



ERIK LACITIS

Times staff columnist

All right, we'll start the countdown in a couple of paragraphs. But first, some words from the sponsor.

You overwhelmed me, the more than 500 of you who submitted entries to the survey I announced a few weeks ago: The 100 Greatest Rock Party Tunes.

You didn't just clip out the coupons that appeared in the newspaper. You spent hours compiling your lists, mailing thick envelopes crammed with titles of songs. Yeah. Long live rock.

So thanks to the gang at the accounting department at John F. Sullivan Co., which submitted 400 songs. Thanks to the man who enclosed the first chapter of his novel about rock along with his list. Thanks to the gang at the Dairy Queen, and the gang at Starbucks Coffee & Tea, and the woman from the Seattle Engineering Department, and the anonymous "Captain Action."

Thanks to the guy who sent me the tape of his favorite songs, and the man who sent me that very interesting example of rock conceptual art. Thanks to the high-school kids who wanted to make sure heavy metal was represented and the middle-aged man who went to school with Roy Orbison.

Compiling the list was not an easy task. I'm estimating the average letter contained 30 song titles — times 500 letters, that equaled 15,000 listings; I estimate something like 1,500 to 2,000 different songs were nominated. As I explained in yesterday's column, some very subjective decisions were made because the voting was so spread out.

Mike Wood, of Alderwood Manor, I think best summarized what this contest was about:

"Interesting category, party tunes," he wrote. "It eliminates slow and/or sensitive numbers such as The Beatles' million-seller 'Yesterday.' We're not looking for smart rock, either (Steely Dan), which makes great listening yet never becomes anthemic like 'Wild Thing' or 'Hang On Sloopy.' What we are looking for are songs to dance to with a beer in one hand — songs that make you depress the accelerator another inch."

The list is broken down into three parts. Using conservative estimates, only a handful of songs received more than 50 votes each. That's quite a few votes, actually, considering they were picked from 1,500 to 2,000 nominations. That's the first category.

The second category contains three songs that also received more than 50 votes each. But as organizer of this contest I made the arbitrary decision to separate them. You simply cannot dance

Rockers! Here they are: Your top 100 favorite records

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when you sing along!" "The lead singer's slurring of the lyrics only makes this song sound sleazier, which is truly a characteristic of great dance music."

2) "Twist and Shout," the version by The Beatles, 1964. "John Lennon's 11th recording during a marathon session left his voice absolutely raw and his resulting rasp plus Ringo's driving drums puts this song at the top." "Even at hard-core funk parties I attend, this still gets played."

3) "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," The Rolling Stones, 1965. "Almost too good. It was my high-school reunion song. Each note represents one part of youthful aggression. The Stones at their malevolent best."

4) "Gloria," Them, 1966. "This song was test-marketed in Seattle, where it exploded into a major hit. But it never made the national charts. We thought we were getting away with something when local bands played this song at Blanchet High dances." "I've sung it in my sleep."

5) "Jumpin' Jack Flash," The Rolling Stones, 1968. "I can't sit down when this plays. A heavy beat and a lot of drive. Sounds like Chuck Berry, only 10 years later, with more polish." "One of the first songs you could pogo dance to."

6) "Light My Fire," The Doors, 1967. "A long song so you'll work up a sweat." "This fills the dance floor because everyone can visualize what they were doing the Summer of Love when they first heard it on the radio."

7) "Respect," Aretha Franklin, 1967. "The greatest women's anthem ever. If possible, it sounds better now than it did in the '60s."

who ever lived. Yeah, I know some will vote for Jesus, but could Jesus sing like Elvis?"

Three Songs That Got Enough Votes To Be in the Top 10, Even Though You Can't Dance to Them

11) "Free Bird," Lynyrd Skynyrd, 1975. "A motivating emotional rush. At first it doesn't seem to really rock, but once you get into it, you're hooked. It's a celebration of free spirit."

12) "Stairway to Heaven," Led Zeppelin, 1971. "It always gets voted No. 1 in rock polls, but it's too long and you can't move to it." "The Rolls Royce of rock songs." "If this song is on your list, I quit."

13) "Hey Jude," The Beatles, 1968.

The Rest of the List, Alphabetically

14) "All Shook Up," Elvis Presley, 1957. "How can you resist The King singing this?" "They can write all the sleaze they want about Elvis. But they can't take away his music."

15) "At The Hop," Danny & The Juniors, 1958. "Eisenhower was president and everybody drove big cars. It's about a time when you wore white socks for that important dance in the gym."

16) "Barbara Ann," The Regents, 1961; The Beach Boys, 1966. "It's probably the most popular sing-along of all time."

17) "Be-Bop-A-Lula," Gene Vincent & His Blue Caps, 1956. "I wouldn't have wanted my sister going out with him, but man, could he rock."

18) "Beat It," Michael Jackson, 1983. "Anyone who has seen the MTV video knows what a great dance song this is. Smooth."

19) "Blue Suede Shoes," Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley, 1956. "It's great for a party because it brings all those Elvis impersonators out of the closet."

20) "Blueberry Hill," Fats Domino, 1956.

21) "Born To Be Wild," Steppenwolf, 1968. "This is what started heavy metal. What an opening riff!" "I ride my Harley to this one."

22) "Born To Run," Bruce Springsteen, 1975. "A good rocker which rings of honest compassion. Wrecked my GTD listening to this."

23) "Brown Sugar," The Rolling Stones, 1971. "Every high-school band had to play this song back in the '70s. All badly."

24) "Celebration," Kool & The Gang, 1981. "Good catch to it. The beat and the melody are a perfect embodiment of the title."

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The third category is an alphabetical listing of all other winning songs, all receiving a dozen or more votes.

Finally, after most of the tunes are comments excerpted from your letters. I guess that's enough of an introduction. Thanks again. Now crank up that stereo.

The Absolute Greatest Top 10 Party Rock Tunes

1) "Louie, Louie," **The Kingsmen, 1963.** "The best party song ever! The drunker you are, the more you slur your words and sound better

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7) "Respect," **Aretha Franklin, 1967.** "The greatest women's anthem ever. If possible, it sounds better now than it did in the '60s."

8) "She Loves You," **The Beatles, 1964.** "We love you Beatles, yes we do. Yeah, yeah, yeah." "They really were great, weren't they? Remember the first time you saw 'A Hard Day's Night' in a movie theater? Remember the shivers the first time you saw Paulie smile?"

9) "Surfin' U.S.A.," **The Beach Boys, 1964.** "This is the California dream, and thus, ultimately, the U.S.A. dream." "I've heard this song 100,000 times and I'm still not tired of it."

10) "Jailhouse Rock," **Elvis Presley, 1957.** "I used to think Elvis was just the greatest artist of this century; now I realize he was the greatest artist who ever lived. And I'm moving toward realizing that he was probably the greatest human being

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26) "Da Doo Ron Ron (When He Walked Me Home)," **The Crystals, 1963.** "Phil Spector's wall of sound at its ultimate. It just grabs you by the throat and chokes you into becoming a rock believer."

27) "Devil With a Blue Dress On/Good Golly, Miss Molly," **Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels, 1966.** "Why do you think Bruce Springsteen does a Mitch Ryder medley at most every concert?"

28) "Dirty Water," **The Standells, 1966.** "It's got the riffs; it's got the attitude; it's got the beat."

See PARTY on D 3

Here are the results of party-tune survey

PARTY

continued from D 1

- 29) "Do Wah Diddy Diddy," **Manfred Mann, 1964.** "Well, there she was, just a-walkin' down the street. It's got one of the greatest chants ever! And not real hard to remember, either."
- 30) "Don't Be Cruel," **Elvis Presley, 1956.**
- 31) "Don't You Want Me," **Human League, 1982.** "The kind of New-Wave music that reaches the masses."
- 32) "Earth Angel," **The Crew-Cuts, The Penguins, 1955.** "I made out to this song back in the '50s!"
- 33) "Foxy Lady," **Jimi Hendrix, 1967.** "How do you do justice to Jimi in words? He was the guitar genius from Seattle. They still haven't figured out how he came up with some of his guitar licks."
- 34) "Glad All Over," **Dave Clark Five, 1964.** "Boom, boom, boom! A small, unpretentious masterpiece."
- 35) "Green Onions," **Booker T. & the M.G.'s, 1962.** "The ultimate '60s instrumental."
- 36) "Hang On Sloopy," **The McCoys, 1965.** "This is a great song because it'll stand up to the massacring of the louisiest tavern band."
- 37) "Heat Wave," **Martha & The Vandellas, 1963.** "A sizzler from a great girl group. This will make you steam."
- 38) "Help"/"I'm Down," **The Beatles, 1965.**
- 39) "Highway to Hell," **AC/DC, 1979.** "Probably the most nihilistic thing heard on the radio since the 1936 'War of the Worlds' broadcast."
- 40) "Hound Dog," **Elvis Presley, 1956.** "Gutsy, bawdy, rollicking song. It's filled with humor and gets me howling like a dog."
- 41) "House of the Rising Sun," **The Animals, 1964.** "How many mothers were driven crazy by their 14-year-old sons endlessly playing this song's opening riff on their electric guitars?"
- 42) "I'm a Believer," **The Monkees, 1967.** "So what if The Monkees didn't play their own instruments? The songs still had a beat! The most underrated band in rock-'n'-roll history."
- 43) "I Fought the Law," **The Bobby Fuller Four, 1966.** "This song will hold up forever and forever. They don't write rock tunes any better."
- 44) "I Ran," **Flock of Seagulls, 1982.**
- 45) "I Wanna Be Sedated," **The Ramones, 1978.** "I love these guys because they've stayed true to rock 'n' roll."
- 46) "I Want to Hold Your Hand," **The Beatles, 1964.** "I always play this when I bring a girl back to my apartment. Girls always fall for The Beatles."
- 47) "In the Midnight Hour," **Wilson Pickett, 1965.** "Uhhh!"
- 48) "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida," **Iron Butterfly, 1968.** "Quite possibly, the dumbest song of our time. But with its 20-minute playing time, I-I-I-I-ong drum solo and inane lyrics, it never fails to bring a smile to your face."
- 49) "Johnny B. Goode," **Chuck Berry, 1958.** "Most of Berry's songs are a hit at parties. This is just one of a dozen you could play. Where would we be without the daddy of it all?"
- 50) "Kicks," **Paul Revere**
- & **The Raiders, 1966.**
- 51) "The Loco-Motion," **Little Eva, 1962.** "A one-hit wonder. But what a song. Short and oh, so sweet!"
- 52) "Long Tall Sally," **Little Richard, 1956.** "It's a shame that this guy is sort of a joke today. His various sexual and religious hang-ups, and his pathetic appearances on talk shows let people forget that he's the most imitated of all rock singers. Even Elvis copied him."
- 53) "Lois," **The Kinks, 1970.** "Ray Davies at his wackiest. These guys invented heavy metal but had the brains to leave it two songs later."
- 54) "Mickey," **Toni Basil, 1982.** "What a cheerleader's song. They'll be singing this at high-school pep rallies for years."
- 55) "Money (That's What I Want)," **by various artists.**
- 56) "My Best Friend's Girl," **The Cars, 1978.** "After all the junk from groups like Styx and Kansas that preceded them in the mid-'70s, what a change of pace. Spartan riffs that you can't forget."
- 57) "My Generation," **The Who, 1965.** "Never made it to the charts, but it's become an anthem to kids who weren't even born when The Who first played it. Now, remember to stutter at 'G-g-g-g-g-eneration.'"
- 58) "1999," **Prince, 1983.** "Life is just a party. This song is great because it's so hedonistic."
- 59) "96 Tears," **? (Question Mark) & The Mysterians, 1966.** "Made for \$57 in a Chicago garage, this song has a million-dollar sound."
- 60) "Oh, Pretty Woman," **Roy Orbison, 1964.** "Roy Orbison is to a party what nitro is to hydroplaning."
- 61) "Palladium Park," **Freddy Cannon, 1962.** "The fastest ride you'll ever take."
- 62) "Peggy Sue," **Buddy Holly, 1957.**
- 63) "Photograph," **Def Leppard, 1983.** "Heavy metal rules!" "The beat and emotional
- flow affect everyone who listens."
- 64) "Please, Mr. Postman," **The Marvelettes, 1961.** "Another song The Beatles covered. Why? Listen to the original. The Beatles knew this was a fantastic tune."
- 65) "Proud Mary," **Creedence Clearwater Revival, 1969.** "Almost a cliché but people still love it after a few drinks."
- 66) "Quarter to Three," **Gary "U.S." Bonds, 1961.** "Call it controlled chaos. Call it luck. Call it further proof that you don't have to be crazy to make great rock, but it helps."
- 67) "Rainy Day Women # 12 & 35," **Bob Dylan, 1966.** "People keep thinking this song is titled 'Everybody Must Get Stoned.' That's just a lyric in the song. But that lyric says it all."
- 68) "Rave On," **Buddy Holly, 1958.** "What would Buddy Holly be doing now if he was alive? Accept no imitations!"
- 69) "Rebel, Rebel," **David Bowie, 1974.** "Fast and danceable. With a line like 'Hot tramp, I love you so,' this song demands air time."
- 70) "Rock Around the Clock," **Bill Haley & His Comets, 1955.** "Back then I said two things would never last: Rock music and Bermuda shorts."
- 71) "Rock Lobster," **The B-52's, 1980.** "Kind of a Frankie and Annette gone psycho song."
- 72) "Rock This Town," **Stray Cats, 1982.**
- 73) "Roll Over, Beethoven," **Chuck Berry, 1956.** "This is probably the best song by the first rock 'n' roller to stand on the face of this earth. Long live Chuck!"
- 74) "Runaway," **Del Shannon, 1961.** "Is there anyone alive who can hear this song and not break into the falsetto part?"
- 75) "Sea Cruise," **Frankie Ford, 1959.**
- 76) "Sherry," **The Four Seasons, 1962.** "OK, guys,
- how many can imitate Frankie Valli's high-pitched whine: 'Sherrrry... Sherry, baaaaaby?'"
- 77) "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" **The Clash, 1983.** "Being political doesn't mean you can't write great party songs."
- 78) "Shout — Part 1," **Joey Dee & The Starliners, 1962.** "This is the original, although nowadays probably most people remember it from the movie 'Animal House.' Oh, my God. Just scream and join in."
- 79) "Splish Splash," **Bobby Darin, 1958.** "Does everything need to be explained? This is just stupid and fun."
- 80) "Start Me Up," **The Rolling Stones, 1981.** "Mickey and his gang proved that at age 40 they could still rock out."
- 81) "Stay," **Maurice Williams & The Zodiacs, 1960.** "Play this at the end of the party, when that girl you've been lusty-ing after is leaving."
- 82) "Stayin' Alive," **The Bee Gees, 1978.** "I realize this is disco. But doesn't it get you moving? Isn't that all that counts?"
- 83) "Stop! In the Name of Love," **The Supremes, 1965.** "Nobody can resist sticking their arm up like a traffic cop when they dance to the refrain."
- 84) "Sugar, Sugar," **The Archies, 1969.** "Yeah, I know it's bubble gum, but it's great. So go ahead and sneer all you want, but listen to the record."
- 85) "Summertime Blues," **Eddie Cochran, 1958.** "Mixture of different roots, yet tells a story of teen-age frustration. Every kid can relate to this one."
- 86) "Surfin' Bird," **The Trashmen, 1963.** "If you don't sing along with this song you're dead."
- 87) "Tequila," **The Champs, 1958.** "You can't live in Seattle and not like this one, not if you've ever seen the Husky marching band perform it."
- 88) "Thunder Road," **Robert Mitchum, 1958.** "Believe it

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