
Top 20 Hard Rock/Heavy Metal Ballads

Posted by WastedZombie - 2007/08/13 12:16

Last Saturday morning around 1am I hopped on BGR to DJ, and did a show... here is most of what was said between songs. Enjoy the read! Oh, and let me know which songs would have been in your top 5 and why!

Ranked 96th on VH1's '100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock', Meat Loaf is first up on our list of top 20 all time best Hard Rock/Heavy Metal ballads. Every song on his first album "Bat Out Of Hell", became a single. He also made videos for four of the songs, "Bat Out Of Hell", "Paradise By The Dashboard Light", "You Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth" and "Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad", which is song #20 on our countdown.

This Canadian Rock Band formed in 1969, who say they chose the name "April Wine" simply because the two words sounded good together. 1981's album "Nature Of The Beast" hit multi-platinum success riding on two smash hit singles "Sign Of The Gypsy Queen" and "Just Between You And Me", which is song #19 on our countdown.

Nazareth is a Scottish band that had several hard rock hits. In the mid-seventies the band released what many call their greatest album ever, "Hair Of The Dog" which became a staple of 70's hard rock radio stations. The band also had another hit on the radio at the same time, a ballad originally recorded by The Everly Brothers, and later covered by Roy Orbison. The melodic ballad, "Love Hurts" was released as a single going platinum. We have it as song #18 on our countdown.

Becoming one of the classic metal bands of the 80's, Dokken formed in 1977. 1984 was Dokkens breakout year with the album "Tooth And Nail". The album featured three hit songs, "Just Got Lucky", "Into The Fire" a ballad by the name "Alone Again". That ballad puts Dokken as #17 on our countdown.

This next 80's band actually got their big break in 1991 when they released album "Lean Into It". The ballad "To Be With You" is said to be the bands best song ever, and they slide into spot #16 on our countdown.

Best known for the "Operation: Mindcrime" album, Queensryche has had many successful songs over the years, but no song got them the attention like the #7 chart topper, and 3xPlatinum single "Silent Lucidity". This silent song stomps into place as #15 on our countdown.

Coming out of Las Vegas and named after the lead singer Mark Slaughter, Slaughter's album "Stick It To Ya" spawned 4 hit singles, "Up All Night", "Spend My Life", "Mad About You", and the power ballad "Fly To The Angels" which is song #14 on our countdown.

In 1988 Kix released their album "Blow My Fuse". The album featured popular singles "Cold Blood" and "Blow My Fuse". The song that drove the album to it platinum success was its anti-suicide slow ballad "Don't Close Your Eyes". This song is #13 on our countdown.

With the release of her 3rd album Lita, Lita Ford finally had her first commercial hit song "Kiss Me Deadly" climbing to #12 on the charts. This was a short lived success as her ballet with Ozzy Osbourne entitled "If I Close My Eyes Forever" climbed to #8, providing both artists with their first Top Ten single. All that climbing is probably what got the song to #12 on our countdown.

The song that would bring Ted Nugent his first ever #1 hit wasn't entirely his. The band Damn Yankees that Ted was a member of achieved instant success with their 1990 rock ballad "High Enough". And it became well enough known that it has spot #11 on our countdown.

Destroyer, with its rather intricate production (utilizing an orchestra, choir, and numerous tape effects), was a departure from the raw sound of the first three studio albums. While the album sold well initially and became the group's second gold album, it quickly dropped down the charts. Only when the ballad "Beth" was released as a single did the album's sales rebound. "Beth" was a #7 hit for the band, and its success revived both the album and ticket sales for Kiss. "Beth" takes #10 on our countdown.

VH1 has ranked Motley Crue's "Home Sweet Home" as their #12 greatest power ballad of all time. It actually made it a few steps higher here on our list coming in at #9.

Best known for their charting singles "Seventeen", "Headed For A Heartbreak" and "Miles Away". The band Winger has pulled Miles Away from those who didn't make it onto our top 20 list. Clocking in at #8 on our countdown is "Miles Away".

Warrant is probably best known for their pop-rock song "Cherry Pie", but before that they where the power ballad band of the late 80's. Their album Dirty Rotten Filthy Stinking Rich didn't just spawn one ballad, but two, "sometimes She Cries" and "Heaven", both climbing to #2 on U.S. charts, with "Heaven" making it to #7 on our countdown.

The band Firehouse took their name from a Kiss song with the same title. The band had many hit singles, but were best known for their chart topping ballads. The song "Love Of A Life Time" comes in at #6 on our countdown.

Our next artist has sold over 77 million records world-wide. While having his beginnings start in the band known for starting the Heavy Metal genre, it wasn't until his solo career that his ballad "Goodbye To Romance" would make it to our top 20. Ozzy's song takes the #5 spot on our countdown.

White Lion's song "Wait" took nearly 7 months to climb the charts to the #8 spot, being the band's first top ten hit, but that was nothing compared to the song "When The Children Cry" which took only 20 days to make it all the way up to #3, and the most requested song on MTV at the time. That's probably got something to do with why they are sitting at #4 on our countdown.

With hit songs like "Animal", "Pour Some Sugar On Me", "Armageddon It", and "Rock It", none of Def Leppard's Rock songs could climb into the number one spot. That spot was reserved for the ballad "Love Bites", and is Def Leppard's only song to become a number one hit, and in our countdown they come close, landing at #3.

Poison's second album, Open Up And Say...Ahh!, included the band's biggest hit, "Every Rose Has Its Thorn", and we've put it in the #2 spot on our countdown.

Alright this is what the whole countdown has led to, the #1 spot. Parodied by MTV's Beavis and Butthead, known as the Psychedelic-Flavored Glam Rock, and called the hottest band of the 1990s by Rolling Stone Magazine, Enuff Z'Nuff takes first place hands down with their Rock Ballad, "Fly High Michelle".

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