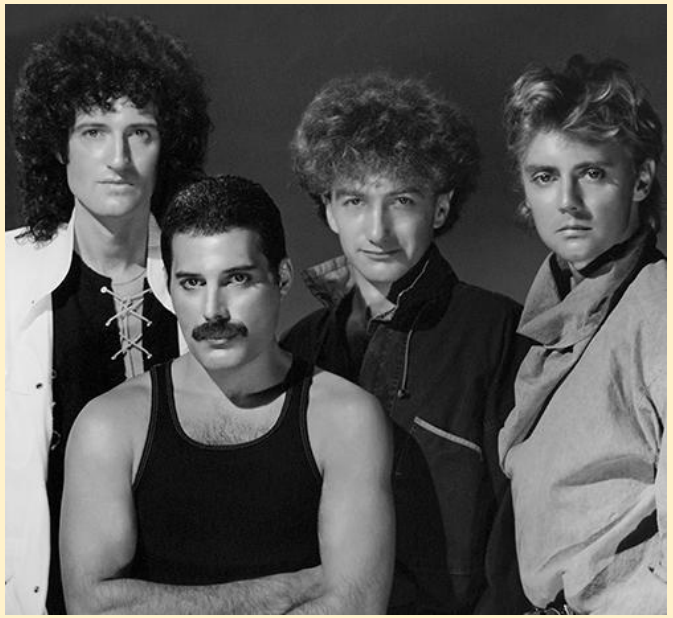
Queen

Names of members: Freddie Mercury (deceased), Brian May, Roger Taylor, John Deacon.
Genre: Rock
Type of artist: Rock band.
Country of origin: United Kingdom
Years active: 1970 to present.
Awards won: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2001), Hollywood Walk of Fame Star (2002), Songwriters Hall of Fame (2003), UK Music Hall of Fame (2004), Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award (2018), Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music (1990).



Five Facts:

1) Queen's first album was released in 1973 and it was called "Queen".
2) Farrokh Bulsara changed his name to Freddie Mercury after the lyrics, "Mother Mercury, look what they've done to me" in "My Fairy King".
3) They had 53 Top 40 singles, 6 of which went to Number 1.
4) Brian May has a PhD in astrophysics from Imperial College London.
5) In 1999, England honoured the Queen band by releasing a postage stamp commemorating Freddie Mercury.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4ZQ7DtL4svI3sUD6gGQEXf

SMASH HITS!

Bohemian Rhapsody (1975)

We Are the Champions (1977)

Under Pressure (1981)

Genre: Rock

One Direction

Names of members: Harry Styles, Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne (deceased), Zayn Malik.
Genre: Pop, pop rock.
Type of artist: Pop boy band.
Country of origin: England and Ireland
Years active: 2010 to 2016.
Awards won: 7 Brit Awards, 7 American Music Awards, 6 Billboard Music Awards, 4 MTV Video Music Awards, 28 Teen Choice Awards.



Five Facts:

1) 1D made the Guinness World Records with their debut album, *Up All Night*, after they became the first UK pop band to make it to the top of the US charts.
2) Niall has suffered from ornithophobia (the fear of birds) since he was attacked by one while on the toilet as a child.
3) It's been said that it took Simon Cowell only 10 minutes to form One Direction, since the group were an amalgamation of solo artists on X Factor.
4) The group was originally going to be called USP.
5) Four out of the original five band members got matching tattoos.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1gOg6g6CmKMnXZvdXGJzYY

SMASH HITS!

What Makes you Beautiful (2011)

Drag Me Down (2015)

Story of My Life (2013)

Genre: Pop

Pet Shop Boys



Names of members: Neil Tennant, Chris Lowe.
Genre: Synth-pop, dance-pop, disco, house, hi-NRG, art pop.
Type of artist: Synth-pop duo.
Country of origin: England, United Kingdom
Years active: 1981 to present.
Awards won: 3 Brit Awards, Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music (2009), NME Godlike Genius Award (2017), MTV Europe Music Awards Pop Pioneers Award (2024).

Five Facts:

1) Before forming the Pet Shop Boys, Neil Tennant worked as a journalist and writer at several publications, including becoming the deputy editor of Smash Hits Music Magazine!
2) Every Pet Shop Boys album had a single word as its title: Please, Actually and Yes, to name a few.
3) The boys have worked with many music artists over the years, including David Bowie, Elton John and Robbie Williams.
4) In 2001 the boys created a West End show called 'Closer To Heaven'.
5) Doctor Who actor David Tennant (David McDonald) named himself after Neil Tennant for his stage name.

SMASH HITS!

West End Girls (1986)

It's a Sin (1987)

Always on my Mind (1987)

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6t59T2jLUsLnsfkYvccBNk

Genre: Electronica

ABBA

Names of members: Agnetha Fältskog, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson, Anni-Frid (Frida) Lyngstad.
Genre: Pop, disco, pop rock
Type of artist: Band (pop group).
Country of origin: Sweden
Years active: 1972–1982, 2016–2024.
Awards won: Eurovision Song Contest (1974), Vocal Group of the Year (American Guild of Variety Artists, 1981), BRIT Billion Award (2023), Rockbjörnen Swedish Artist of the Century Award (2000), Vocal Group Hall of Fame induction (2002)



Five Facts:

1) "Waterloo" was ABBA's first number-one single in big markets such as the UK and West Germany.
2) Films and theatre shows have been made based on their music – Mama Mia & ABBA Voyage.
3) In March 1976, the band released the compilation album *Greatest Hits*. It became their first UK number-one album, and also took ABBA into the Top 50 on the US album charts for the first time.
4) ABBA was widely noted for the colourful and trend-setting costumes its members wore.
5) 3.5 million people applied for tickets to their 1977 London tour dates. Now that's popular!

SMASH HITS!

Dancing Queen (1976)

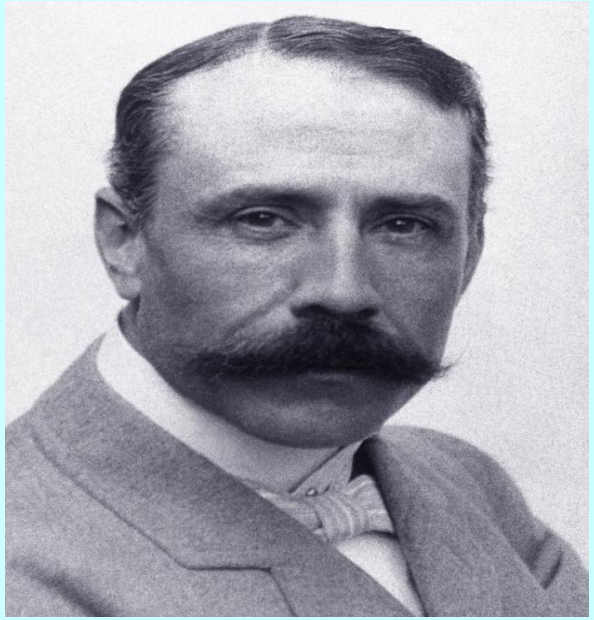
Super Trouper (1980)

Knowing Me Knowing You (1977)

Genre: Disco

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5vWBFidQWyZIrbgZbjocBz

Edward Elgar



Names: Edward Elgar.
Genre: Classical music, Romantic music.
Type of artist: Composer, conductor.
Country of origin: England, United Kingdom
Years active: Approximately 1870s–1934.
Awards won: Appointed Master of the King's Musick (1924), created a Baronet (1931), awarded the Order of Merit (1911).

Five Facts:

1) Elgar did odd jobs so as to make ends meet. He worked at a solicitor's office alongside accompanying choirs and local groups.
2) Finally achieving the recognition that his wife wanted for him, Elgar was knighted in 1904 by King Edward VII.
3) Alongside music, Elgar enjoyed football. He was a keen supporter of Wolverhampton.
4) Elgar's Land of Hope and Glory is performed every year at Last Night of the Proms.
5) Elgar was also an inventor. He was an amateur chemist who created a Sulphuretted Hydrogen Apparatus.

SMASH HITS!

Salut d'Amore (1888)

Pomp and Circumstance Marches (1901 – 1930)

The Dream of Gerontius (1900)

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6AvZdrXon6sKN2O80h2fb2

Genre: Classical

Andrew Lloyd Webber



Name: Andrew Lloyd Webber.
Genre: Musical theatre, rock opera, classical, contemporary musical theatre.
Type of artist: Composer, theatrical producer.
Country of origin: England, United Kingdom (born in London, England).
Years active: 1965 to present.
Awards won: 7 Tony Awards, 7 Laurence Olivier Awards, 3 Grammy Awards, Grammy Legend Award, Academy Award (Oscar), Golden Globe Award, Brit Award, Kennedy Center Honors, 14 Ivor Novello Awards, Primetime Emmy Award (EGOT winner).

Five Facts:

1) Andrew Lloyd Webber began playing the piano and violin at the age of three!
2) Writing musicals is said to have earned him more than seven hundred and fifty million pounds.
3) In 1991, Andrew became the first and only musical composer to have six productions run simultaneously in the West End.
4) Lloyd Webber's theatre company currently own seven theatres in London.
5) Under the pseudonym Doctor Spin, Andrew Lloyd Webber released the hit single Tetris in 1992. It reached number six in the charts.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3vH0CjBejQ4mEQzIpUJ9PU

SMASH HITS!

Any Dream Will Do (1991)

Don't Cry for Me Argentina (1976)

The Music of the Night (1986)

Genre: Musicals

AC/DC



Names of members: Angus Young, Brian Johnson, Phil Rudd, Cliff Williams, Stevie Young.
Genre: Hard rock, blues rock, rock and roll, heavy metal.
Type of artist: Band.
Country of origin: Australia.
Years active: 1973–present.
Awards won: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction (2003), ARIA Hall of Fame induction (1988), Grammy Award for Best Hard Rock Performance for *War Machine* (2010).

Five Facts:

1) Since their formation, AC/DC have had over ten band members.
2) The band AC/DC is famous for its power packed songs as well as its bizarre outfits. Angus Young's outfits on stage have ranged from Spiderman – to a gorilla – to a school uniform!
3) The huge popularity of the band AC/DC had let to a street being name after them. The street is named ACDC Lane and is situated in Melbourne.
4) AC/DC has sold an estimated 200 million albums worldwide!
5) Their music is used to help combat cancer! Researchers in South Australia have found that playing 'Thunderstruck' during chemotherapy treatment is effective at improving the efficiency of the drug.

SMASH HITS!

Back in Black (1980)

Thunderstruck (1990)

Highway to Hell (1979)

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/25Y3HJsNpEmXj0jDoLOT6i

Genre: Hard Rock