

**Subject:** TUNES WEEKLY - Part Two: The Greatest Rock Drummers of all Time!

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## Tunes Weekly--Part Two: The Greatest Rock Drummers of all Time!

What do you call a drummer that breaks up with his girlfriend? Homeless.

The drummer. He is the hyperactive kid of the band; the one that tap, tap, taps constantly; the one that just drove off with your girlfriend. Despite what the guitar player thinks, the drummer is the coolest guy in the band...

Since we love lists and love drums, we thought it would be fun to list our favorite rock drummers of all time! We're sticking mainly with the "band" guys, not the hired guns. We're also not looking solely at the technical abilities of the drummers, though technique is obviously important. We're looking for drummers that made the music feel good; the drummers who brought a musicality to their craft that vitally contributed to the sound as a whole. In no certain order, enjoy this list of Part Two: The Greatest Rock Drummers Of All Time!



**Keith Moon**

The Who

### **The Scoop-**

Keith Moon was probably the most unorthodox big-name drummer ever. His style could best be described as "chaotic." But, his manic, thrashing, hyper-aggressive style melded perfectly with the furious rhythms of guitarist Pete Townsend and the rumbling, frenetic bass of John Entwistle. He was all over his drum kit, rarely sticking to a steady groove, and he seemed to throw away all the rules and discipline of drumming. After the last note is played, other drummers go backstage and towel off; Keith Moon destroyed his drum kit. In short, he was a true original and he lived his life the same way he played the drums: with wild abandon. Unfortunately, it all came to an end for him in September, 1978 at the age of 32.

**Standout Tracks** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WX\\_96uKZ7yQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WX_96uKZ7yQ)

"Won't Get Fooled Again," "Happy Jack," "Out in the Street," "My Generation."



**John Bonham**  
Led Zeppelin

**The Scoop**

John Bonham was, quite possibly, the greatest rock drummer of them all with his incredible power, feel, chops, and musicality. He has influenced countless drummers. His playing was monstrously heavy and deep and it had to be; Led Zeppelin was a powerhouse that brought a lot of different musical styles into play. Bonham died in September, 1980 at the age of 32, after which Led Zeppelin called it a day. He was irreplaceable in the band and the passing years have not diminished his legacy; he is still the king of rock drumming.

**Standout Tracks-** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tISx0jkuLM>

"The Ocean," "Moby Dick," "When The Levee Breaks," "Kashmir," "Black Dog."



[Click here to see The Tunes Company offerings for Led Zeppelin!](#)





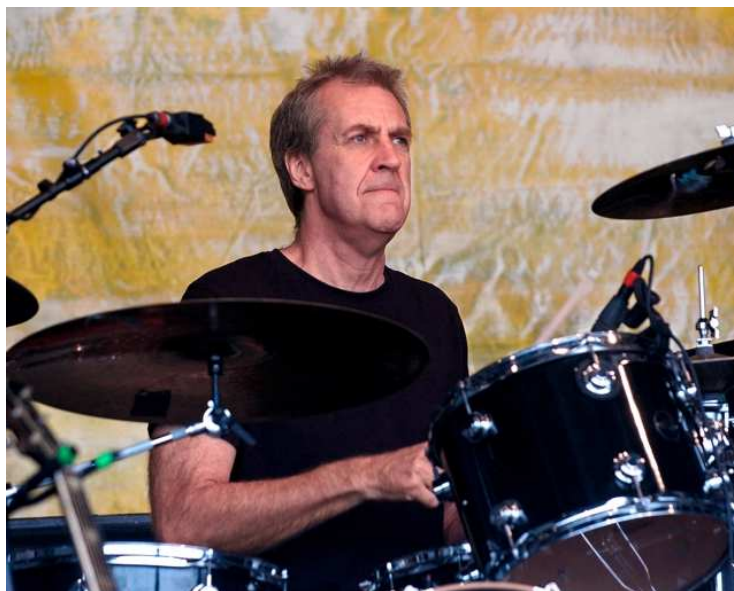


**Chad Smith**  
Red Hot Chili Peppers

**The Scoop-**

Chad Smith is one of the best drummers in rock today, but more importantly, he and bassist Flea, are one of the top rhythm sections going, as they put the funk into punk. The grooves they produce are like powerful interlocking gears and suddenly, you feel your fanny start to move; that's the effect a great drummer has. In the Chili Peppers, Chad Smith and Flea build the house; the guitarist hangs the curtains. Yes, he looks like comedian Will Ferrell, and they've had a good bit of fun with that, but Smith will admit that Will Ferrell is the better cowbell player.

**Standout Tracks-** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPEFeROhNNI>  
"Factory of Faith," "Can't Stop," "Give it Away," "Higher Ground."



### **Pete Thomas**

Elvis Costello & The Attractions

#### **The Scoop**

Pete Thomas is not the flashiest guy with the greatest licks but, for a long time, he has provided some of the tastiest and energetic drumming you'll hear anywhere. He made his name with Elvis Costello, but has also been a staple on the LA session scene for years. Remember what I said about making the music feel good? That's Pete Thomas, and he's still out there doing it, probably in a town near you.

**Standout Tracks-** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe6rGCtyV9o>  
"This Year's Girl," "(I Don't Want To Go To) Chelsea," "Radio Radio."



### **Dino Danelli**

The Rascals

#### **The Scoop-**

Dino Danelli has been called "one of the great unappreciated rock drummers in history." The Rascals owned the pop charts for a time in the sixties and Danelli was the drumming dynamo that made them go. Trained as a jazz player, he brought a very energetic, soulful style, as well as a cool, flashy showmanship to those great Rascals hits. I remember watching him on The Ed Sullivan Show and I knew right away that

this guy was something special. Plus, he looked sort of like Paul McCartney. Danelli is still active at the age of 71 and continues to do reunion shows with The Rascals.

**Standout Tracks-** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vWUM0m4AE4>

"People Got to Be Free," "Good Lovin" "You Better Run."



### **Ginger Baker**

Cream, Blind Faith, Ginger Baker's Air Force

#### **The Scoop-**

Ginger Baker was one of rock's real characters and was the first "rock superstar drummer." His style was primal, as he melded rock's rhythms with jazz and African influences into his own inimitable style. Cream was a trio of superstars and Baker, along with bassist Jack Bruce and guitarist Eric Clapton, was a vital cornerstone. He was a showy player, offering lengthy drum solos, syncopated rhythms and a large double-bass drum kit. He had a mercurial temperament, as well as an on-and-off heroin addiction that made one use caution in approaching him. He was the most influential rock drummer of the 1960s. He died on October 6, 2019 at the age of 80.

**Standout Tracks-** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPYot0Wk7UY>

"Spoonful", "White Room", "Toad", "Sunshine Of Your Love"



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D. Tillis writes "TUNES WEEKLY" exclusively for [www.tunescompany.com](http://www.tunescompany.com)

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