

Subject: TUNES WEEKLY - Part 2: "The Worst Number One Songs EVER!!!!"

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

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To: evonleue@gmail.com



This is it. Part 2 of the newsletter we've always wanted to do, but haven't haven't had the guts...until now. We want to list the WORST of the BEST. We have compiled a list of the *worst number one songs ever*. These are those songs that topped the charts but were not really

worthy.

Mind you, these are songs that sold in *droves*...but they all totally sucked. How can that be?

Every one of these songs was a number one hit...and I hated them all. We mostly tried to avoid novelty songs here because, let's face it; everyone freely admits those types of songs suck. I think we buy novelty songs because we think there is a "cool factor" attached to being in on the joke. So here is Part 2 of *The Worst Number One Songs EVER*. Prepare for impact.

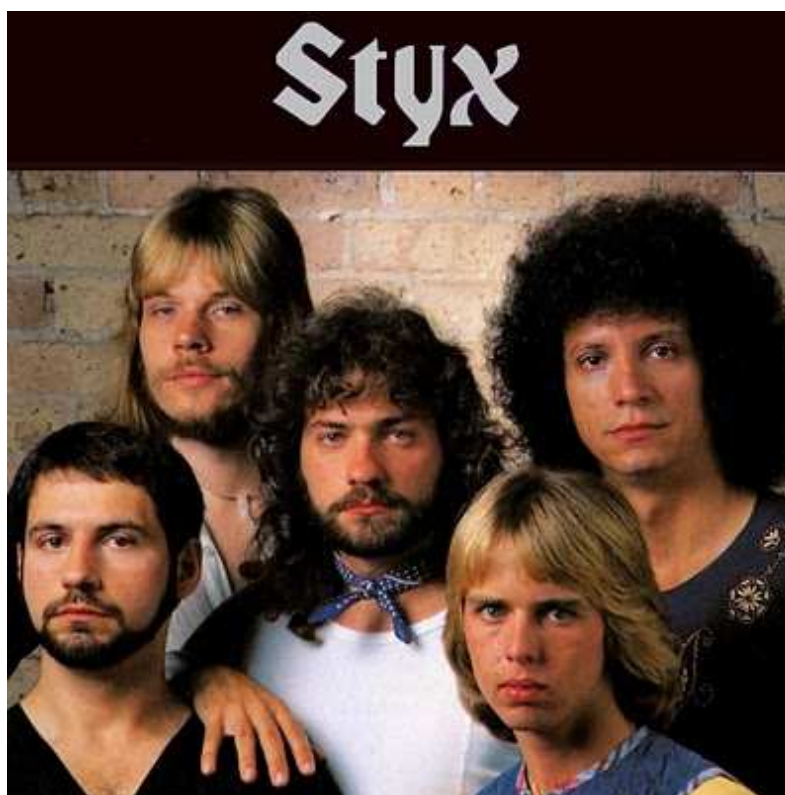


16. "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?" by Rod Stewart (1978)

Why, why, why? Here we had one of the greatest old-school, badass rock singers of all time prancing around to a Disco beat asking "Do ya think I'm sexy?" Well, the prancing wasn't a big deal; that's what British rock stars do. But the whole project just caused a lot of conflict between rock "purists" and the Disco crowd. "Rod has sold out." It was later explained that it was a spoof on those guys that hang around bars trying to pick up chicks. Okay, fair enough. It

becomes more obvious when you check out the video again, but that doesn't make it any easier to listen to when you're driving. The coolest thing about it is that all the royalties went to UNICEF. I'm still a Rod fan, but when I'm making a playlist, I leave this one off.

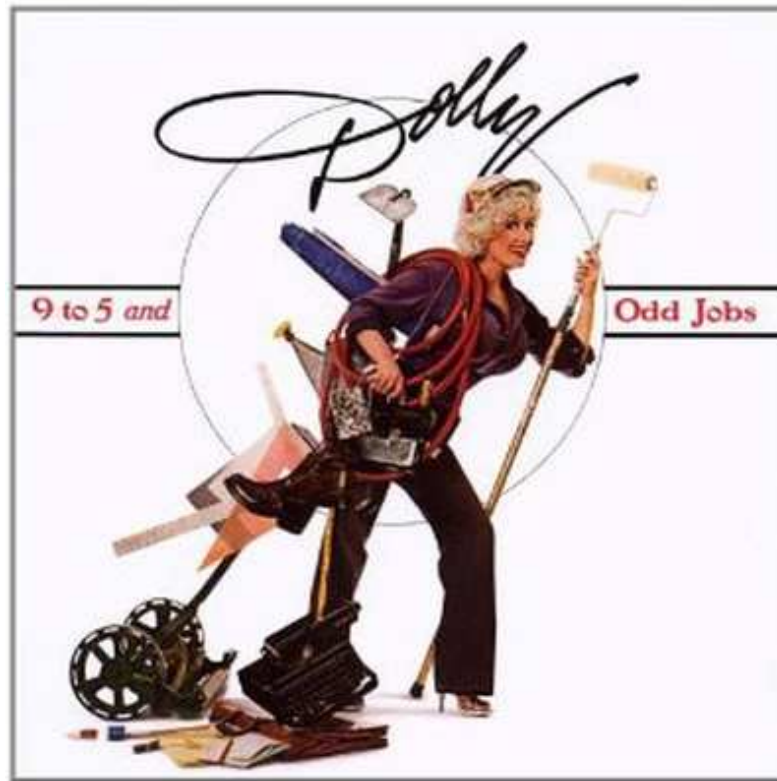
Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hphwfg1wLJs>



17. "Babe" by Styx (1979)

Why, why, why? This was their first and only number one hit and it may be the worst number one by a major band ever. For me, it's Dennis DeYoung's voice. Grating, cloying, mannered...these are the words that come to mind. He has his fans, for sure. To his credit, he wrote this song for his wife and had to be talked into including it on Styx's *Cornerstone* album. I'm not much of a power ballad guy, and that's why "Babe" never gets played at my house, and also why I'm casting it into the pits of Hell to burn for all eternity.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBi61pgDUP8>



18. "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton (1980)

Why, why, why? Dolly is cool, but if you snapped up this song, I'm guessing you were probably having major boss issues at work. I got nothing here.

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



19. "The One That You Love" by Air Supply (1981)

Why, why, why? This was Air Supply's only number one hit. I jokingly refer to them as The Eunuchs, because I suspect they may have some seriously low testosterone levels. I do applaud them though since they never pretended to be anything other than what they are, and if heart-wrenching ballads are your thing, you may just own their entire catalog. For me, when I think of Air Supply, I think of the exhaust fan in the bathroom. But, bless their hearts, they are in their 44th year as a band and are still out there doing it. Any band that can keep it all together for that long...well, I'll be proud to cry right along with them.

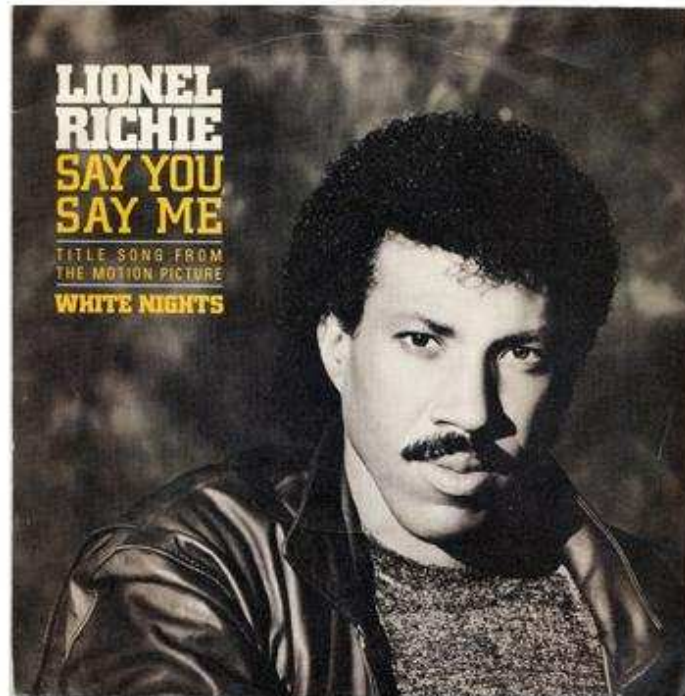
Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY31ZH6hAFI>



20. **"Total Eclipse of the Heart"** by Bonnie Tyler (1983)

Why, why, why? This is one of those big, dramatic Jim Steinman ballads (Meat Loaf, Air Supply, etc...) where there isn't a solid backbeat within ten nautical miles. It's been described as a "vampire love story"; very Broadway; gothic-sounding, and quite melodramatic and epic (yawn). It all seems too complicated, musically and lyrically. Add in Bonnie Tyler's Kim Carnes-style raspy voice and suddenly you're in the mood for some Beach Boys. America really went for it. As for me, the whole vampire thing still eludes me.

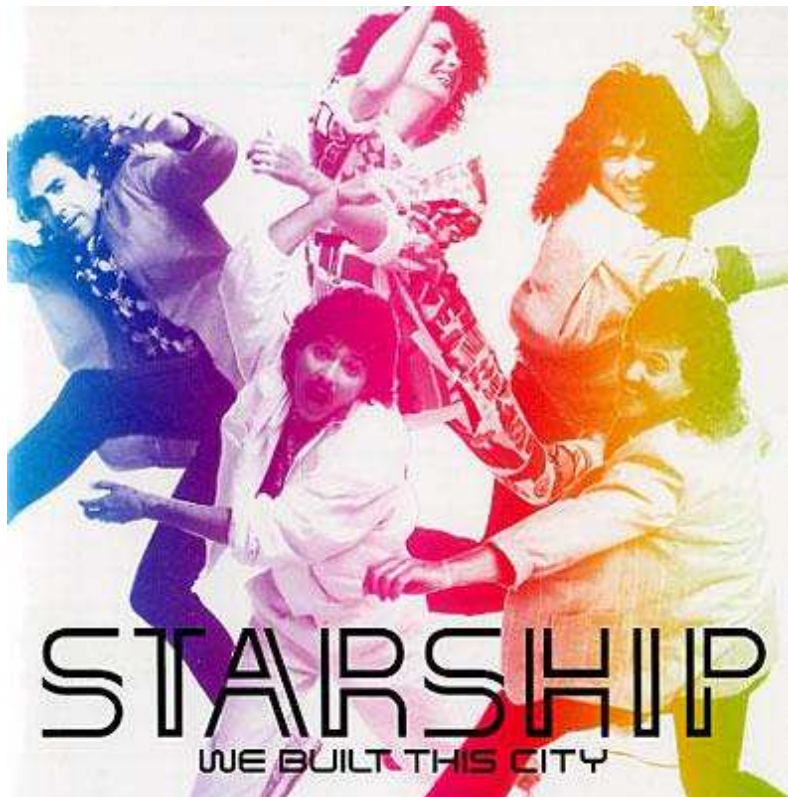
Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcOxhH8N3Bo>



21. "Say You, Say Me" by Lionel Richie (1985)

Why, why, why? Lionel Richie once performed a miracle; he made Kenny Rogers actually seem hip and sexy by writing "Lady," a huge number one hit for him. After accomplishing a feat like that, it was thought that Lionel could possibly, one day, cure cancer; "Say You, Say Me" ended that run. I never really got this song; say you, say me, say what? It did win an Oscar for Best Original Song, and it *was* a number one hit, so what do I know? I only know that Lionel had a dream. He had an awesome dream.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91AzUkwiFyo>



22. "We Built This City" by Starship (1985)

Why, why, why? Not only is this one of the worst songs of all time, I believe it may be the worst video of all time. Just think of the waste of talent here. Singer Mickey Thomas is one of the best around. An even bigger shame is in knowing that Starship is the remnant of Jefferson Airplane. And an even bigger shame than that is seeing the former "screw you" Queen of the Counterculture, Grace Slick performing in this slicked up song and video with poofy 80s hair and a look in her eyes that says "Where's the LSD when you need it??" I think they had the seed of a good idea here; the idea that San Francisco was built on rock and roll. But, somewhere along the trolley track, the trolley derailed. Grace Slick hasn't played live in 30 years, which means she hasn't had to sing "We Built This City" in 30 years; smart move.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1b8AhlSYQ>



23. "Take My Breath Away" by Berlin (1986)

Why, why, why? I think this is my least favorite song of all time; even over "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." "Take My Breath Away" is like aural Valium. When it comes to taking my breath away, I think I'd rather have a pillow over my face. I literally cannot listen to it.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bx51eegLTY8>



24. "**Baby Don't Forget My Number**" by Milli Vanilli (1988)

Why, why, why? I think I'm a doggone psychic. I just *knew* a Milli Vanilli song would make our list. How did I know that? I believe I must have ESPN. This was Milli Vanilli's first number one hit and they didn't even sing on the damn thing. Milli Vanilli sort of epitomized the MTV era; when attention spans got shorter and music became more about how you looked than how you sounded. This duo gave the Grammy Awards the biggest black eye in its history. Rob and Fab were eventually introduced to the wonders and mysteries of karma. Rob Pilatus, who in 1990 proclaimed himself "the new Elvis," died in 1998 of an accidental drug overdose and Fab Morvan is doing what every used-to-be is always doing: he's working on a new album. Everyone has forgotten his number.

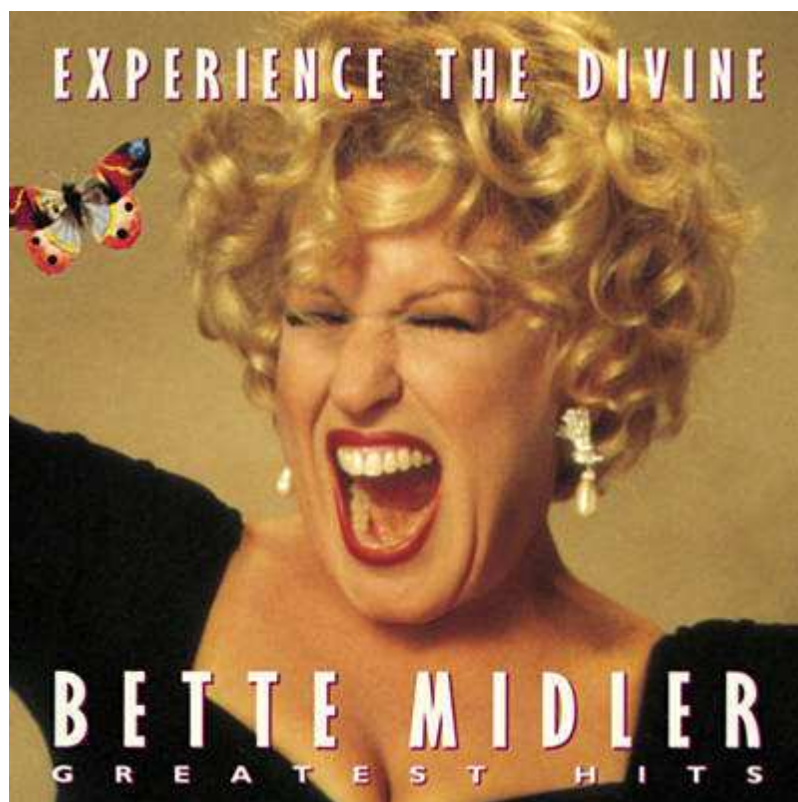
Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhyzGDPwmYU>



25. "**We Didn't Start the Fire**" by Billy Joel (1989)

Why, why, why? It pains me to include Billy Joel on this list because I am a long-time fan and I still consider him one of the really great artists around. I appreciate what he was going for here. He had just turned 40 and was looking back, taking stock, and just contemplating everything in general. In talking with a 21-year-old friend of Sean Lennon, he realized that the kid really didn't know much about important historical events and the song grew from that. He included more than 100 headline events in the tune and it was very clever and fun to follow along with...but it was a crappy song and Billy Joel admits it. He likened the melody to a dentist's drill. For me, the chorus was the main problem. It was stiff, didn't rock or roll, and got annoying on the second pass. At least it wasn't a fatal blow for him; in fact, it hit number one and was nominated for the Grammy for Record of the Year.

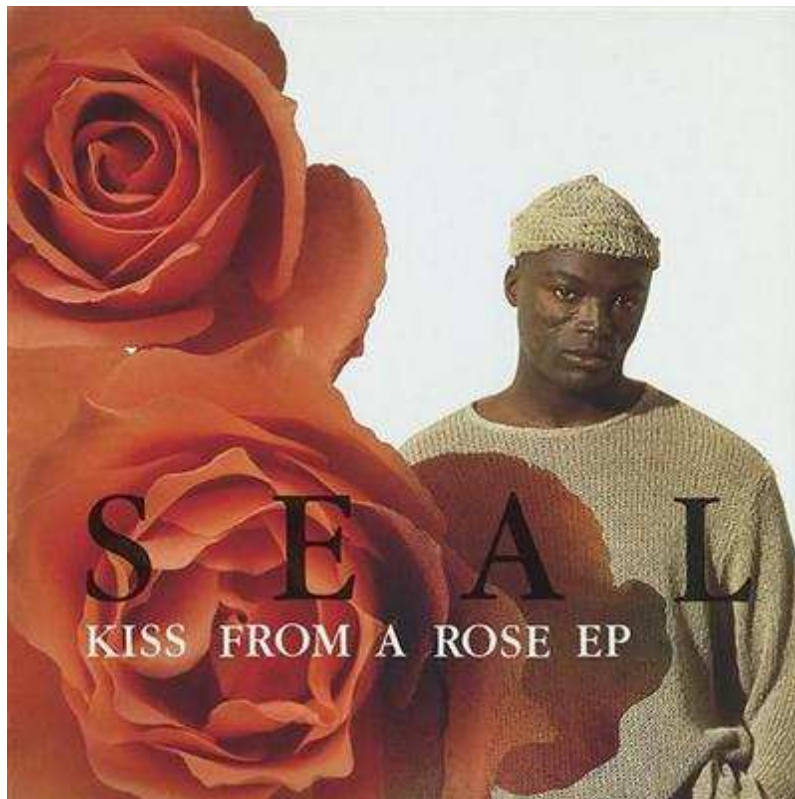
Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFTLKWw542g>



26. "**Wind Beneath My Wings**" by Bette Midler (1989)

Why, why, why? In the movie *Beaches*, Hillary Whitney (Barbara Hershey) may have died, but "Wind Beneath My Wings" will, unfortunately, live forever. I understand the appeal of it and the whole tie-in with the movie. My problem is that it clocks in at 4 minutes and 54 seconds, but it feels like about half an hour. I thought it was okay the first thousand times I heard it. In the movie, Barbara Hershey died of viral cardiomyopathy and Ali MacGraw Disease (Roger Ebert said that Ali MacGraw Disease is when, as the star gets closer to death, the more beautiful she becomes). *Beaches* was great, but at this stage of the game I just can't afford to spare the time it would take to listen to "Wind Beneath My Wings" even one more time.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iAzMRKFX3c>

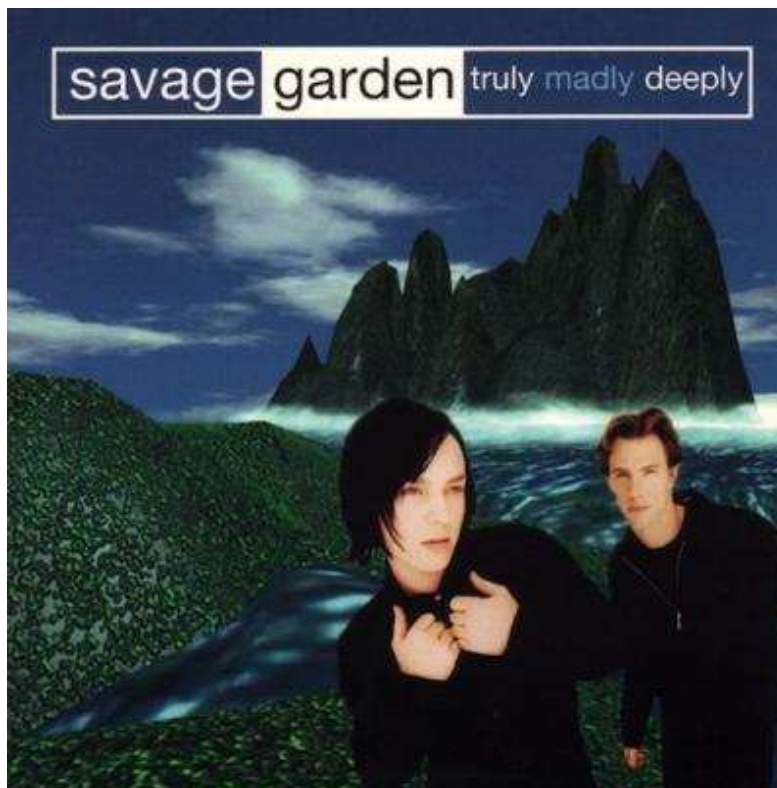


27. "Kiss From a Rose" by Seal (1995)

Why, why, why? I've always found Seal's voice to be sort of interesting with that sandpaper tone of his. "Kiss From a Rose" is kind of a mysterious song and Seal has always been rather vague on its meaning. He has said that some kind of relationship inspired the lyrics. Then, he said that his songs often have more than one meaning. Translation: he doesn't know what it's about either. I've read the lyrics several times and I have no clue. I was stunned to learn that the line I thought was "I've been kissed by a rose on the grave" was actually "I've been kissed by a rose on the grey." What the hell is that?

Seal, himself, was "never really that proud of it." I'm guessing a pile of dead presidents stacked to the ceiling helped increase his affection and pride for the tune. I'd like to take this opportunity to clear up an old urban legend regarding Seal. It's long been thought that those facial markings are tribal scars; like some sort of tribal rite of passage. The truth is not as sexy. They actually are the result of the disease lupus...or maybe even being "kissed by a rose on the grey."

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9aiBIpyKU>



28. "Truly Madly Deeply" by Savage Garden (1997)

Why, why, why? I'd like to know how a band with the word "savage" in their name can produce such a wimpy song. "Truly Madly Deeply" is truly, madly, deeply awful. But if I hated it, it can only mean one thing: it was a huge hit that occupied the number one slot for two weeks and stayed in the top-10 for half a year. Savage Garden is an Australian pop duo that pretty much puts to rest the stereotype of rugged Australians wrestling crocodiles.

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



29. **"You're Beautiful"** by James Blunt (2005)

Why, why, why? What can you do when the artist himself hates the song? Well, you put it on the list, that's what! Actually, when I read that quote, my respect for James Blunt increased ten-fold. But, I still hate the song. It's a desperate love song sung to the love of his life after he saw her with another guy. Okay, I can dig that; most of us have been there. After all, a man will do strange things when he's had a good ass whuppin'. I can't help but think though, that if he had sung the tune at a pitch just an octave or two lower, the girl might not have placed his heart in a wood chipper. Check out the video though. It's a snowy day and he removes his shoes and shirt, and then jumps off a cliff. Yes, he was in a world of hurt, but the good news is that if he survived the jump, he'll be a good catch for any girl that likes doers; not talkers.

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



30. "Stay With Me" by Sam Smith (2014)

Why, why, why? I will never be president of the Sam Smith Fan Club. I'm sure he's a great guy, but he sings this song within a razor's edge of breaking out into a full-blown sob. These studio recordings involve numerous vocal takes. Did he come that close to crying on every single take? It all seems just a little too contrived for me. Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne received a 12.5% songwriting credit for the song's amazing similarity to Petty's "I Won't Back Down." The song is about a guy pleading with his one-night stand not to leave him. Uh, one-night stands, by their very nature, are not affairs where you plan on purchasing property together the next morning. I'm thinking Sam should maybe go for a relationship that has a longer life span than 24 hours and start by learning the guy's first name.

Listen- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB-5XG-DbAA>

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