

Subject: Tunes Weekly - Part One of 12 Artists Who Never Had a Number-One Song!

From: The Tunes Company <bross@tunescompany.com>

Date: 3/19/2020, 9:38 AM

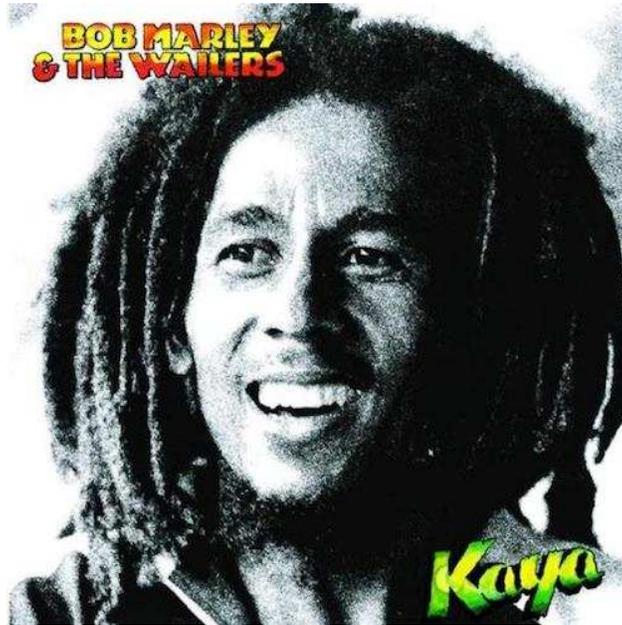
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Part One of 12 Artists Who Never Had a Number-One Song!



The U.S. Billboard Top-40 Singles Chart was always sort of the last word on "making it" in the music biz, and having a number one hit was the pinnacle toward which most artists strived. Oh, you'll hear some of them claim to never have cared about top-40 success, but they were being rather economical with the truth. I'll tell you right now, most were lying.

But, you will be surprised....no, shocked...at who never had a number one song on the U.S. Billboard Top-40. And, of the 12 listed here, only Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young is not in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (though Crosby, Stills, Nash are in there without Young). So, sit back with me and throw darts at the record-buyers of yesteryear as Tunes Company takes a look at part one of "12 Artists Who Never Had a U.S. Number-One Song!"



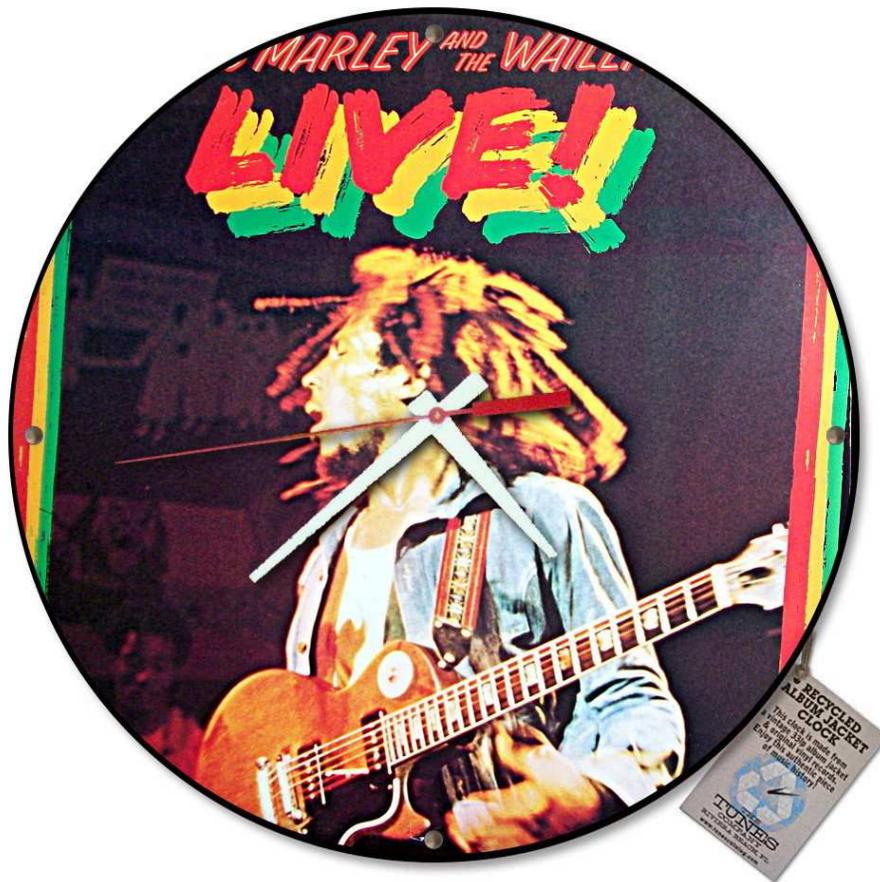
Bob Marley

Reached #19 with "Exodus" in 1977.

Okay, we knew Bob "Tuff Gong" Marley was not a hit machine; no surprise there; but, what about *"One Love,"* or *"No Woman, No Cry"*? Few artists inspire reverence like Robert Nesta "Bob" Marley.

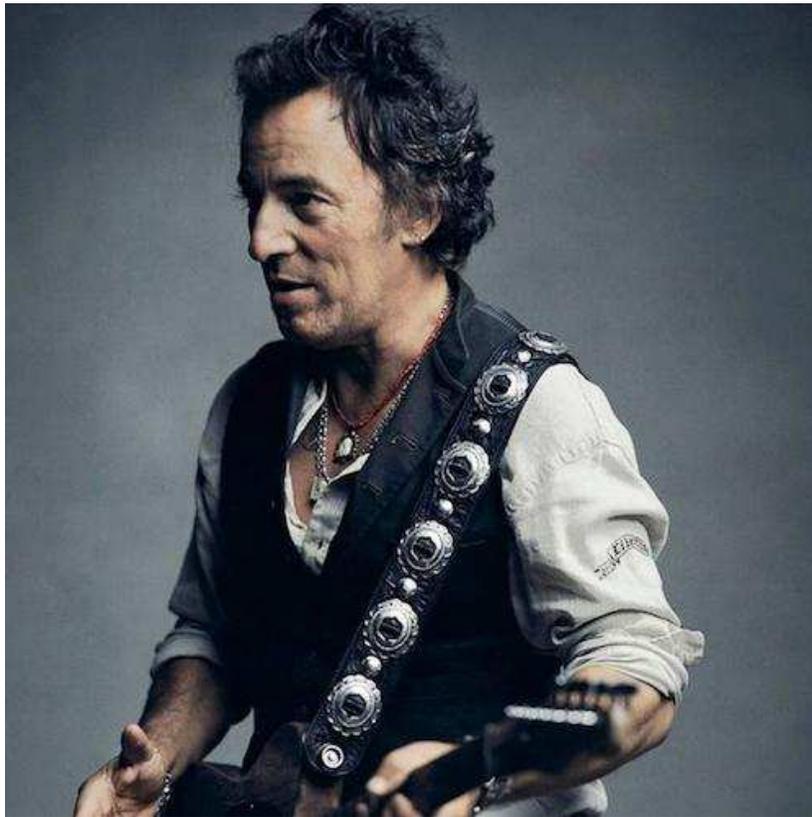
Starting in the early sixties, he and his group, The Wailers, developed their unique style, and produced some of the very earliest reggae records. In the mid-seventies, Marley went on to a solo career that established his worldwide reputation and made him an icon; a very wealthy icon. His music was where reggae, soul, pop, and gospel met in one glorious union. When you have a party, Bob Marley HAS to be on the playlist, but for God's sake, just don't sing along with a Jamaican accent.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGqrvn3q1oo>



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Bruce Springsteen

Reached #2 with *Dancing in the Dark* in 1984.

No WAY! The Boss has never had a number one song? How about "*Born in the USA*"? (#9) What about "*Hungry Heart*" (#5), or "*Glory Days*" (#5)??? Surely, the entire state of New Jersey could pull it together for him! Do you remember the video for "*Dancing in the Dark*" where he pulls a young Courtney Cox from the audience and starts doing that New Jersey I-don't-really-know-how-to-dance dance? Bruce almost had him a number-one song with that one, but it stopped at #2. It's always been cool to be a Bruce Springsteen fan. From the thundering, epic beauty of "*Born to Run*" to his sparse, folk-influenced acoustic albums, Springsteen has always been about giving a voice to the concerns of working class Americans and the dispossessed, and he never sang anything less than the truth.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsADQpw-dD8>



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Bob Dylan

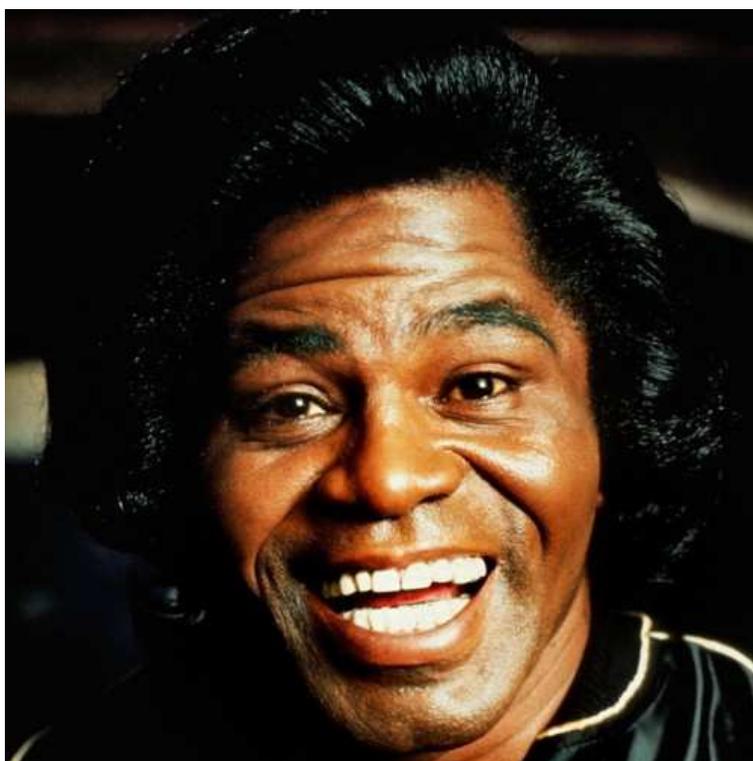
Reached #2 with "*Like a Rolling Stone*" in 1965 and "*Rainy Day Woman #12 & #35*" in 1966.

He is "Bobby" to those lucky enough to share his oxygen; The Voice of a Generation to others. The most important singer/songwriter EVER has never had a number one song??? That is correct, my Mediterranean sea-salt-eating friends. For over fifty years, he and his songs have served as the social conscience of a generation. His lyrics read as poetry, as he injected them with political, social, and philosophical commentary, taking popular music in a whole new direction and giving it a certain gravitas it had previously been lacking. Unfortunately, no matter what your favorite Dylan tune is, around some people, you will be reviled and cast into the wilderness if you admit you're a fan, because those folks will tell you that Bob Dylan sings like a diseased yak; sticks and stones, my friends...sticks and stones.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCcc-XRAf5s>



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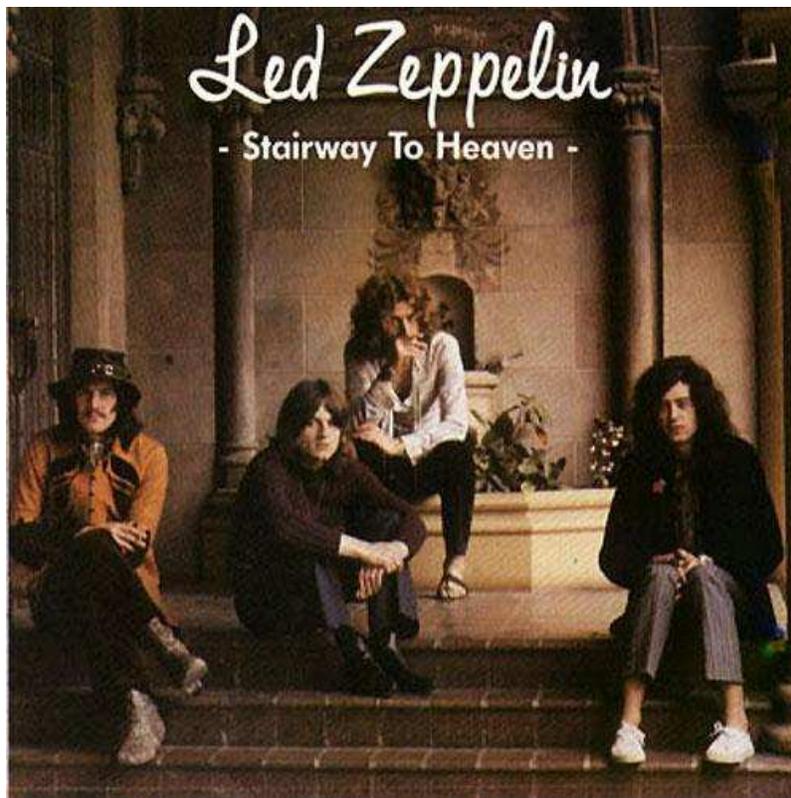


James Brown

Reached #3 with "*I Got You (I Feel Good)*" in 1965.

The Godfather of Soul. The Founding Father of Funk. The Grandmaster of the Good Foot. He never had a number one song? How can this be? Even "*Living in America*" (#4) and "*It's a Man's Man's Man's World*" (#8) didn't top the charts. How could an incredible talent like James Brown go "jimmy-legging" all over the world's stages, splitting his pants for generations of funk fans, sweating faster than you can drink...and not have a number one song? For one thing, to get a number-one song, you have to be "still" on occasion and the "*hardest working man in show business*" rarely did that. He died on Christmas day in 2006 and was laid to rest, in style, in a 24-karat gold coffin; nothing but the best for Mr. Brown.

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



Led Zeppelin

Reached #4 with "*Whole Lotta Love*" in 1969.

Is your mind now permanently blown? Surely "*Stairway to Heaven*" hit the top spot, right? Actually, it was never even officially released as a single in the US. Led Zeppelin was The Beatles of heavy metal and its influence was far-reaching. Just pull out their records and spend a little time reacquainting yourself with their music. The sheer power they generated was astounding; a veritable sledgehammer of sound. Ironically, despite their reputation of wielding the "Hammer of the Gods," much of their music was acoustic with folk and Celtic influences. They were too cool for top-40 radio and it was something to which they never really aspired. Hold yourself steady, but Dexy's Midnight Runners had more number ones than the mighty Led Zep. So did Starland Vocal Band. Led Zeppelin scorched the Earth as they trashed hotel rooms from coast to coast, causing fathers nationwide to lock their daughters in their rooms...but #4 is as far as they got.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flQMktyP90s>



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Red Hot Chili Peppers

Reached #2 with "*Under the Bridge*" in 1992.

The band that put the punk into funk has sold over 80 million records, but has nary a number one song. Somehow, I don't think they're too concerned about it. Hey, what about the song we all love to sing when we're alone: "*Give it Away*?"

Giveitawaygiveitawaygiveitawaynow! No, its highest chart position was only #73. This L.A. rock band formed in 1983 and not only created their killer punk/funk hybrid, but also included musical journeys into rap and psychedelic rock for good measure. They brought deep attitude, deep grooves, and deep chops to the rock scene, and while we may still think of them as these young crazy guys wearing nothing more than a sock onstage, think again; these guys are now in their late fifties, but still partying like its 1999. I've always thought that "Flea" was the coolest nickname ever.

"Tick"? Not so much.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDn7jfzvcv4>



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D. Tillis writes "Tunes Weekly" exclusively for www.tunescompany.com

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