

# The Top Hits Of The 1990s

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1999 signals the beginning of the end of the 1990s, and stirs up reflections on the top hits of the decade from 1990-1999. While it may seem premature to be talking about a decade retrospective when it's only late April, 1999, what we have will nonetheless closely approximate the end result.

Since this will be my last issue as a writer and editor for the foreseeable future, I am publishing this, secure in the knowledge that it is reasonably accurate, at least for the first 9 1/2 years of the 1990s. It seems that every publication has a different method for compiling what those top hits are, and the Methodist College *Pride* is no different. Regardless of how they are put together, compilers cannot ignore certain statistics every song accumulates: weeks in the Top 10, Top 40, and on the whole chart. Also, some compilers consider a song's peak position and weeks spent there. Our way takes into account all of these things, delegating each song points based on them.

The difficulty in creating a fair ranking is that Billboard has used three methods to compile the weekly Hot 100 during the 1990s. It was necessary to augment the points of songs under the first method (1990-1991), since that method favored shorter (in some cases, much shorter) chart life for singles. The latter two methods are highly compatible, so ranking those singles was not a problem. This may be the only place where you will see an attempt made to place songs from 1990 and 1991 on a level playing field with songs from 1992-1999.

Emerging from the 1980s, Whitney Houston and Madonna had the most #1 hits by solo women, with 7 each. While they gained 4 more apiece, both were usurped by Mariah Carey, who scored 13 #1 hits as well as 5 other Top 5 hits. It should not be any surprise that she is represented in the Top 300 of the decade by 15 hits, more than any other artist. Her all-star collaboration with Boyz II Men, "One Sweet Day," enjoyed a 16-week run at #1 between 1995 and 1996, and ends the decade at #1 by a narrow margin. Her "duet" partners, Boyz II Men, are also represented in the Top 10 of the 1990s with "I'll Make Love to You" at #4 and "End of the Road" at #7.

Longevity is a key explanation for some of the singles in the Top 10 of the 1990s. At #3 is "How Do I Live" by LeAnn Rimes, which spent a record number of weeks in the Top 10 (32), Top 40 (61), and Hot 100 (69). It was her first Top 10 hit—her two follow-up singles "You Light Up My Life" and "Looking Through Your Eyes/Commitment" both fell off the chart before "How Do I Live." Next's "Too Close" (#6) reigned in 1998, and, at 53 weeks, became only the 7th single to remain on the chart for at least one year.

"Truly Madly Deeply" is ranked #8, despite managing only 2 weeks at #1. It stayed on the chart 52 weeks—25 in the Top 10, and all in the Top 30. Jewel's "You Were Meant for Me/Foolish Games" is the 10th biggest hit of the 1990s simply because it went up and down the chart twice, once per side of the single—spending 65 weeks on the Hot 100, the record until Rimes' single.

Unlike the transition between the 1970s and 1980s, where so many 1970s artists were instantly washed up when the 80s began, several big artists of the 1980s enjoyed continued success in the 1990s: Janet Jackson, Madonna, Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, and Bryan Adams all either improved on or enjoyed more success in the 90s. Other big 80s artists simply gave us one or two songs to remind us they are still around: Duran Duran, UB40, Paula Abdul, John Mellencamp, Bon Jovi, Rod Stewart, Sting, Bette Midler, Billy Joel, New Edition, and Prince. A few artists whose heyday was the 1970s returned to the top in the 1990s: Elton John, Cher, Meat Loaf, and Eric Clapton.

The artists who made the greatest impact as consistent new artists this decade—Mariah Carey, Boyz II Men, TLC, Toni Braxton, Celine Dion, Monica, etc.—will be under the microscope once the 2000-2009 decade begins to see if they can repeat or build on their success—or be finished.

Note: The songs marked with a (\*) are current 1999 tracks still gaining points, so they have been ranked according to a projected amount of points.

- 1 ONE SWEET DAY—Mariah Carey & Boyz II Men
- 2 MACARENA (BAYSIDE BOYS MIX)—Los Del Rio
- 3 HOW DO I LIVE—LeAnn Rimes
- 4 I'LL MAKE LOVE TO YOU—Boyz II Men
- 5 CANDLE IN THE WIND 1997/SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT—Elton John
- 6 TOO CLOSE—Next
- 7 END OF THE ROAD—Boyz II Men
- 8 TRULY MADLY DEEPLY—Savage Garden
- 9 UN-BREAK MY HEART—Toni Braxton
- 10 YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME/FOOLISH GAMES—Jewel
- 11 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU—Whitney Houston
- 12 THE BOY IS MINE—Brandy & Monica
- 13 THE SIGN—Ace of Base
- 14 I SWEAR—All-4-One
- 15 I'LL BE MISSING YOU—Puff Daddy & Faith Evans (featuring 112)
- 16 WHOOMP! (THERE IT IS)—Tag Team
- 17 YOU'RE STILL THE ONE—Shania Twain
- 18 YOU MAKE ME WANNA...—Usher
- 19 GANGSTA'S PARADISE—Coolio featuring L.V.
- 20 WATERFALLS—TLC

- 21 FANTASY—Mariah Carey
- 22 ANOTHER NIGHT—Real McCoy
- 23 MISSING—Everything But The Girl
- 24 (EVERYTHING I DO) I DO IT FOR YOU—Bryan Adams
- 25 EXHALE (SHOOP SHOOP)—Whitney Houston
- 26 ON BENDED KNEE—Boyz II Men
- 27 DEAMLOVER—Mariah Carey
- 28 THAT'S THE WAY LOVE GOES—Janet Jackson
- 29 NOBODY'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE—Dorothy Cox
- 30 HERO—Mariah Carey
- 31 KISS FROM A ROSE—Seal
- 32 TAKE A BOW—Madonna
- 33 BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME—Celine Dion
- 34 NO SCRUBS—TLC (\*)
- 35 IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME NOW—Celine Dion
- 36 CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE—UB40
- 37 QUIT PLAYING GAMES (WITH MY HEART)—Backstreet Boys
- 38 YOU'RE MAKIN' ME HIGH/LET IT FLOW—Toni Braxton
- 39 BREATHE AGAIN—Toni Braxton
- 40 ALL MY LIFE—K-Ci & JoJo
- 41 I LOVE YOU ALWAYS FOREVER—Donna Lewis
- 42 NO DIGGITY—BLACKstreet featuring Dr. Dre
- 43 BABY GOT BACK—Sir Mix-A-Lot
- 44 THIS IS HOW WE DO IT—Montell Jordan
- 45 ALL THAT SHE WANTS—Ace of Base
- 46 I BELIEVE I CAN FLY—R. Kelly
- 47 JUMP—Kris Kross
- 48 TOGETHER AGAIN—Janet
- 49 THE POWER OF LOVE—Celine Dion
- 50 THA CROSSROADS—Bone Thugs-N-Harmony
- 51 THE FIRST NIGHT—Monica
- 52 CREEP—TLC
- 53 DON'T LET GO (LOVE)—En Vogue
- 54 BELIEVE—Cher (\*)
- 55 CAN'T NOBODY HOLD ME DOWN—Puff Daddy featuring Mase
- 56 BECAUSE I LOVE YOU (THE POSTMAN SONG)—Stevie B
- 57 IF I EVER FALL IN LOVE—Shai
- 58 SAVE THE BEST FOR LAST—Vanessa Williams
- 59 INFORMER—Snow
- 60 RUSH RUSH—Paula Abdul
- 61 BABY-BABY-BABY—TLC
- 62 ALL I WANNA DO—Sheryl Crow
- 63 ANGEL OF MINE—Monica
- 64 FREAK ME—Silk
- 65 WEAK—SWV
- 66 NOTHING COMPARES 2 U—Sinead O'Connor
- 67 I'D DO ANYTHING FOR LOVE (BUT I WON'T DO THAT)—Meat Loaf
- 68 STAY (I MISSED YOU)—Lisa Loeb & Nine Stories
- 69 ...BABY ONE MORE TIME—Britney Spears (\*)
- 70 NAME—Goo Goo Dolls
- 71 SEMI-CHARMED LIFE—Third Eye Blind
- 72 BUMP N' GRIND—R. Kelly
- 73 VISION OF LOVE—Mariah Carey
- 74 MMMBOP—Hanson
- 75 RHYTHM IS A DANCER—Snap
- 76 LOVE TAKES TIME—Mariah Carey
- 77 WILD NIGHT—John Mellencamp & Me'Shell NdegeOcello
- 78 MO MONEY MO PROBLEMS—The Notorious B.I.G. (featuring Puff Daddy & Mase)
- 79 YOU GOTTA BE—Des'ree
- 80 WHEN CAN I SEE YOU—Babyface
- 81 EMOTIONS—Mariah Carey
- 82 DON'T TURN AROUND—Ace of Base
- 83 DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL (JUST ONE OF DEM DAYS)—Monica
- 84 WHERE DO YOU GO—No Mercy
- 85 BLACK OR WHITE—Michael Jackson
- 86 VOGUE—Madonna
- 87 ALWAYS—Bon Jovi
- 88 AGAIN—Janet Jackson
- 89 I WANT YOU—Savage Garden
- 90 CRUSH—Jennifer Paige
- 91 I'D DIE WITHOUT YOU—PM Dawn
- 92 WATER RUNS DRY—Boyz II Men
- 93 JUST ANOTHER DAY—Jon Secada
- 94 HAVE YOU EVER REALLY LOVED A WOMAN?—Bryan Adams
- 95 GONNA MAKE YOU SWEAT—C & C Music Factory featuring Freedom Williams
- 96 IT MUST HAVE BEEN LOVE—Roxette
- 97 MY WAY—Usher
- 98 ALL FOR LOVE—Bryan Adams, Rod Stewart & Sting
- 99 NOBODY KNOWS—The Tony Rich Project
- 100 I WANNA SEX YOU UP—Color Me Badd
- 101 THE FIRST TIME—Surface
- 102 RUMP SHAKER—Wreckx-N-Effect
- 103 I CAN LOVE YOU LIKE THAT—All-4-One
- 104 GETTIN' JIGGY WIT IT—Will Smith
- 105 ALL 4 LOVE—Color Me Badd
- 106 FROM A DISTANCE—Bette Midler
- 107 HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LIVE WITHOUT YOU—Michael Bolton
- 108 NUTHIN' BUT A "G" THANG—Dr. Dre
- 109 LATELY—Divine
- 110 HEY LOVER—LL Cool J
- 111 DON'T WALK AWAY—Jade
- 112 I'M YOUR ANGEL—R. Kelly & Celine Dion
- 113 NICE & SLOW—Usher
- 114 BOOMBASTIC/IN THE SUMMERTIME—Shaggy
- 115 MY LOVIN' (YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET IT)—En Vogue
- 116 ALWAYS BE MY BABY—Mariah Carey
- 117 WANNABE—Spice Girls
- 118 HOLD ON—Wilson Phillips
- 119 OPPOSITES ATTRACT—Paula Abdul & The Wild Pair
- 120 FREAK LIKE ME—Adina Howard