Subject: TUNES WEEKLY: Our Favorite Movie Soundtracks Of All Time!!

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

Date: 3/19/2020, 9:44 AM **To:** evonleue@gmail.com

TUNES WEEKLY: Our Favorite Movie Soundtracks of All Time!

Music has always been an integral part of movies, but in the modern era, soundtracks have also become big business. The first commercially-issued film soundtrack was "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," so they have come a long way. Just as our own lives have been indelibly marked by the music that meant so much to us, the same goes for the characters in movies. Indeed, most movies have at least one unforgettable scene where music and film become one and we feel it right down to our tingly toes.

We thought it would be fun to visit some of our favorite movie soundtracks of all time. No *Sound of Music* or a *Singin' in the Rain* here, though they are wonderful movies, but just not my thing when it comes to music. Really, the only real "musical" in my list is a film from my childhood, so you'll have to indulge me. Some of my choices will be obvious, but they are obvious for a reason: they're just so cool. So....grab your popcorn and darken the room as we visit, in no special order, our favorite movie soundtracks of all time!



Saturday Night Fever (1977)

The Scoop-

This soundtrack became a world-wide phenomenon going 15X Platinum! You know who's kicking themselves? Boz Scaggs. The movie's producers wanted to use Scaggs' "Lowdown" for the rehearsal scene between Tony and Annette in the studio. Scaggs' record label refused the offer. I doubt Boz has had a good night's sleep since. The Bee Gees only became involved after the movie was made. During filming, Travolta was actually dancing to Stevie Wonder and Boz Scaggs! But the Bee Gees did eventually bring their magic to the project and it became the best-selling soundtrack of all time, only to be surpassed later by Whitney Houston's *The Bodyguard*.

Special Moment-

Travolta's show-stopping scene dancing to "You Should Be Dancing" electrified audiences. Who could believe the Welcome-Back-Kotter guy could move like that? Has it aged well? Maybe not, but it's still an iconic moment of film and music.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUID0jSh2Ic



The Commitments (1991)

The Scoop-

This movie, filmed on location in Dublin, Ireland could have just faded away, but the soul-drenched soundtrack and its charming group of unknown actors gave it very sturdy legs. It's one of my favorite movies ever and was voted the best Irish film of all time. It was about a group of Irish kids trying to make it by playing classic American soul music by the likes of Aretha, Otis Redding, Al Green and others and it sizzled.

Special Moment-

The live performance of "Mustang Sally" crystallized what the movie was all about, with 16-year-old Andrew Strong growling like a middle-age soul-singer from Mississippi. It never gets old.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5TQtREyhSM



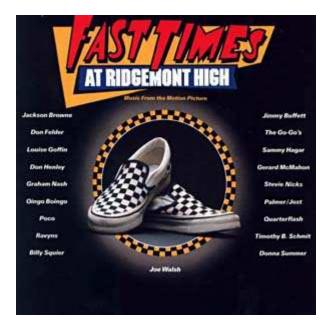
A Hard Day's Night (1964)

Believe it or not, there was once a simpler time when the entertainment industry was less cynical; when a goofy, spectacularly-talented group of young English boys could run around looking silly and the girls chasing them wouldn't be arrested. A Hard Day's Night was a perfect window into that time. Having some fresh Lennon/McCartney originals didn't hurt either. The Beatles' first movie was a huge success and is considered a classic, as well as one of the most influential musical films of all time. Though not actors, The Beatles were charming as all hell. The movie was originally called "Beatlemania" until Ringo's famous description of a "hard day's night" became the title.

Special Moment-

I loved the scene of The Beatles playing cards on the train backed by "I Should Have Known Better." It's mostly just them hanging out having fun, but it shows their individual personalities and is still a joy to watch.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViBZKETuJng



Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982)

Lots of folks love this movie, including me. It was a lot like my high school and probably yours too; it gets the small details just right. Everyone knew a stoner like Jeff Spicoli; a know-it-all like Damone, or had a ball-breaking teacher like Mr. Hand. The music just brought it all together perfectly. The soundtrack is killer with standout tracks like "Raised on the Radio" by The Ravyns, "American Girl" by Tom Petty, and Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir." Okay, must I state the obvious? The dream sequence of Phoebe Cates stepping out of the pool is worth the price of admission.

Special Moment-

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Jason Leigh lies about her age and sneaks out of the house to hook up with 26-year-old stereo salesman Ron Johnson in the dugout of a softball field....all to the strains of Jackson Browne's great song, "Somebody's Baby." It wasn't romantic; it was awkward actually; but we could all relate to it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNTb5sBvJPY



Help! (1965)

The Beatles' second movie is not a classic, but the soundtrack certainly is. With terrific songs like the title track, "The Night Before," "Ticket to Ride," and "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away," how could it go wrong? It didn't go wrong; after all it was The Beatles, but the story line revolving around one of Ringo's rings really was sort of forgettable. The movie was inspired by the Marx Brothers' "Duck Soup" and was heavily satirical of the James Bond films. Dammit, it's The Beatles. The music is very special. It will make you happy.

Special Moment-

The scene of The Beatles singing "You're Gonna Lose That Girl" in the studio is simple, wondrous, and unforgettable. Ringo's cigarette smoke dances in the light and frames the action in a weird, but interesting way and all you can think of is how very special The Beatles were.



The Last American Virgin (1982)

The Last American Virgin is another one of those coming-of-age high school movies about a guy and his friends hanging out, going to parties, and about their never-ending efforts to get laid. But this movie has a little something extra going for it; it has heart. Plus it has a great soundtrack with tunes by The Police, Devo, The Cars, and REO Speedwagon. It's about finding out who you are and who you want to be, and is a brutal reminder of how difficult it can be to be a teenager and that sometimes, you don't get the girl.

Special Moment-

The best scene in this movie is the final scene where Gary, who has convinced himself that he has a real chance with this beautiful transfer student, gets himself worked up into a lather. He had worshiped her from afar until the girl, Karen, had a fling with his best friend and got pregnant. Gary sells everything he has, borrows money, pays for the abortion, and sweetly supports her through the entire painful process. Swept up in the moment, they shared a kiss and she invited him to her birthday party a week later. Gary scrapes together more money, and buys her a gold locket, showing up at the party for the greatest night of his life. Alas, it was not to be, for she was right back with his best friend; the same one who had dumped her when she had gotten pregnant. It's so right then that the heartbreaking notes of James Ingram's "Just Once" begin to play, and you're a cold-hearted sob if you don't feel something. It's the perfect song for the perfect teen movie moment as we sadly sit and watch Gary's broken heart fill the screen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkPQinEEB94



My Best Friend's Wedding (1997)

I'm not much of a Julia Roberts fan, but this was a good date movie and held my attention; besides, it featured a number of terrific Burt Bacharach/Hal David songs, which puts in squarely on my list. Rolling Stone magazine called it ""The summer-date-film supreme for pretty women and the gay men they love." Though it featured best friends, romance, and weddings, Julia Roberts, somehow, wound up alone in the end.

Special Moment-

I think most will agree that the special scene was the dinner scene where everyone joined in singing "Say a Little Prayer." This scene was loaded with undeniable charm and it's unforgettable.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-J4xYOxJ9w

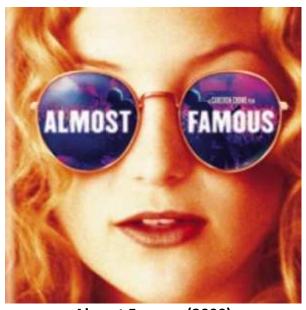


Purple Rain (1984)

Prince's film debut made a big splash and was tied into the album of the same name. The movie was built around Prince doing what Prince does best, and it made a ton of money while also winning an Oscar for Best Original Song Score. Unsurprisingly, the soundtrack was amazing. How could it miss with "When Doves Cry", the title track and other Prince classics? As for Prince's acting; well, he does "pensive" really well.

Special Moment-

Prince playing "Purple Rain" on the piano in the basement was a very special moment, but, really, all of his performance scenes were amazing.



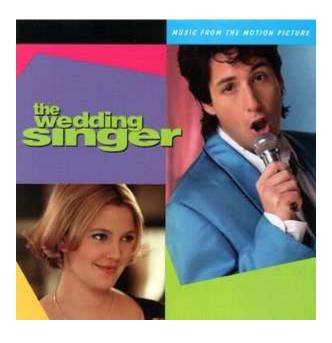
Almost Famous (2000)

Slide in, make yourself comfortable and meet the star of my little list, *Almost Famous*. It's become the favorite of many, as the little movie that could, while capturing the zeitgeist of the early 1970s in ways that are poignant, funny, and inspiring. Writer/director Cameron Crowe's own experiences inspired this story of a 15-year-old boy who aspires to be a rock journalist and meet his musical heroes. The soundtrack is one of the very best and it even won a Grammy Award. It generously features music from Todd Rundgren, Paul Simon, Rod Stewart, The Allman Brothers Band, Led Zeppelin and other greats from the era, leaving the listener with a deep appreciation for just what a special time it was.

Special Moment-

It has to be the scene on the bus when a sing-along to Elton John's "Tiny Dancer" spontaneously erupts with a joyous sense of community plainly obvious on everyone's smiling faces. In the midst of it all, young William Miller turns to Penny Lane and says "I have to go home!" to which she replies, "You are home."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= qW9wqUI4Lg



The Wedding Singer (1998)

The Scoop-

This sweet film about a wedding singer in the 1980s is very funny and features killer music from some of the very best artists of the period, like The Police, Culture Club, The Smiths, Elvis Costello, and Spandau Ballet. Adam Sandler is the wedding singer and Drew Barrymore is the lovable waitress with whom he falls in love. Sandler has this

amazing ability to be a total knucklehead while, at the same time, coming off as a sweet, sentimental guy who also happens to be hilarious. Drew Barrymore has never been prettier or sweeter. It's probably my favorite Adam Sandler movie.

Special Moment-

With Barrymore unhappily jetting to Las Vegas to marry her cad of a boyfriend...Adam Sandler, who secretly boarded the plane at the last minute, suddenly appears singing a very sweet song he wrote called "Grow Old With You," stealing Barrymore's heart...and ours. True love wins and we get our happy ending.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1A X8VMIqU



Dirty Dancing (1987)

The Scoop-

"Dirty Dancing" was a low-budget film that became a worldwide \$214 million dollar phenomenon. Johnny Castle and "Baby" made Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey stars, but it almost didn't happen; Patrick Swayze's agent was opposed to him taking the role. Swayze took it anyway, but then it turned out that Swayze and Grey did not hit it off very well. The rest is history though and guys be aware: show great enthusiasm while watching *Dirty Dancing*" or it could be a major-league deal breaker. The soundtrack was all-world and generated two multi-platinum albums, not to mention a slew of singles on the way to becoming one of the biggest-selling albums of all time. I would be a crime not to include it on my list.

Special Moment-

The famous "lift scene" at the end is one of the special movie dance moments of all time. When Patrick Swayze catches Jennifer Grey in full flight and holds her aloft...to the strains of "(I've Had) The Time of My Life"...well, it's the money-shot of the entire

movie. Suddenly the whole place is dirty dancing like crazy as the camera pulls back slowly. Roll the credits and go towel off.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpmILPAcRQo



Pulp Fiction (1994)

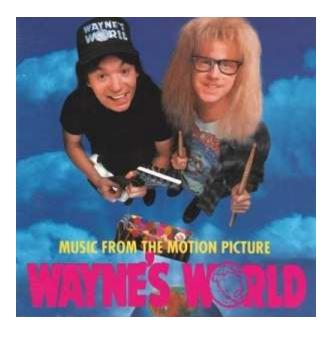
The Scoop-

Quentin Tarantino's black comedy featuring LA mobsters, lowlifes, and small-time crooks has become a must-see for any movie fan. Tarantino's quirky dialogue and mix of humor and violence earned the movie an Oscar, as well as huge box-office receipts worldwide. The soundtrack's inclusion on my list is more of a tribute to the way Tarantino integrates the music into his visuals. They work in tandem and neither would be nearly as effective without the other. Indeed, the eclectic, almost obscure songs, when paired with the action on the screen give the movie an undeniable "cool factor" that is part of Tarantino's unique style.

Special Moment-

John Travolta (a hit-man heroin-addict and "associate" of a mobster) and Uma Thurman (Mia, the mobster's wife) enter a twist dancing contest. In a movie of unforgettable scenes, this one stands out because of the intensity on their faces and their cool dance moves. You've never seen The Twist danced quite like this. Chuck Berry's "You Never Can Tell" is the song accompaniment and it's just irresistible. It's sort of comic and sort of not, but you can't take your eyes off of them. I've since played the song again and again, but you need the visual of their dancing to get the full effect.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTBhKboufF4



Wayne's World (1992)

Of the eleven movies made from Saturday Night Live skits, "Wayne's World" is the most successful, despite its low budget and being filmed in only 34 days. Mike Myers and Dana Carvey were hilarious as a couple of guys hosting a cable-access television show from their basement and they took being silly to the level of art. The soundtrack was great too, featuring old-school artists like Black Sabbath, Jimi Hendrix, Alice Cooper and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Special Moment-

The movie's most memorable scene almost didn't make the cut. Of course, I'm talking about the "Bohemian Rhapsody" scene where the guys and their buddies are cruising around, blasting the music and singing as loudly as they can. Remember when you used to do that? The producers wanted to do the scene with a more current band at the time, Guns N' Roses. Mike Myers wanted to use the Queen tune and after threatening not to do it at all, he got his way. The result is unforgettable and one of the most entertaining scenes ever.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thyJOnasHVE



Wizard of Oz (1939)

The Wizard of Oz was a vital part of my childhood, and yours too, probably. It used to be shown only once a year. My sister and I prepared for this momentous event by having everything out of the way: our baths, our homework, supper, etc... We would plant ourselves on the floor two feet from the television with a freshly-popped bowl of popcorn in hand. We then entered a world of fantasy; a movie with all the qualities of a dream. It was the highlight of our year. The unforgettable songs by Harold Arlen added to the whimsy and have become part of the culture as we all make our way down our own yellow brick road.

Special Moment-

There are many special moments, and most folks might choose Judy Garland's sentimental "Somewhere over the Rainbow." For me though, it was the scarecrow's charming but awkward dancing as he sang "If I Only Had a Brain." Slipping, sliding, falling, and losing his straw, the scarecrow still makes me smile and remember that little boy from years ago.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nauLgZISozs



The Big Chill (1983)

A group of baby boomer college friends reunites around the funeral of one of their friends who committed suicide. The movie stirred up lots of emotion as they all considered the distance between them now and their former ideals. The cynics among us described the film as "a bunch of Yuppies sitting around complaining about their lives" but I was not among them. It rang true for me and it remains one of my favorite movies. The soundtrack may just be the greatest of all time. It features soul and R & B from the greatest artists of all time: Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, The Miracles and Aretha Franklin.

Special Moment-

For me, it's the scene where they're cleaning up after dinner and dancing around to The Temptations' "Ain't Too Proud to Beg." For a few moments, the somber reason for their reunion is forgotten and they are able to just enjoy being together again, rekindling memories of a time when they were all about potential and their future was right square in front of them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86GA4JnW7x4

D. Tillis writes TUNES WEEKLY exclusivly for www.tunescompany.com

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