



30 #1 Hits Of The 1970s

Sweet Songs

1. The Tears Of A Clown – *The Miracles*
2. Oh Girl – *The Chi-Lites*
3. What's Going On (Live) – *Marvin Gaye*
4. Don't Leave Me This Way – *Thelma Houston*
5. War (Live) – *Edwin Starr*
6. Rock And Roll Lullaby – *B.J. Thomas*
7. Brother Louie – *The Stories*
8. The Night Chicago Died – *Paper Lace*
9. Rainy Night In Georgia – *Brook Benton*
10. Indian Reservation (The Lament of the Cherokee Reservation Indian) – *Paul Revere & The Raiders*

Super 70s

1. Got To Give It Up (Live) – *Marvin Gaye*
2. We Are Family – *Sister Sledge*
3. I Will Survive – *Gloria Gaynor*
4. Love Machine – *The Miracles*
5. If You Don't Know Me By Now – *Harold Melvin's Blue Notes*
6. Rock Your Baby – *George McGrae*
7. Boogie Oogie Oogie – *A Taste Of Honey*
8. Then Came You (Live) – *The Spinners*
9. Doing It To Death (Live) – *James Brown*
10. I Gotcha – *Joe Tex*

Groove Music

1. Get On The Good Foot (Live) – *James Brown*
2. Me And Mrs. Jones (Live) – *Billy Paul*
3. Car Wash – *Rose Royce*
4. Let's Get It On (Live) – *Marvin Gaye*
5. Have You Seen Her – *The Chi-Lites*
6. Ladies Night (Live) – *Kool And The Gang*
7. Close The Door – *Teddy Pendergrass*
8. Turn Back The Hands Of Time – *Tyrone Davis*
9. Love Won't Let Me Wait – *Major Harris*
10. Could It Be I'm Falling In Love (Live) – *The Spinners*



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30 #1 Hits Of The 1970s

The 1970s were a turbulent and exciting time, and there are many iconic images associated with it – Disco balls, lava lamps, pet rocks, and so much else. In the background was a rich mix of music, providing a varied and diverse soundtrack to what Tom Wolfe once termed the “me decade.” From Disco to Soul and Rock, there was always music in the air, and this collection brings together thirty songs that were so popular they made it to the top of the charts. It was during the 1970s that Disco enjoyed its greatest prominence, and this package contains many classic Disco tracks.

Disco music emerged out of the funky Sounds coming from such record labels as Motown (home of Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye & Diana Ross) and Philadelphia International Records (home of The O’Jays & Billy Paul). It would be perfected in the last half of the 1970s, with such unforgettable songs as “We Are Family” and “I Will Survive.” Songs as varied and as intriguing as those from the 70s are sure to have a great story behind them, so let’s take a closer look at these songs!

The Songs

The Tears Of A Clown - The Miracles

This brilliant song has to stand out as one of Smokey Robinson’s greatest compositions. Considering that he has written such masterpieces as “My Girl” and “The Tracks Of My Tears,” that is high praise indeed. The song is about a man who puts on the appearance of being happy (like a clown) whereas deep down inside he is really crying (“if there’s a smile on my face. It’s only there trying to fool the public. But when it comes down to fooling you, now honey that’s quite a different subject”). It has an interesting history in that it was first recorded and released on an album in 1967 (*Make It Happen*) and yet did not become a smash hit until 1970. It was in that year that it was released as a single in Great Britain, where it became a #1 hit. Motown decided to release it as a single in the U.S. as well, where it promptly shot up to #1 on both the R&B and the Pop charts. The wonderful music for this song was written by Stevie Wonder and Motown writer Hank Cosby and given to Smokey as a Christmas present in 1966 – Smokey wrote the lyrics later on.

What’s Going On - Marvin Gaye

With “What’s Going On,” Marvin Gaye announced to the world that he would be writing and singing songs with serious themes and topical lyrics. The lead-off track on the classic album of the same name, “What’s Going On” asked the simple question of what was going on in the U.S. in 1970, with racial strife, the seemingly unending war in Vietnam and other social ills. The song was a powerful statement, and led to a new trend of socially conscious lyrics in Soul music (a trend which would become very strong during the 1970s). It is one Marvin Gaye’s greatest and most important songs, and will always stand as a testament to his songwriting skills.



War - Edwin Starr

“War” by Edwin Starr is without a doubt the most vehement and powerful anti-war song of all time, as well as the most well-known. It became a rallying cry for those opposed to America’s involvement in the Vietnam war when it became #1 Pop hit in 1970. It still packs a punch when heard today, and its cry of “War! What is it good for? Nothing!” is still a powerful sentiment even today. Edwin Starr never became a huge star, but it is with this song that he will forever be identified.

Rock And Roll Lullaby - B.J. Thomas

This tender song features an all-star cast. On top of hitmaker B.J. Thomas on lead vocal, you also have twangy guitar hero Duane Eddy on lead guitar, the celebrated backup group The Blossoms on background vocals, along with Darlene Love. It was written by Barry Mann and Cynthia Weill, famous for writing classics such as “You’ve Lost That Loving Feeling,” “On Broadway” and “Uptown.”



Then



Now

The Night Chicago Died - Paper Lace

This song has to rank as one of the kitschiest, but also one of the catchiest hits to emerge from the 70s. It was recorded by British group Paper Lace, and became their only Top Forty hit when it reached the top spot on the charts in 1974. It is about a gangland slaying in Chicago, although the details in the song do not tie it to any real life event (it refers to the “east side of Chicago,” which does not exist!). The band may have been referring to the infamous St. Valentine’s Day Massacre from 1929 where six gangsters were lined up and shot, but they did not get all of their facts straight!

Indian Reservation (The Lament of the Cherokee Reservation Indian) - Paul Revere & The Raiders

Mark Lindsay, a runaway working as a delivery boy, stopped one day at the drive-in restaurant of former barber Paul Revere. An unlikely beginning for a musical group? No less so than Revere’s seven thousand mile motorcycle ride to let radio stations across the nation know that the Raiders (his band) were coming, with this 1971 recording of a John D. Loudermilk song. Peppy it may be, but it concerns the displacement of the Cherokee from Georgia to Oklahoma, and is as timeless a song now as it was then.

We Are Family - Sister Sledge

A classic Disco song with an inspirational message. “We Are Family” was Sister Sledge’s second consecutive #1 R&B hit in 1979 (the other being “He’s The Greatest Dancer”) and it also reached #2 on the Pop charts. With its lyrics of “we are family, all my sisters and me,” it showcases the positive and communal aspects of Soul and Disco music, and has become an anthem for millions of people around the world.

If You Don’t Know Me By Now - Harold Melvin’s Blue Notes

“If You Don’t Know Me By Now” has to rank as one of the greatest and most well-known ballads from the 1970s. It was written by Philly Soul maestros Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff and was the group’s first #1 R&B hit in 1972. It also reached #3 on the Pop charts. The song enjoyed further success during the 1980s when Simply Red took it to the top of the Pop charts in 1989.

I Gotcha - Joe Tex

“I Gotcha” is a typically irascible and very funny Joe Tex track, but it is also one heck of a funky groove. This song was Joe Tex’s last #1 R&B hit when it charted in 1972, and it was an influential pre-Disco song (helping set the stage for Joe Tex’s last Top Ten hit, the hilarious “Ain’t Gonna Bump No More (With No Big Fat Woman)”). It is about a man who thought he had finally grabbed a hold of the girl he has been after, but with no luck (“you made me a promise and you’re gonna stick to it. You shouldn’t have promised if you weren’t gonna do it. You saw me and ran in another direction. I’ll teach you to play with my affection) – in typical Joe Tex fashion, he makes it a mix of heartbreak and funky grooves.



Me And Mrs. Jones - Billy Paul

The ultimate cheating song – everyone knows this song! Billy Paul's version is a soulful description of infidelity, and it proved to be his first and biggest hit. It was #1 on the R&B charts for four weeks and #1 on the Pop charts for three weeks in 1972. Amazingly Billy Paul would chart only one more Top Ten hit during his career – so this song was truly his moment of glory, a song about the furtiveness of forbidden love: “we gotta be extra careful that we don't build our hopes too high. 'Cause she's got her own obligations and so do I.”



Have You Seen Her - The Chi-Lites

This tender ballad was The Chi-Lites first #1 R&B hit towards the end of 1971, and is certainly their most well-known song. It opens with a classic narration which details the emotional state of the singer: “one month

ago today, I was happy as a lark,” and then moves onto the sung part of the song, which is very much Doo Wop influenced. It was co-written by lead singer Eugene Record, along with Barbara Acklin, a Soul singer in her own right. It was later recorded by MC Hammer for his 1990 album *Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em*.



From Disco to Rock, the 1970s produced some truly exciting and memorable hits. This package brings together 30 #1 hits from this decade, and these liner notes have shown you how the stories behind the songs are as exciting and memorable as the songs themselves.