

THE 100 GREATEST BOY BAND SONGS OF ALL TIME: CRITICS' PICKS

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List structured: Rank#, Artist, Song, Year Released

100. The Chipmunks, "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)" (1958)
99. B2K, "Uh Huh" (2001)
98. 5 Seconds of Summer, "Girls Talk Boys" (2016)
97. Big Time Rush feat. Snoop Dogg, "Boyfriend" (2011)
96. 98 Degrees, "Because of You" (1998)
95. Mindless Behavior, "My Girl" (2010)
94. 2Gether, "The Hardest Part of Breaking Up (Is Getting Back Your Stuff)" (2000)
93. Nu Flavor, "Sweet Sexy Thing" (1997)
92. JLS, "Beat Again" (2009)
91. The Monkees, "(Theme From) The Monkees" (1966)
90. Another Bad Creation, "Iesha" (1990)
89. A1, "Caught in the Middle" (2001)
88. Busted, "What I Go to School For" (2002)
87. VIXX, "Dynamite" (2016)
86. The Wanted, "I Found You" (2013)
85. Bay City Rollers, "You Made Me Believe in Magic" (1977)
84. LFO, "West Side Story" (2000)
83. Hi-Five, "She's Playing Hard to Get" (1992)
82. O-Zone, "Dragostea Din Tei" (2004)
81. LMNT, "Juliet" (2002)
80. The Osmonds, "Crazy Horses" (1972)
79. Immature, "Never Lie" (1994)
78. Seventeen, "Adore U" (2015)
77. Jodeci, "Forever My Lady" (1991)
76. Brother Beyond, "The Harder I Try" (1988)
75. Troop, "Spread My Wings" (1989)
74. Hanson, "Weird" (1997)
73. New Edition, "Mr. Telephone Man" (1984)
72. Magneto, "Vuela, Vuela" (1991)
71. Take That, "Never Forget" (1995)
70. Why Don't We, "Something Different" (2017)
69. Westlife, "Swear It Again" (2000)
68. The Boys, "Dial My Heart" (1988)
67. SHINee, "Lucifer" (2010)

66. Dream Street, "It Happens Everytime" (2000)
65. One Direction, "Story of My Life" (2013)
64. McFly, "5 Colours in Her Hair" (2004)
63. Jonas Brothers, "S.O.S." (2007)
62. Wanna One, "Energetic" (2017)
61. East 17, "Stay Another Day" (1994)
60. Musical Youth, "Pass the Dutchie" (1982)
59. Backstreet Boys, "Quit Playing Games (With My Heart)" (1997)
58. PRETTYMUCH, "Would You Mind?" (2017)
58. EXO, "Growl" (2013)
56. New Kids on the Block, "Tonight" (1990)
55. The Click Five, "Just the Girl" (2005)
54. Soul for Real, "Candy Rain" (1995)
53. Menudo, "Hold Me" (1985)
52. *NSYNC, "It's Gonna Be Me" (2000)
51. O-Town, "Liquid Dreams" (2000)
50. CNCO, "Reggaeton Lento" (2016)
49. BTS, "DNA" (2017)
48. 5ive, "When the Lights Go Out" (1998)
47. 98 Degrees, "Give Me Just One Night (Una Noche)" (2000)
46. Troop, "All I Do Is Think of You" (1990)
45. Backstreet Boys, "Larger Than Life" (1999)
44. Super Junior, "It's You" (2009)
43. 2Gether, "U + Me = Us (Calculus)" (2000)
42. One Direction, "Steal My Girl" (2014)
41. TVXQ!, "Mirotic" (2009)
40. SoulDecision, "Faded" (1999)
39. Son by Four, "A Puro Dolor" (1999)
38. B2K feat. P. Diddy, "Bump Bump Bump" (2002)
37. The Osmonds, "One Bad Apple" (1970)
36. O-Town, "All or Nothing" (2001)
35. The Wanted, "Glad You Came" (2011)
34. Color Me Badd, "I Wanna Sex You Up" (1991)
33. Soul for Real, "Every Little Thing I Do" (1995)
32. Jonas Brothers, "Burnin' Up" (2008)
31. All 4 One, "I Swear" (1994)
30. New Edition, "Cool It Now" (1984)
29. New Kids on the Block, "You Got It (The Right Stuff)" (1988)
28. 112 feat. The Notorious B.I.G., "Only You" (1996)
27. BigBang, "Fantastic Baby" (2012)

26. Menudo, "Subéte a Mi Moto" (1981)
25. The Jackson 5, "I'll Be There" (1970)
24. *NSYNC, "Gone" (2001)
23. Jodeci, "Come and Talk to Me" (1992)
22. The Beatles, "She Loves You" (1963)
21. The Monkees, "I'm a Believer" (1966)
20. 5 Seconds of Summer, "She Looks So Perfect" (2014)
19. LFO, "Summer Girls" (1999)
18. Backstreet Boys, "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" (1998)
17. Bay City Rollers, "Saturday Night" (1975)
16. BTS, "Blood, Sweat & Tears" (2016)
15. The Jackson 5, "ABC" (1970)
14. New Edition, "Candy Girl" (1983)
13. Aventura, "Obsesion" (2002)
12. *NSYNC, "Bye Bye Bye" (2000)
11. Take That, "Back for Good" (1995)
10. Hanson, "MMMBop" (1997)
9. BBMak, "Back Here" (1999)
8. New Kids on the Block, "Step by Step" (1990)
7. The Monkees, "Daydream Believer" (1967)
6. New Edition, "Can You Stand the Rain" (1988)
5. *NSYNC, "Tearin' Up My Heart" (1998)
4. One Direction, "What Makes You Beautiful" (2011)

TOP THREE BOY BAND SONGS OF ALL TIME...

3. The Beatles, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" (1963)

"Critics and even fans cite material from 1966 and beyond as examples of the band's genius and influence, but historically speaking, The Beatles' most seismic impact on Planet Earth was when these four lads from Liverpool smiled into Ed Sullivan's cameras sang about the most innocuous of romantic gestures. Hey you, cute teenager sitting at your parents feet on the carpet -- "I Want to Hold Your Hand." Innocent enough that the parents couldn't get angry, but vague enough that it left plenty of room for a girl to dream. That Leave It to Beaver version of courtship mixed with the urgency of their Chuck Berry-meets-girl group sonic palette -- with no shortage of harmonies or handclaps -- changed pop music and teen culture forever. After this, no one would underestimate the economic value of attaching a pretty face and wholesome smile to a song aimed at teenagers. From Jackson 5 to One Direction, the boy band canon starts here."

2. The Jackson 5, "I Want You Back" (1969)

"The Jackson 5 defined what it meant to be a boy band a decade before the members of *NSYNC and Backstreet Boys were even born. The brothers perfected the formula for a catchy pop song and turned it into Motown gold with debut single "I Want You Back." Young Michael's opening "Uh-huh-huhhh-huhhh" notes set the tone for the all-ages tune, and his tearful croons about wanting his lover back were so mature it made you forget he was only a preteen himself when the song was released. His brothers anchored his remorseful emotions with sticky-sweet harmonies, soulful licks on the guitar, and an overall bubblegum essence that still continues to capture hearts for generations to come -- from drunken nights at karaoke to a singalong session at family barbecues. "I Want You Back" remains a timeless, joyous treasure, one that remains to be replicated in pop."

1. Backstreet Boys, "I Want It That Way"

"When "I Want It That Way" took off in 1999, it felt like the entire century's worth of pop music had been clearing the runway for it. From Tin Pan Alley to the Brill Building, The Beatles to Boyz II Men, this is what it seemed like it had all been leading up to: A boy band mid-tempo ballad so big and so brilliant that you'd lived a lifetime with it by the time it was done its first spin. It learned nonsense lyrics from ABBA, it learned bridges from Diane Warren, it learned key changes from Bon Jovi, and it mixed its history with an eye to the future, where pop music would expand to such sizes that rock would begin to look puny by comparison. Its parent album was called Millennium for a reason. Somehow, "I Want It That Way" only peaked at No. 6 on the Billboard Hot 100; *NSYNC's Gloria Estefan collab "Music of the Heart," which 3/5 of the group probably doesn't even remember recording at this point, peaked four spots higher. But along with Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time," "I Want It That Way" has endured as the pop song of an entire generation; all you have to do is start any '80s baby off with a "You are..." and they'll be sure to fill in the rest. It was the definitive boy band song from the definitive boy band era, and needless to say, we wouldn't want it any other way."