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

Stereophonics

Names of members: Kelly Jones, Richard Jones, Adam Zindani & Jamie Morrison
Genre: Rock
Type of artist: Rock band.
Country of origin: Wales, United Kingdom
Years active: 1992 to present.
Awards won: 2 Brit Awards



Five Facts:

1. **They started playing music as teenagers!** Kelly Jones and his friends loved making music together before they became famous.
2. **They come from a little Welsh village!** The band started in Cwmaman, a small village in South Wales.
3. **They had a different name!** Before becoming Stereophonics, they were called *Tragic Love Company*.
4. **They have had nine Number 1 albums!** That means nine of their albums have reached the very top of the UK music charts!
5. **Their song 'Dakota' was a huge hit!** Released in 2005, it became their first UK Number 1 single.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6mQ5O2XeDSWHN9EwBH5im8

SMASH HITS!

Dakota (2005)

Handbags and Gladrags (2001)

Maybe Tomorrow (2004)

Genre: Rock

James Brown

Names of members: James Joseph Brown
Genre: Soul
Type of artist: Solo artist – singer and songwriter
Country of origin: USA
Years active: 1953 – 2006
Awards won: Grammy Award, Induction in to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame



Five Facts:

1. **He was an amazing dancer!** James Brown was famous for his incredible dance moves, including fast spins, splits and fancy footwork. He could even dance on one foot!
2. **He was called the Godfather of Soul!** James Brown earned this nickname because he helped make soul and funk music popular around the world.
3. **He loved shouting 'I Feel Good!'** One of his most famous songs is *I Got You (I Feel Good)*.
4. **He helped invent funk music!** James Brown used strong drumbeats, bass guitars and exciting rhythms to create a new style of music that made people want to dance!
5. **His music appeared in famous films!** His song *Living in America* was featured in the film *Rocky IV*, and he even performed it in the film!

SMASH HITS!

Papa's Got a Brand New Bag (1965)

Please, Please, Please (1956)

Living in America (1985)

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0Z9zdCgaVaJ2v0AsZ3iWX6

Genre: Soul

The Clash

Names of members: Joe Strummer, Mick Jones, Paul Simonon, Topper Headon
Genre: Punk Rock
Type of artist: Rock band
Country of origin: England, UK
Years active: 1976 – 1986
Awards won: Induction in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Grammy lifetime achievement award



Five Facts:

1. They were one of the first punk rock bands! The Clash helped make punk music popular in the 1970s. Punk music was often fast, loud and full of energy!
2. Their name came from a newspaper! Paul Simonon noticed that the word 'clash' appeared in lots of newspaper headlines and suggested it as the band's name.
3. Their bass guitarist was an artist! Paul Simonon studied art before joining the band. He even helped design some of their artwork!
4. They had a Number 1 hit years after releasing it! *Should I Stay or Should I Go* was released in 1982 but didn't reach Number 1 in the UK until 1991, after appearing in a television advert!
5. They loved mixing different types of music! Although they were famous for punk rock, they also used reggae, ska and other musical styles to create their own exciting sound.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0ueSr0yUw8WYzW4QvoHz6W

SMASH HITS!

White Riot (1977)
London Calling (1979)
Train in Vain (1979)
Should I Stay or Should I Go (1982)
Rock the Casbah (1982)

Genre: Punk Rock

Dolly Parton



Names: Dolly Parton
Genre: Country
Type of artist: Solo artist
Country of origin: USA
Years active: 1955 – 2026
Awards won: 11 Grammy Awards, Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year, Inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Five Facts:

1. **She started writing songs when she was just five!** Dolly wrote her first song about a little doll made from a corncob!
2. **She grew up with 11 brothers and sisters!** Dolly was one of 12 children living in a tiny house in the mountains of Tennessee.
3. **She gave free books to children!** Dolly started the *Imagination Library*, which has given away over 300 million books to young children around the world, including children in the UK!
4. **She had her own theme park!** Dolly opened a theme park called *Dollywood* in Tennessee in 1986. It has roller coasters, rides and musical shows!
5. **She was a film star too!** Dolly has appeared in several films, including *9 to 5*, and even wrote the famous song for the film!

SMASH HITS!

Jolene (1973)

9 to 5 (1980)

Islands in the Stream (1985)

Genre: Country

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6xIuJUkjzm0Ia3qmTYvqV1

UB40

Name of main singers: Matt Doyle, Robin Campbell, Norman Hassan and Earl Falconer. (Ali Campbell was the original singer)
Genre: Reggae
Type of artist: Reggae Band
Country of origin: England, United Kingdom
Years active: 1978 to present
Awards won: Ivor Novello Award for International Achievement, Four Grammy Award nominations



Five Facts:

1. They started as a group of friends! UB40 formed in Birmingham in 1978. Many of the original members had known each other since they were children!
2. Their name came from a form! UB40 was the name of a form used by people in Britain who were unemployed and looking for work.
3. They brought Jamaican music to the world! UB40 loved reggae music, which originated in Jamaica. Their songs helped introduce reggae to millions of people around the world.
4. Two brothers were in the band! Ali Campbell and Robin Campbell were brothers who both sang and played guitar. Their brother Duncan later became the band's lead singer too!
5. They had three UK Number 1 hits! *Red Red Wine*, *I Got You Babe* and *(I Can't Help) Falling in Love with You* all reached the top of the UK charts!

SMASH HITS!

Red Red Wine (1983)
I Got You Babe (1985)
Rat in Mi Kitchen (1986)
Kingston Town (1989)
(I Can't Help) Falling in Love with You (1993)

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/21SZwDLvX1WKjygdHeqi3X

Genre: Reggae

Christmas Music



What makes a Christmas song?

Some people think it needs to be about Christmas, while others think any song released at Christmas time can be a Christmas song! Every year, singers and bands try to get their song to Number 1 in the music charts on Christmas Day. Over the years, some surprising artists have reached Christmas Number 1, including Bob the Builder, Mr Blobby, the Spice Girls and LadBaby with their funny sausage roll songs! Christmas music comes in lots of different styles, from traditional carols to fun pop songs that make us want to sing and dance!

Five Facts:

1) Wham! released *Last Christmas* in 1984, but it didn't become the UK's Christmas Number 1 until 2023 – 39 years later!
2) Kylie Minogue's *XMAS* was the Christmas Number 1 in 2025!
3) The first UK Christmas Number 1 was *Here in My Heart* by Al Martino in 1952.
4) The longest length of a Christmas number one song goes to Michael Jackson's Earth Song at 6 minutes and 46 seconds.
5) The shortest length of a Christmas number one song goes to Bob The Builder's Can We Fix It? at 3 minutes and 9 seconds.

SMASH HITS!

I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day by Wizzard (1973)
Do They Know It's Christmas by Band Aid (1984)
All I Want For Christmas Is You by Mariah Carey (1994)
XMAS by Kylie Minogue (2025)

Genre: Various

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/46bERR3J5uTzi64c79Ynqh