

Subject: Tunes Weekly - Part One: 10 Artists Who Belong In The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!

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Tunes Weekly - Part One: 10 Artists Who Belong In The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!



The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is great, but if your favorite artist hasn't been inducted, you might think differently. Most of their

choices more than deserve the award, but some of them will make you scratch your head. Green Day? Really? You're telling me that Alice Cooper is in, but The Doobie Brothers are not? In 1998, a guy named Lloyd Price was inducted while Earth,Wind & Fire sat at home waiting for the phone to ring. Ritchie Valens (inducted in 2001) had a mediocre hit, "La Bamba" and died at the age of 17 in a plane crash with Buddy Holly...would Valens have been inducted if, say, Chubby Checker had been on that plane instead of Holly?

I do love the induction ceremony every year, though. It's a damn good time, with lots of drinking, great funny speeches, and a live show that allows us to see these legends rock out one more time. But, there are many worthy artists who have yet to make it, and our little list will enlighten you and celebrate ten of them. We'll even engage both sides of the argument; deserving or undeserving? Some, or maybe even all of these, will eventually make it, but dammit, they're not in yet, and so we vow to stand outside the Rock Hall with pitchforks and flaming torches until they get the good word! Here is Part One of 10 artists who deserve to be there. Rock on.



The Doobie Brothers, eligible since 1996

Deserving?- Are you kidding me? The Doobies aren't in? They have

been hard-core road dogs since 1970, and they combine terrific songwriting with gnarly rock guitar, killer harmony vocals, and have a knack for melody that rivals the Eagles. They started out by playing biker bars all over Northern California and they showed no fear, for it is an unwritten rule that bikers do not kill the guys in the band. When the fighting breaks out, the band just keeps on rockin'. I've always loved that the Doobies rocked hard, but they also featured the beauty of acoustic guitars; not unlike Led Zeppelin. Through the years, they have had more personnel changes than the San Francisco 49ers, and in 1975, one of their main guys, Tom Johnston, fell ill. So, what did they do? They hired one of the greatest singer/songwriters ever, Michael McDonald. They were smart enough and, more importantly, they were musical enough to let McDonald's wondrous talents lead them in a new R&B-influenced direction. That new direction led to millions of records sold, as well as Grammy Awards. McDonald eventually went solo and the band laid dormant from 1982 to 1987, then reunited, and they are still rocking today. Oh, you'll hear some folks complain about the Mike McDonald era, but those are the same ones that claim all music after 1980 sucks. Longevity, dedication, record sales, quality, and influence: all reasons for Doobie enshrinement. No, they are not really brothers.

Undeserving?- Well, their name does give the impression that the focus of the band is their devotion to getting stoned; "Brothers in Weed" you might say. A friend actually suggested the "Doobie Brothers" name and, though they thought it was pretty stupid, it sort of stuck. (Just be glad they didn't stick with their original name, "Pud," which has its own set of jokes.) My point is that the Hall may think that because of their name and their radio-friendly material, they lack a certain gravitas. That is just B.S. If it doesn't happen soon, Doobie Nation may just spend the rest of their days lying on couches eating bags of Oreos, staring at the TV in protest. Doobie Brother fans are not the violent type.

Essential Songs- "Long Train Runnin'," "South City Midnight Lady,"

"Takin' it to the Streets," "What a Fool Believes."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP_NE4XZGAc



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Whitney Houston, eligible since 2009

Deserving?- Of course she will get in, but c'mon, it's already been ten years! Besides, her bloodline practically guarantees it. Her mother is Cissy Houston, one of the greatest background vocalists in history, and her aunt is Dionne Warwick. Then, just for good measure, her godmother is Aretha. She is only the greatest female singer of her generation; the heir to Aretha and Gladys Knight. When Whitney opened her mouth, amazing things happened. Power, range, tone, soul...Whitney Houston had it all. She was also beautiful. Hell, she single-handedly made the "Star-Spangled Banner" into a top-40 hit! (It peaked at #6) We sure lost a lot when Whitney Houston tragically drowned in that bathtub at the age of 48. With those glorious pipes of hers, she absolutely belongs in the Hall.

Undeserving?- It's hard to say exactly why she hasn't been inducted yet. In 1989, she enrolled in the Bobby Brown Career Destruction Course and, unfortunately, she graduated with horrors. I guess our parents were right when they said not to run with a bad crowd. But, running around with a bad crowd is what rock and roll is all about!

And remember, rock and roll is no stranger to drug addiction either. Whitney didn't write her own material, but neither did Elvis, so don't hold that against her. Yes, her life got terribly messy at the end. Yes, it will soon happen for her. That it hasn't yet is a shame.

Essential Songs- "Greatest Love of All," "Saving All my Love For You," "I Believe in You and Me," "I Will Always Love You."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp94SorKMWA>



Barry White, eligible since 1998

Deserving?- More than any artist, Barry White is responsible for Earth's overpopulation problem. In fact, your parents were probably doing the Mattress Mambo to "Can't Get Enough of Your Love, Babe" when you were conceived. His testosterone level was high enough to supply an entire college football team, with some to spare. His voice has loosened screws in my entertainment center. Get the picture? He was the Prince of Pillow Talk. He sold over 100 million records.

Growing up in Galveston, Texas as Barry Eugene Carter, he was bitten

by the music bug while listening to his mother's classical music records. His voice deepened at the age of fourteen, frightening teenage girls for miles around. At 16, he was jailed for stealing \$30,000 worth of Cadillac tires, and after hearing Elvis' "It's Now or Never" in jail, his life changed. This is not a reason for induction mind you; it just serves to give Barry a little proper street cred. Take my word for it: he deserves to get in the Rock Hall of Fame. Just look at it this way: if he wasn't here, you probably wouldn't be here either.

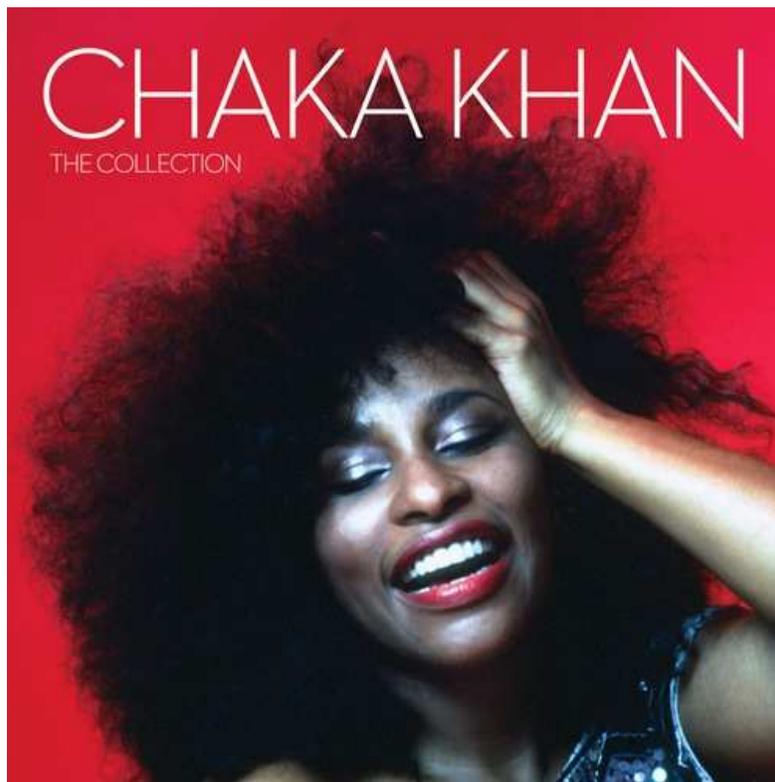
Undeserving?- You could say that Barry White was a bit of a one-trick pony with the "Oh baby...oh baby" stuff. But, he wasn't just "Dr. Love." He was also a talented producer, songwriter, and arranger. You could also say that his persona was at odds with the reality. At 375 lbs and smoking 5 packs of cigarettes a day, his record company could have been forgiven for leaving him off the album covers. Sure, he could seduce a woman with just his voice, but then what? Ben & Jerry's?" I think he will make it. His last hit in 1999 was called "Staying Power," and his music certainly had plenty of that, even if Barry didn't.

Essential Songs- "You're the First, the Last, my Everything," "I'm Gonna Love You Just a Little More Baby," "Can't Get Enough of Your Love, Baby." Also, check out his cover of Billy Joel's "Just the Way You Are."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_LWplkFMvY



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Chaka Khan, eligible since 1999

Deserving?- Her name is so cool, you just can't stop saying it. Chaka Khan...Chaka Khan. Factor in that serious afro and amazing voice and it's a no-brainer: She is Hall of Fame material. In my neighborhood, she was badder than Aretha. She was raised in the Hyde Park area of Chicago and her music wasn't about living in the suburbs driving a Jeep Cherokee; her music was urban, hanging out on the stoop blasting a boom-box and riding the subway if you needed to leave the hood, which was rare. She has been the Queen of Funk for four decades. Ten Grammys and 70 million records later she is still the Queen. Remember the first time you heard the Stevie Wonder-penned "Tell Me Something Good"? It was greasy and had loads of stank, not to mention that nasty clavinet and hot, heavy breathing. She became the singer to which all others were compared and in my mind, she still wears the crown.

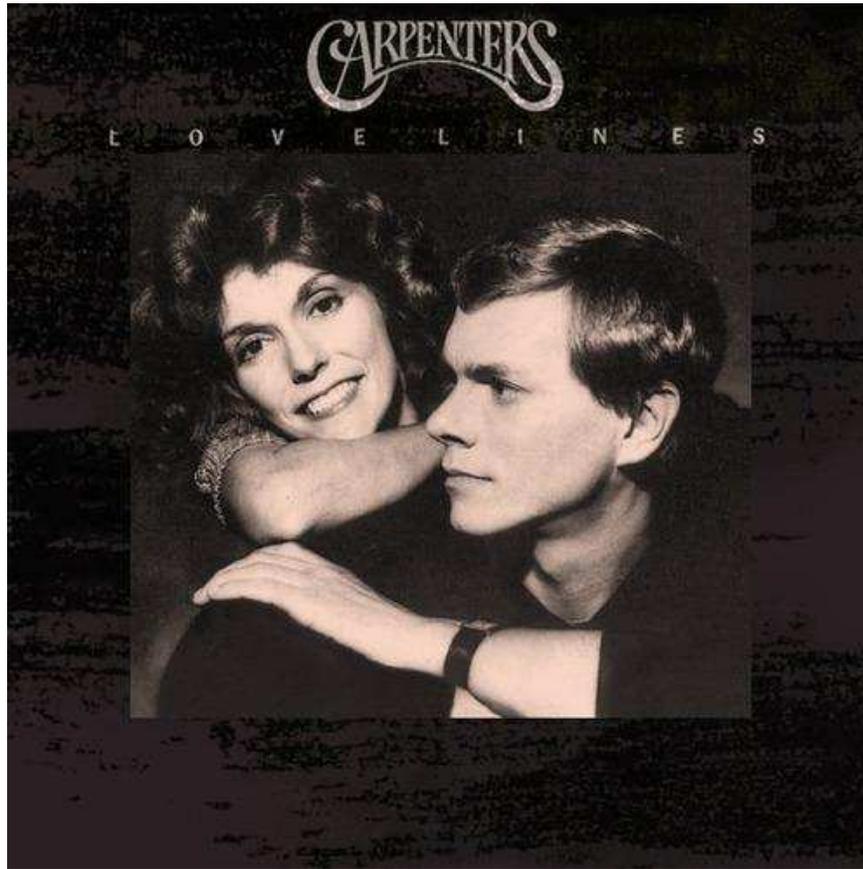
Undeserving?- I honestly can't think of why, after twenty years, Chaka Khan hasn't been inducted. She killed, with her group, Rufus, and she killed as a solo artist. Just remember that Whitney Houston sang backup for HER on "I'm Every Woman." Does the Hall have something against short people? Nah, she's only 5'4" but so is Gladys Knight. Is it because she was in Dancing with the Stars? Hey, a girl's gotta eat! Could there be an anti-afro bias? Nah, Sly is in! Do we have to call in a drone strike on Cleveland? (Or was that already done?) If they put Helen Reddy in before Chaka Khan, I'm going to go Pompeii on someone. Induct the funk!

Essential Songs- "I'm Every Woman," "I Feel for You," "Through the Fire," "What Cha' Gonna Do for Me," "Tell Me Something Good," "Sweet Thing."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm_cFzVAoo8



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The Carpenters, eligible since 1994

Deserving?- Don't give me any of that "The Carpenters aren't rock and roll!" Leonard Cohen isn't either and he's in the Hall of Fame, and you need a lyric sheet and a stiff drink just to survive one of his songs. First of all, let's get this straight: The Carpenters practically invented the power ballad. That's right. Richard Carpenter was an extremely talented writer/arranger/musician, and best of all, he didn't crave the spotlight like, say, John Oates or the other guy from Wham! He was content to make soft, velvety, musical clouds upon which sister Karen could rest those magically sublime, melancholy vocals. Her voice was simply perfect with perfect pitch. She didn't feel the need to do all these complex vocal runs; she just sang the melodies beautifully and honestly. Paul McCartney thinks she is the best ever and who is prepared to argue with Paul McCartney? I swear I still tear up (in private) every Christmas when I hear her sing "Merry Christmas Darling." That song somehow offers us a peek into

the soul of a sweet, vulnerable young woman whose life ended tragically early from a devastating disease: Anorexia Nervosa. Karen deserved so much more. In the years since, she has sort of become the poster child for that illness, and that's okay; if bringing awareness to it helps another human being, then that's a good thing. Make no mistake about it though; selling 100 million units ain't chicken feed. The Carpenters deserve a spot in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame...front and center.

Undeserving?- Of course, you already know why they haven't been inducted yet; BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT EDGY. Those bastard critics are the same ones that got the Sex Pistols in the Hall of Fame. The critics always said the Carpenters were bland, even while those same critics would run home, lock the doors and privately cue up "Rainy Days & Mondays." The Carpenters' "squeaky clean" image was pushed by the record label, and Richard and Karen always resented being defined by it. Must rock and roll legends be built on a foundation of tragedy? If the answer is even close to "yes," then the "bland" Carpenters are more than qualified.

Essential Songs- "(They Long to Be) Close To You," "We've Only Just Begun," "For All We Know," "Rainy Days & Mondays," and "Superstar."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6inwzOooXRU>

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