

Subject: TUNES WEEKLY- Greatest Rock Chicks of All Time!!

From: The Tunes Company <bross@tunescompany.com>

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To: evonleue@gmail.com

TUNES WEEKLY--Greatest Rock Chicks of All Time!!!!



The toughest job in the music industry is being a rock chick fronting a rock and roll band. It's not a sexist term; rather, it's an honor of the highest order. It means that she is a woman kicking ass in a male-dominated society; tough; talented; uncompromising; and yes sexy, even if she's not trying to be. The bar is higher for her than, say, Steven Tyler. In one way or another, she is a badass rock chick with attitude, that can hang with the men; comfortable in her own skin, and smart enough to make sex work for her on her own terms. It's a heavy burden, but she can handle the load. Whittling this list down to just eleven women was crazy difficult, but we think we succeeded in our quest. Enough talk.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's start the countdown to the Greatest Rock Chicks of All Time!!



#11. Bonnie Raitt

The Lowdown- She is the Queen of the Bottleneck-Slide Guitar, and she wields it like a Samurai sword. She is also one of the greatest slide guitarists of her generation, and since George Harrison's death,

she is my favorite slide player, period. Her phrasing on the instrument is wicked, yet melodic, and her guitar lines sing out with the suppleness and emotive quality of a human voice. Her singing voice is that rare combination of sandpaper and honey; tough, but sexy and feminine. No matter what material she sings, it all sounds uniquely like her. Her voice is that of a splendidly mature woman; a woman that has lived life and felt its pain; a woman that has gained much wisdom along her journey while still maintaining an ability to feel joy and convey hopefulness. There is nothing girly about her. A great rock chick, she can out-drink half the band and kick the asses of the other half. Bonnie Raitt has experienced everything that the rock business and life can dish out and she has persevered.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc0tFCbs1tE>

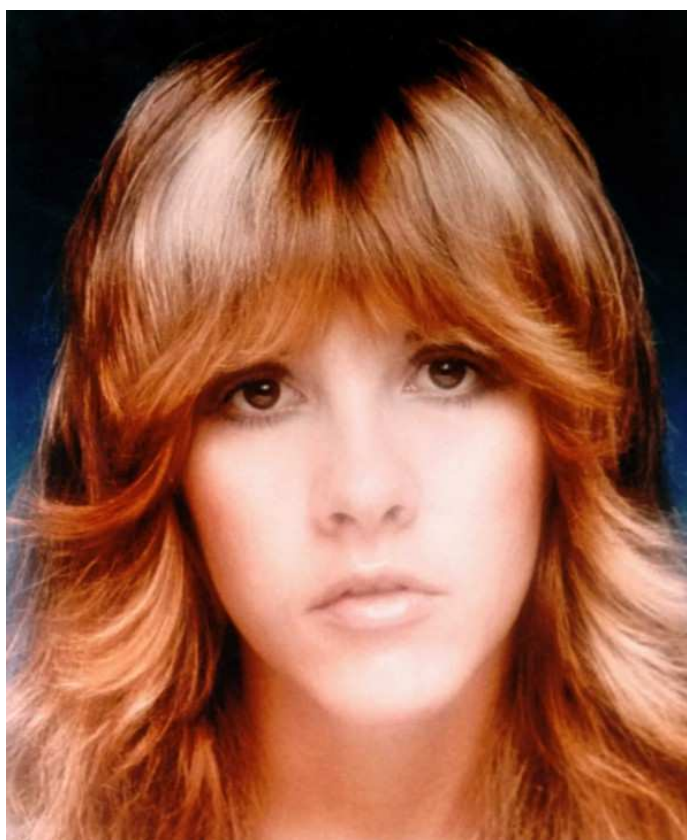




#10. Pink

The Lowdown- Watch out for Pink. Any chick who took her name from the character "Mr. Pink" in Quentin Tarantino's film *Reservoir Dogs* is not one to be trifled with. Her birth name is Alecia Beth Moore and I have a feeling that Pink's puberty was not a smooth ride for Mr. and Mrs. Moore. She was always considered the "bad influence" in her neighborhood growing up. She is extreme. Her voice is a wonderful instrument with a raspy, but powerful tone, and she has the chops of a powerhouse church singer. She is a study in contrasts; pink, spiked hair, tattoos and a gangster attitude; but she is a fervent animal-rights activist who eats mostly vegan and is very involved with various charities. She is independent and she blazes her own trails. She is the ultimate new-school rock chick.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwMYtZwllk8>



#9. Stevie Nicks

The Lowdown- It has been an amazing ride for Stevie Nicks; one that has included drugs, troubled relationships, and fabulous wealth; in other words, all the excesses of rock and roll. I'd like to add that

most every guy in America had a crush on her in the 70s, and any male who says he never fantasized about Stevie Nicks is lying. She was beautiful, creative, and was the missing piece of the Fleetwood Mac puzzle; she was, and has remained, the center of Fleetwood Mac's universe. Humorously, according to our tough rock chick Stevie, her biggest weakness is animal crackers and she always makes sure to stay far away from them. Stevie Nicks spent her teens playing records constantly in her room, and she lived in her "own little musical world." This introspective side of her nature has fueled her art through the years, leading her to write songs like "Landslide," "Sara," and "Leather and Lace." Throughout her career, many other female artists have claimed her as their favorite, most influential rock and roll females of all time, and she continues to be one of the all-time great rock chicks.

Listen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5i7j0VhEHw>





#8. Ann & Nancy Wilson

The Lowdown- The Wilson sisters came rocking out of Seattle fronting the sterling rock group, Heart. There was no precedent for Heart and their phenomenal lead singer, Ann Wilson. They were two talented, beautiful sisters with powerhouse voices, who rocked ferociously; they handled Led Zeppelin sets with complete authenticity and worshipful respect. In fact, in 2012, at the annual Kennedy Center Honors which recognizes artists for their lifetime contributions to American culture through the performing arts, Ann and Nancy Wilson were asked to perform at the event in a tribute to Led Zeppelin. They performed Zeppelin's signature tune "Stairway to Heaven" complete with an orchestra and two choirs, and it brought tears of joy from Robert Plant. It was a touching moment and the video went viral. On a funny note, earlier in their career, the Van Halen brothers, Alex and Eddie, once suggested a foursome with Ann and Nancy. The sisters declined. The Wilson Sisters are complete originals; rock chicks fronting a tough rock band for over four decades while serving as pioneer role models who gave women everywhere, the inspiration to pick up an electric guitar and follow their dreams.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeMvMNpvB5M>



#7. Joan Jett

The Lowdown- Joan Jett is truly one of the all-time great rock chicks. It's no fluke that she is known as the Godmother of Punk. She has always given the finger to the naysayers who used to tell her she was out of her league in wanting to play with the big boy rockers. Instead, she formed the Blackhearts, shouted "I love rock and roll," and she never looked back. After all these years now, at the age of 60, she is still out there rocking. Like Pink, Joan Jett is a woman of contrasts. She has been a potent force in the rough and tumble world of loud, gnarly rock and roll since the age of 17 when she debuted with one of the earliest commercially successful, hard-edged, all-female hard rock bands, The Runaways. She was the first female artist to run her own independent record company. When all is said and done, Joan Jett has survived and she has emerged healthy and sound. She is a vegetarian and active PETA supporter. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2015. When it comes to badass rock chicks, Joan Jett takes a backseat to no one.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpNw7jYkbVc>





#6. Tina Turner

The Lowdown- Tina Turner (Anna Mae Bullock) has been thrilling us for over fifty years as a performer who basically created the mold for rock chicks. It's ironic that she became such a powerful, forceful woman in complete control of her music and of her life, considering how things were for her in the early days. Her story is well known; that of years spent in an abusive relationship with guitarist/bandleader Ike Turner. It was he that renamed her "Tina", because the name rhymed with the television character "Sheena." Ike Turner felt that, if Anna Mae Bullock left him, he could always replace her with another singer and have her perform as Tina. That Ike Turner was a real peach.

But, Tina Turner was not to be denied. She left Ike, rebuilt her career and is now known as the "Queen of Rock and Roll" with 11 Grammy Awards, and she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991. She is one of the best-selling female artists in history and she has one of the great rock voices ever; rough-toned and powerful. She also owned the greatest pair of legs in rock and roll. She is a survivor and it's likely that her photo is in the dictionary under the heading of "Rock Chick." She is now a Swiss citizen, speaks German, and is a Buddhist. Tina can do whatever she wants now. I have

included here, a clip of the great Tina Turner doing her unforgettable thing onstage. Enjoy!

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzQnPz6TpGc>



#5. Amy Winehouse

The Lowdown- Though her career and life were short, Amy Winehouse embodied that rock chick attitude in her own special way. She sang and looked unique and she paid no attention to her critics. How can one describe her? Sensitive? Talented? Soulful? Genius? Maybe all of them. She was a rock chick with a tender heart. Amy Winehouse was funny, campy, sultry, brassy and eclectic. She dearly loved the girl groups from the 1960s and emulated their beehive hairdos and their Cleopatra makeup. Her music was a collage, borrowing influences from Motown, Stax, punk, and early hip-hop. Much was made of her lifestyle and personal issues, but we MUST not forget that she also sang her ass off. Her voice contained a wide spectrum of emotions and she could convey them all in a variety of music styles. She could be tough and sassy. But she was most touching when she showed her vulnerability. Her final single, "Love is a Losing Game" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMO5Ko_77Hk) was simply heartbreaking. Singing in that young, lived-in voice of hers, she opened up and spilled her guts all over the floor; her own heart breaking even as she was breaking ours. It still gets to me every time I hear it. Her life ended at age 27. What we have left is the music she made and the radiant light she gave us, and that will have to be enough.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mX4n8u3drAo>



#4. Chrissie Hynde

The Lowdown- Chrissie Hynde flies the Rock Chick flag as well as

anyone, and she has done so for over 40 years. There is not a shred of BS about her. She is 100% authentic, and she led The Pretenders right into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005. She completely connected with the rock and roll culture as early as high school, and there was never a doubt about what she wanted to do with her life. She was that girl that seemed different from all the others; the one that stared out the window during class, daydreaming of broader vistas. I've always considered her as sort of the female counterpart to Tom Petty; looking ultra-cool in blue jeans while wearing a guitar casually slung over her shoulder, playing meaty, no frills rock and roll. Her cool comes from not trying to be cool.

Madonna once said of Chrissie Hynde:

"She was amazing: the only woman I'd seen in performance where I thought, Yeah, she's got balls, she's awesome! . . . It gave me courage, inspiration, to see a woman with that kind of confidence in a man's world"

That's pretty high praise coming from another woman who's used to making and breaking her own rules. Hynde's singing voice is distinctive, as well as instinctive, and you recognize it the instant you hear it. She is a long-time vegetarian and animal rights activist. Smart, connected, and talented, Chrissie Hynde takes no crap, which puts her square on our list.

Listen-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFY5Eqtsoal>



#3. Pat Benatar

The Lowdown- You may remember that Pat Benatar's Rascal's cover, "You Better Run" was the second video ever aired on MTV, and she was the first female artist we saw on the channel. She strutted out wearing tight leather pants and a little striped top, while belting out a powerhouse vocal. She was cute, hot, and tough, with plenty of attitude. Who didn't love Pat Benatar? She was one of the most heavily played artists in the early days of MTV. Tough? She had to be, with a name like Patricia Mae Andrzejewski. The name "Benatar" came from her first husband and high school sweetheart Dennis Benatar. Her voice is high, clear, and powerful and is truly one of the great rock voices. The timbre of the female voice means it often gets drowned out amid the thundering drums and crunchy guitars of a rock band, but Benatar's pipes effortlessly soar over the mix. As with all of the great rock chicks, four time Grammy winner Benatar has had to overcome numerous obstacles to make it to the top. As she stated in her memoir *Between a Heart and a Rock Place*, "For every day since I was old enough to think, I've considered myself a feminist ... It's empowering to watch and to know that, perhaps in some way, I made the hard path [women] have to walk just a little bit easier." Pat Benatar is an obvious, easy choice for our list.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvSbQB6-UdY>

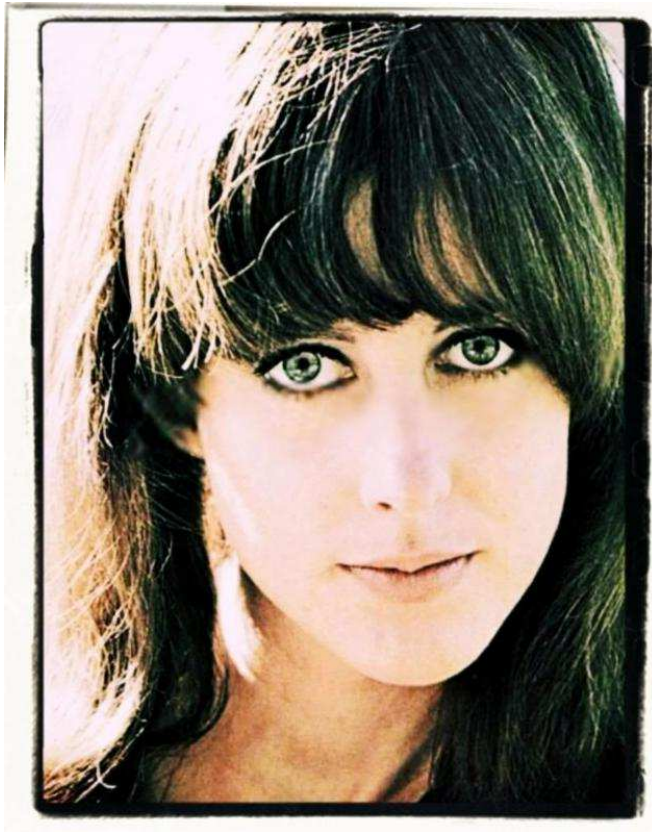


#2. Janis Joplin

The Lowdown- Was there ever any doubt that Janis Joplin would be ranked high on our list of great rock chicks? The legendary stories of

her rock and roll excess have become a part of rock lore. Janis Joplin was an electric performer out of Texas, who possessed a huge, soulful and powerful voice unlike any we had ever heard. She was a larger-than-life personality, and performed with such intensity that she would sometimes sing, scream and cry all at the same time without any inhibition whatsoever. She was a woman of large appetites. She was also tough and stubborn, resisting the pressure to be "feminine" in post-1950s America. The common denominator between all great rock chicks is that they blaze their own trails and Janis certainly did that. She was also smart and funny, and her fans picked up on a sweet vulnerability about her; we wanted to protect her. It's ironic that, in a business where she was always surrounded by so many people, that she often felt alone and unloved. She drank so much Southern Comfort that the company gave her a lynx coat as a thank you. She had a small heart tattooed over her left breast, which she called "Just a little treat for the boys, like icing on the cake." Unfortunately, her huge intake of whiskey and heroin began to destroy her personal and professional relationships, as well as her voice, but it was heroin that eventually did her in. Her persona became larger than life and it tended to obscure the fact that there was a vulnerable human in there; same as all of us. There simply was no one else like her

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uG2gYE5KOs>



#1. Grace Slick

The Lowdown- Our number one rock chick, Grace Slick, was maybe the very first rock chick, and she defined the role. As front woman for Jefferson Airplane, she created the rock chick template as she went. She and Janis Joplin were charter members of a very small club of women, and it's to Grace Slick's credit that she never flamed out like Janis. Slick came up in the weirdest, wackiest, strangest era of rock and roll history, in the psychedelic "peace and love" atmosphere of 1960s San Francisco where LSD was eaten like M&M's.

She lived her life without apology, and "brassy" doesn't even begin to describe her. In an appearance on a 1969 episode of the Dick Cavett Show, she became the first person to say "motherf***r" on live television. She once planned to spike President Richard Nixon's tea with 600 micrograms of LSD but was prevented from entering after being recognized by White House security personnel as someone on Nixon's "enemies list." She has been arrested at least four times for what she has referred to as "TUI" ("talking under the influence"). After daughter China's birth, Slick joked to one of the attending nurses that she wanted to name the child "god" with a lowercase "g", because she "wished for the child to be humble." The nurse took Slick seriously, and her report of the incident created a well-traveled urban legend. Grace Slick is now retired from music and painting has become her profession. But, she still is the same old Grace Slick; completely comfortable in her own skin, and she states that "*All rock-and-rollers over the age of 50 look stupid and should retire.*"

In late 2001, she came out of retirement for a post 9/11 gig and came onstage wearing a burqa. She then removed the burqa to reveal a covering bearing an American flag and the words "F*** Fear".

That's our number one rock chick of all time, Grace Slick.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EdLasOrG6c>

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