

All Time Musical Inspiration

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1. Dan Hill- The man who is my greatest writing inspiration (1977 **Longer Fuse**) one of the most beautiful works of art-amazing. Sheer Genius! Met him personally backstage at the Front Row Theatre in 1987. (1980 **If Dreams had Wings**) is also one of the greatest works of art ever. New (2011, **Intimate**) album is a great masterpiece! New album (2021, **On the Other Side of Here**)... not quite sure about....
2. Marillion- In 1989, I was introduced to this band by my drummer Paul Nesi. (1989 **Seasons End**) changed my musical direction forever led by fantastic new lead singer Steve Hogarth. Former lead singer Fish left in 1987 after the **Clutching at Straws** album in 1987 and started a wonderful solo career that has many awesome albums especially 2007's **13th Star** which is his masterpiece. Fish's solo career is awesome especially his debut, **Vigil in the Wilderness of Mirrors**, 1990 and again as stated, his great work of art, 2007's **13 Star**. Now his last album (allegedly) **Weltschmerz 2020**.
3. Camel- Andrew Latimer and Colin Bass created a moving epic (**1993 Dust and Dreams**) that gave me a different soft melodic enticement to European Progressive Rock that infused my musical life. Stevie introduced me to this legendary band! Colin Bass's solo album (**An Outcast of the Islands**) may be my favorite album of all time. It is at least in the conversation! Bass's protégé, German beauty Jenny Weisgerber's first album in 2005 **When Worlds Collide** is a beautiful Soul and Blues achievement. Simply enchanting!
4. Dan Fogalberg- Died of colon cancer in 2007. The American Dan Hill. Arguably the greatest singer-songwriter the world has ever known. A tragic, wasteful loss.
5. Pendragon- Outside of Lennon, McCartney & Prince, Nick Barrett is the greatest all around talent in music history. (2001 **Not of this World**) could be the greatest masterpiece of all time. The new Album (2008 **Pure**) is stunning. **2010 Passion** is cutting edge Pendragon. **2014 Album Men that Climb Mountains** is fantastic! The album "**The Rest of Pendragon**" was my introduction to this amazing band and still one of my favorite albums. The newest release (**2019 Love over Fear**) is their very best and now a top 10 all-time album for me, so, so incredible, AMAZING!!!
6. Keane- British sensation that Jake turned me on to in Sedona, Arizona in the summer of 2005. No lead guitar, a lead piano..... Truly unbelievable songs. (**Hopes and Fears & Under the Iron Sea**) are mouth dropping albums. **Strangeland**, 2012 takes them back to the first two albums. Saw them live with Jake in Jan. 2013 at the Columbus Music Hall (The Newport). The greatest British band here in the 21st century.
7. IQ- British Prog-Rockers hooked me forever when I heard the album, (**Subterranean**) for the first time. At that point, I bought every one of their albums. Seventh House (2005), incredible. New one (**Frequency 2009**) is awesome. Former lead singer Paul Menel on **Nozamo** and **Are You Sitting Comfortably** albums made his solo masterpiece in 2012, **Three Sides to Every Story**, Phenomenal!

How about 2019 “Resistance”!! Peter and the boys at their best.....

8. Billy Joel- When I spent 1982 in Vienna, Austria & the rest of Europe, (Cold Spring Harbor, Piano Man & Turnstiles) along with the European landscape transformed me from a guy who dreamed about being a writer to the guy who has delivered 7 albums on my life.
9. The Alarm- Welsh sensation, whose song (Permanence in Change) along with all of their other songs did just that, permanently changed me in 1990. R&R U2. Mike Peters solo career has been inspirational as well. I have had the fortune to share this band live with many people especially important to me. One of the most beautiful things you can share with a love is music especially if you are a musician yourself. It opens a window to your soul and allows you to share passion and beauty with another. There is only one better feeling.....
10. Lastly the top 10 ends with U2 and 1985. Pam turned me on to pseudo punk rockers with the song (A Sort of Homecoming) from (1985 Unforgettable Fire). Before that my favorite bands were Kansas, Boston and Styx who I still love to this day. Today it could be argued U2 is the greatest band of all time???
11. The Blue Nile- Scottish progressive band I discovered after reading an article at the end of 2020 that this was Steve Hogarth’s main musical fave and inspiration. Now the band has become one of mine. Paul Buchanan is magical. Bands use of moody synths is exquisite. 1989 Hats and 2004 High are magical and moody.
12. Barry Manilow- Don’t laugh! Between 1975 and 1990 He was a top 5 guy for me. His first 10 albums had some of the most amazing songs ever written. I gained much of my melodic touch from him. Some of his most poignant songs were from album cuts that were never played on the radio. After Lennon, McCartney, Harrison, Prince, Joel and Barrett it has to be Barry as the greatest all around talent.
13. Oasis- If all of the Beatles had lived and made music in 2009, they would have sounded and grown into Oasis if they were lucky. The Gallagher boys are unreal and if the Beatles are not the greatest band of all time then, who is? Too bad the brothers can’t get along.
14. Kansas- Was European progressive born in America? (1977’s Point of No Return) was my introduction to this genre and what an album! There follow up albums Monolith, 1979 and especially Audio Visions 1981 are great albums as well. There two new albums are very, very good, The Absence of Presence 2020 and The Prelude Implicit, 2016.
15. Styx- Does it get any better than Dennis DeYoung and Tommy Shaw. Dennis DeYoung is in that greatest conversation!!!!. Tommy Shaw is right there.... Too bad they can’t get along..... How about” Equinox”, “Crystal Ball”, “Pieces of Eight”, “Grand Illusion,” “Cornerstone and Paradise Theatre as an amazing six album run?
16. Boston- My first Rock and Roll love. I wanted to be Brad Delp almost as bad as Elvis

and David Cassidy.

17. The Script- The next great thing. In 2011 if there was a new stadium band on the horizon, this would be the band. The first two albums are fantastic works. They are incredible. 3 is the new one and it is super.
18. The Ocean Blue- In the Fall of 2011, I was reacquainted with this band from about 10 years prior that interested me greatly and was hooked big time, this time! Dave Schelzel is one of the greats that is not as known as he should be. One of the great all time musical talents! Davy Jones's Locker 2001, awesome as all their albums are. They are unique, alternative band from Hershey Pa. with a fantastic taste of Oasis and Crowded House. Had a chance to see them in a rare tour in Lancaster Pa. in early June 2013. Jake was out and it was a long drive with work the next day I missed out. Crowded House was a band Stacy loved which still takes me back to autumn, Westfield N.Y 2007.
19. Parachute- Beautiful new band in the 21st century similarly to Keane and the Script. Some songs that truly touch the soul in a sensual and passionate manner.
20. Peter Frampton- The Todd Rundgren of England in the late 1960's and 1970's. Some of the best songs ever written. Very Beatlesque....What cool hair..... and the Talk Box..... Is there ever been a cooler superstar?????
21. Spandau Ballet- Was there ever a cooler band with such lovely songs. Dominated the early 1980's with awesome catchy European dance songs.... They were the most elegant band of all time. "Only When You Leave", "Through the Barricades" and "Gold" are some of the coolest songs ever and the great songs go on and on.... The best dressed punkers ever.....
22. The Beach Fossils- New 2017 discovery that is a mix between the Beatles and Ocean Blue. Catchy unique songs and vocals that lend themselves to a secret smile....
23. Porcupine Tree- Began to listen to Steven Wilson and the crew in late 2012 and have been hooked ever since. His great work of art is Grace for Drowning 2011 and The Raven that Refused to Sing, 2013. Jake and I saw him live, May 2, 2013 at the House of Blues in Cleveland.
24. Cartel- Georgia rockers who are a flawless infusion of catchy lyrics and powerful heart driven vocals and passionate guitars. Jake and I saw them live at the Grog Shop in Cleveland in 2011.
25. Don't laugh again 1975-1990, I also needed..... my Olivia Newton John fix....

Especially loved the albums “Can’t Stop Believing, (1976) ” and “Have You Never Been Mellow(1975)” Still need it at times.....

26. Ditto on John Denver! Simply fantastic song writer, singer and performer.....