remixes with its popularity become higher with each new version. It is in the form of an entreaty by a lover to his beloved to stand by him through thick and thin. This song is fused with the spirit of patriotism for America that belongs to all Americans irrespective of their class, creed, and color. This song too underwent numerous recordings and versions. It too has undergone several changes and recordings which speaks volumes about its popularity. This song is about an anti-hero who is a murderer. It is in the form of a prayer to the God to shower His blessings on America and its people. Its eccentricity imparted it a distinctive touch with the song becoming extremely popular. Reminiscent of long lost love, the lovelorn singer appears to be strongly aware of the fact that she is permanently separated from her lover.

Chapter 2 : Songs of the Century - Wikipedia

The top songs of the 20th century as announced by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the SONG TITLE: ARTIST: 1. "OVER THE RAINBOW".

By Edward Foote Gardner. But what are we do about eras before there were any charts? Neither was particularly accurate, but they at least provided a general idea of what was popular, and for what precise period of time. In Billboard chart maven Joel Whitburn published a book called Pop Memories which claimed to contain record popularity charts dating back to the year Now, fourteen years later, mathematician and musicologist Edward Foote Gardner has produced a similar book of charts for songs, called Popular Songs of the Twentieth Century. Gardner is refreshingly candid about his methodology, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of his source material, which varies according to the period being covered. For example, for the years he describes how he compiled a list of songs mentioned in the well-known history books of Mattfeld, Spaeth and Kinkle. The performers who featured each song were noted, and recordings were documented through Talking Machine World. The number of mentions of each song, as well what was said about it, formed the basis for assigning rankings, a process that the author admits was necessarily somewhat subjective. Contemporary publications are of variable reliability too, but at least the author seems to understand their limitations, and account for it when possible unlike Whitburn, who, for example, misread release lists as popularity lists, and assumed that publicity equaled popularity. The author recognizes nuances such as the fact that in the early s recordings were not generally released until a song had already achieved wide popularity through sheet music and public performance, and thus cannot be used to date song popularity. How accurate are the rankings in Popular Songs? However I have done my own primary research on a number of songs, and in those cases my findings and those of Popular Songs match up pretty well. Even then, while the song was very popular, it was by no means the biggest seller of the season. That is what Popular Songs reports as well. All eight were shown as major hits in Popular Songs. Their relative rankings even matched approximately the relative rankings shown in Popular Songs. Recorded versions are mentioned under most song listings. This is harmless enough, as the records are not ranked or sales cited, however it is probably one of the weaker aspects of the book. Releases on the major labels Victor, Columbia, Edison, Brunswick are heavily favored, because those are the labels that advertised in Talking Machine World. But they are only occasionally mentioned here. The book is organized into four sections. Section one, which will be frequently consulted, is an alphabetical index of all songs found in the book. Roughly 3, titles are shown, with the highest chart rank for each, and the month and year it reached that position. Section two contains the monthly top 20 song charts. Section three is a little less intuitive, but nevertheless useful. It presents the same chart data but now in spreadsheet form. Listed down the side of the page are song titles, while across the top are months broken down into half-month periods. Next to each title appears its rank in each half-monthly period. Thus the progress of a song up and down the charts can be visually scanned. During January it moved up to no. Section four contains detailed information about each song. Because the book is organized by year of popularity, it also highlights the difference between year of popularity and year of publication. Most books give only the latter. Songs popular in more than one year are repeated under each of those years, with appropriate changes in the list of popularizers. A nice touch is that Dooley Wilson is listed as singing the song in the film, with a note that he later recorded it, in What basis the author uses for this information is unclear. As an approximation of the popularity of individual songs during the first half of the twentieth century, Popular Songs of the Twentieth Century is a worthwhile volume. It is carefully researched, well organized and reasonably priced. A second volume is planned to cover It would have been nice to have had indexes of performers and composers as well as songs, but that is a minor quibble. Random House, ; Roger D. This page was last modified on November 5th,

Chapter 3 : review: Gardner, Popular Songs 20th Century Â» Television and Record Industry History Reso

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THE TOP SONGS OF THE 20TH CENTURY. Author: alexvankamp.

Chapter 4 : Music from including Music from World War I ()

BMI today announced the Top Songs of the Century, listing the most played songs on American radio and television. Leading the list is the anthemic "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," written by Barry Mann, Phil Spector and Cynthia Weil, which recently passed the historic 8 million performance plateau.

Chapter 5 : 20th-century music - Wikipedia

Essential Songs. of the. 20th Century. Selected by Roger Lee Hall. The classification of a song is a short piece having both words and music. Thus, there are no instrumental works included on this list.

Chapter 6 : Best Songs Of The Century? - CBS News

The songs of the eighties and nineties were more popular than the songs of the s and s because the last decades of the 20th century made singing a worldwide phenomenon, thanks to TVs and radios that had reached every home and people could listen to their favorite songs any time.

Chapter 7 : Top Songs of The 20th Century

Judy Garland singing Over the Rainbow and Bing Crosby dreaming of a White Christmas top the "Songs of the Century" announced by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Recording Industry.

Chapter 8 : Download [PDF] Popular Songs Of The Twentieth Century Free Online | New Books in Politics

*Popular Songs of the Twentieth Century: Vol. 1: Chart Detail & Encyclopedia, [Edward F. Gardner] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This valuable reference work's principle feature is monthly popularity charts that document January through December*

Chapter 9 : Top Country Songs of the 20th Century

mholland This list is to determine what the public believe the best song of the 20th century (-) to be. Don't go for the complete obvious, dig deep into what your favourite song is and add it to the list and if it is already there vote for it.