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Song of songs study guide

Keep up to date with the latest daily buzz with the BuzzFeed Daily newsletter! From a pop musical standpoint, the 1990s were one of the most eclectic, and the best songs of the decade still sound fresh today. New acts like Nirvana changed the way people listened to rock music, while established stars like Madonna had the biggest hits of their careers. Boy bands and divas dominated the pop and dance charts, while East and West Coast rappers gave hip-hop a fresh sense of urgency. Who were some of the greatest acts of the 1990s? Mariah Carey had more No.1 hits than anyone else during that decade. Other artists who dominated the charts included Janet Jackson, Boyz II Men, Whitney Houston and TLC. In the early '90s, Seattle gave birth to the grunge movement, which blended punk and hard rock, thus producing influential bands such as Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. As the decade progressed, grunge soaked into a larger, radio-friendly alternative rock genre, then gave way to aggro-rock and nu-metal bands like Limp Bizkit and Linkin Park at the end of the decade. Fatboy Slim and the Chemical Brothers of the beleathed electronica, Shania Twain and Garth Brooks have fueled a resurgent popularity of country music, with Jay-Z and Tupac Shakur bringing new life to hip-hop. Find out if your favorite song from the 1990s made the cut on this list of 100 hits from the decade. Nirvana - Smells like a teen ghost. Courtesy of DGC Records The emergence of Nirvana Smells Like Teen Spirit as a top-10 pop hit continues to be one of pop music's most dramatic events of the 1990s. Kurt Cobain's Ardonian ode to teenage angst, set to a pop tune pounded by drums and guitars bathed in fuzzed-up distortion, has shaken up the pop music establishment. It was all accompanied by a music video that presented an unforgettable and relentlessly dark view of the classic high school pep rally. Grunge has arrived. Watch the video Los Del Rio - Macarena. Courtesy of RCA Today, most people find macarena a ridiculously overplayed, strange relic just for dances at a wedding reception. The truth is that it was one of the most fun and sweetest hits of the decade at the moment. Watch Video Boyz II Men - End of the Road. Courtesy Motown While their rapidly growing group of adoring fans waited for a second album, Boyz II Men recorded this ballad for the soundtrack of Eddie Murphy's film Boomerang. The four-week crooning and beautiful plea fades are irresistible. With Whitney Houston's I Will Always Love You, this became the second hit from 1992. Watch the video Elton John - Candle in the Wind 1997. Courtesy of A&M The summer of 1997 came to a tragic closeness when Princess Diana died in a horrific car accident. The world's attention was shoght at her funeral, with Elton John reworking his song Candle in the Wind for the occasion. It's fast his best-selling single ever in the world. Watch Video Tag Team - Whoopi! (There it is). Courtesy of Life Records Although no one is likely to claim to be a Whoopi! (There It Is) is art, it's probably the most popular party single of the past 25 years. The incessant chant of Whoopi! (There It Is) could also be heard for many years as part of the soundtrack for breaks in sporting events of all kinds. This is hip-hop in its mindlessly entertaining. Watch Whitney Houston's video - I'll always love you. Courtesy of Ariste The original version of I Will Always Love You was written and recorded by Dolly Parton. Whitney Houston's version was included on the soundtrack of The Bodyguard, starring alongside Kevin Costner. With this song, one of the most beautiful voices of music meets one of the most beautiful ballads ever written, and it has made history, becoming the greatest pop hit of all time. Watch Video Coolio - Gangsta's Paradise. Courtesy of Tommy Boy before 1995, Coolio was mostly known for lighter, more humorous hip-hop, which provided an alternative to West Coast gangsta rap. Riveting and atmospheric, Gangsta's Paradise was such a shift in focus that Coolio's record label decided to leave him off his solo album and instead put it on the soundtrack to Dangerous Minds. When released as a single, Gangsta's Paradise became one of the biggest hits of the year, spreading its social commentary on ghetto life from coast to coast. Watch sinead O'Connor's video - Nothing compares 2 U. Courtesy of Chrysalis It's hard to remember Sinead O'Connor's image now before the controversial television appearances that ruined her career, but few pop performers put together stronger, heart-stopping performances than this. The song itself, written by Prince, is remarkable, but Sinead's emotional, courageous performance made it a classic. The painful loss meets astounding vocal beauty with a perfectly understated instrumental arrangement. Watch the R.E.M. video - I'm losing faith. Courtesy warmer bros. With the grunge revolution lurking just over the horizon, R.E.M., pioneers of alt-rock, burst into the mainstream with this song. Provoking dozens of conversations about its meaning, Losing My Religion is, in its most basic sense, a beautiful pop tune influenced by folk about feeling crazy. Watch the video alanis morissette - You Oughta Know. Maverick Alanis Morissette's debut sent shock waves through the music industry. No pop singer has ever felt the anger and pain of a relationship that has become so explicit. You Oughta Know clearly touched a nerve and took the audience into the complex, intricate songcraft of jagged little pills' phenomenally successful album. Watch the video Jay-Z - Hard Knock Life. Courtesy of Roc-a-Fell Jay-Z consolidated his status as the best of the East Coast rappers with this A single that turns a show-stopping number from the Broadway musical Annie into an edgy hip-hop opus. It was a testament to how far hip-hop artists can move the boundaries of the genre. Watch Courtesy Columbia Video This song from the Titanic soundtrack was surely one of the most played ballads of the 1990s. Still, give her a fresh listen and you'll realize how beautiful the song is - and Celine Dion is without a doubt one of the best voices in the business. Watch the video Courtesy of Del Jam LL Cool J established himself as a top hard-edged rapper when he was still a teenager. By the late 1980s, though, he was accused of selling to pop audiences. Mom said knocking you out is his response to the reviews. It's a hard-hued, aggressive rap classic that brought together both rap and pop audiences and cemented LL's status as one of the top rap artists of all time. Watch the video Backstreet Boys - I Want It That Way. The courtesy of Jive Records I Want It That Way is simply one of the great ballads in pop music history. It gave the Backstreet Boys the perfect opportunity to let their polished voices shine, and it became one of their biggest hits. Watch Video by TLC - No Scrubs. Courtesy LaFace R&B trio TLC electrized the pop music world with their phenomenal album CrazySexyCool, released in 1994. Then there was a five-year wait for the next installment. Luckily, Fan Mail was almost as good as its predecessor. No Scrubs, the lead single, is pitch-and-picture-perfect in the late '90s R&B. Watch Video Beck - Loser. Courtesy DGC If any major pop hit from 1994 can be described as coming from left field, it will be Beck's Loser. It's a bit like wedding a killer self-secret chore to Dylan's Subterranean Homesick Blues. For years to come, Beck would prove that Loser is just a drop in the deep well of his creativity. Watch Video by Fugees - Killing Me Softly. Courtesy Ruff House On his second album, The Score, the Fugees showed that hip-hop can be so much more than gangsters. Lauryn Hill's stunning voice was at the centre of this big hit remake of Roberta Flack's song Killing Me Softly With His Song. Watch the video Ricky Martin - Livin' La Vida Loca. Courtesy of Columbia Ricky Martin began his career as a singer with legendary boy band Menudo. Until 1999. When Livin' La Vida Loca fell, the English-speaking world discovered what they lacked. It is irresistibly sexy and almost impossible to listen to without moving the body. Watch Mariah Carey's video - Vision of Love. Courtesy Columbia This No.1 hit was the world's first introduction to Mariah Carey's voice. The echoes of Whitney Houston's influence are obvious, but the power and accents are Mariah herself. This debut still ranks as one of her best shots. Watch the video with Rob Thomas - Smooth. Courtesy of Arista Records Who knew legendary Latin guitarist Carlos Santana would record one of the greatest pop hit singles of all time? Add to that, who would have thought his vocals would be the lead vocalist for the post-grunge band Matchbox 20? But it happened, and Smooth earned his later sales and praise. Rob Thomas proved in 2005 that his performance on Smooth was no coincidence with the release of a stellar solo album ... Something that needs to be. Watch Courtesy Mercury's Video Pairing of Melencamp and NdegeOcell on this irresistible pop song coincides in rock and roll heaven. Together, they took van Morrison's chestnut and turned it into something transcendent. Turn this around and try not to dance. Watch the video Courtesy of Geffen Lisa Loeb quickly rose to stardom on the heels of her hit Stay from soundtrack to reality bites movie. Are you sleeping? Watch Courtesy Columbia Video For the centerpiece of his 1993 album, Billy Joel compiled this gospel-influenced recording. He spent three weeks at the top of the pop singles chart and is one of the most fashionable hits of Joel's career. Watch the video courtesy of Atlantic Sugar Ray's feel-good vibe is one of the pure pleasures of 90s pop music. This story about a girl whose halo hangs from the corner of a four-poster bed is instantly recognizable and meable. Watch Courtesy Capitol Records Video Although they are best known for a long line of rock hits back in the 1970s, this ballad, written by Robert John Mutt Lange, was one of the group's biggest pop hits. The theme of the album – a long night of making love to a hitchhiker – was controversial at first, but at its core it's a fun fantasy straight out of a romance novel. Watch the video courtesy of the Capitol! The optimistic feeling of Blind Melon's greatest hit, No Rain, stands in contrast to the band's tragic history. Lead vocalist Shannon Hoon battled drug addiction for much of the early '90s and would be dead by the end of 1995 at the age of 28. While many remember the video by the cute dancing bee girl, the melody itself is much darker, outlining bassist Brad Smith's efforts to deal with his girlfriend's struggles with clinical depression. Watch the video Courtesy of emi EMF was a great British invasion wave that broke on American shores in an echo of the popularity of the Manchester dance scene. He incredibly mixed intoxicating rhythms, sweet high vocals by lead singer James Altin and stirred shouts to storm the tops of the pop charts. Watch the video courtesy of Aristic By the time the '90s came to an end, it's been eight years since Whitney Houston released her studio album. Music industry legend Clive Davis convinced her to record a new set of songs, and the resulting album, My Love Is Love, includes some of her best work. It's Not Right, But It's Okay is a tough anthem for women on their way out of relationships that sounds great on the radio and on the dance floor. Watch The Video Courtesy of Epic Ben Folds and Society brought the issue of abortion to the pop charts - from a male point of view. A particularly fascinating twist is that the male narrator of this melancholy song seems to be selfish and a bit of a jerk. Lyrically, this is one of the most unique hit songs of the '90s. Watch the video courtesy of Chrysalis Arrested Development ended their banner year by awarding a Grammy for Best New Artist in 1992. The spiritual quest detailed in Tennessee was a big part of the band's success. Inspiring, intelligent lyrics and a positive tone seem to have announced a new direction for rap, but it turns out that taking on gangsta, in just one year, will win. Watch Courtesy Columbia's video The humorous approach of the President of the United States stands out amid the infestation of Seattle bands ride the wave of the grunge revolution. Lump binds the line between punk and bubblegum pop, and the result is one of the craziest infectious songs of the decade. Watch Courtesy Reprise Records Video For many, mileage varied on the breakthrough hit Barenaked Ladies. His sheer kinetic energy certainly empowered pop radio playlists, debuting at No.3 before eventually spending, appropriately enough, one week at No.1. While a little of his cheeky, self-deprecating humor can go a long way, few songs paint 90s pop like One Week. Watch Courtesy Columbia Video The success of Ricky Martin in early 1999 opened the door for other Latino artists to enter mainstream pop music. One of the most talented is Marc Anthony. And Need to Know was the perfect vehicle to land his beautiful voice on the radio airwaves. Watch the video Civility Virgin Jamaican born Orville Burrell had a huge hit with Boombastic, one of dancehall's first – sub-genre reggae – songs to break into the US pop charts. Shaggy, who took his stage name after the character Scooby Doo, exhibits odles of personal charm alongside funky grooves. Watch Video Courtesy Creation Records The Gallagher brothers – Liam and Noel – and their band Oasis helped unit a new era of fame for British guitar pop, at least in the UK. This is one of their rare breakthrough American hits. It is beautiful and irresistibly encourages you to sing. Watch Courtesy A&M/Ms video We're still not sure exactly what this hit song is about, but it's definitely addictive. The ultimate hook in the verses is the sentence Tell me all your thoughts about God / Because I would really like to meet it, and this has to do with asking questions, as children often do. Watch the video of Kurtcozni Warner Bros. R.E.M.'s album Automatic for the People is one of the best, the achievements of pop music in the 90s, and The Man on the Moon is one of the most memorable and beautiful songs from that album. It's both a touching tribute to comedian Andy Kaufman and a thoughtful meditation on the power of popular culture. Watch Tim Mosenfelder/Getty Images Video If you don't know its history, this song may seem a bit treacly, and certainly no match for a host of other Eric Clapton classics. But given that this tender ballad was written in response to the death of Clapton's young son Conor, it becomes one of the greatest songs of sadness and comfort ever written. It was part of the soundtrack of Rush, and Clapton's unplugged album featured an even more popular acoustic performance. Watch the video alanis morissette - Uninvited. Courtesy of Maverick This is one of the most memorable and lyrically uncluttered songs by Alanis Morissette. The gothic, suspicious musical texture coincides well with its vocal intensity. Watch the Tim Roney/Getty Images video Even after years of hype surrounding this group of all girls and its members, Wannabe is an exciting listening experience. Girl power of the group swept the UK in 1996 and then conquered America the following year. Watch The Cranberry Video - Linger. Courtesy Island Records Although later hits would more dramatically demonstrate the vocal stunts of the group's lead singer, Dolores O'Riordan, Linger has an almost ethereal beauty that truly remains long after the song is over. It was deb in the rankings of one of the most memorable voices of the mid-1990s. Watch the video without a doubt - Don't talk. Courtesy Interscope This heartbreking song about the end of a long-standing love affair is a bit of a stylistic anomaly given the rest of No Doubt's work influenced by ska- and punk. Still, it served to make the group's lead vocalist, Gwen Stefani, a bona fide star. The song's irresistible pop limbs kept her on the charts for most of the year. Watch the video of Edwyn Collins - A Girl Like You. Courtesy of Setant This Scottish performer put together one of the most memorable and unique hits on '90s radio, sounding similar to the pop-oriented Iggy Pop. Unfortunately, Collins failed to replicate this success. Watch Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch Video - Good Vibrations. The Kurtcoz Interscope of Good Vibration introduced the world to Mark Wahlberg (aka Marky Mark), the younger brother of Donnie Wahlberg, a member of New Kids on the Block. Mark Wahlberg had a history of scratches with the law as a teenager, but his ready body and good looks, combined with oleaft Holloway's energetic dance beats and diva-esque vocals, were made for a hit. Mark Wahlberg never repeated this musical success, but he became a respected film actor. Watch R. Kelly's video - Bump n' Grind. Courtesy of Jive Records This song demonstrates exactly why we fell in love with music R. Kelly, if not the man. A cappella torment in Kelly's voice at the opening of the song is brilliant, and it becomes an incredibly sexy song. Bump 'N Grind connects the vocal stylings of the early '90s new jack swing with the romance of classic R&B. Watch Video Us3 - Cantalooop (Flip Fantasia). Courtesy Blue Note Us3 created a unique sound by placing contemporary rap rhymes on top of samples from the classic jazz label Blue Note. Cantalooop (Flip Fantasia) is built on a sample of Herbie Hancock from Cantaloope Island. Fusion hasn't always worked well, but this time it is, and the overall effect is eminently appealing. Watch the video Jesus Jones - Doubt. Courtesy of SBK Bend Jesus Jones was ridden by the same wave from the UK to the US shores that carried the EMF. Right Here Right Now is less frenetic than EMF's Unbelievable, but it easily settled into the pop mainstream and quickly rose to the top of the pop singles chart. Watch the video will smith - Gettin' Jiggy Wit It. Sony Will Smith's first solo effort resulted in this catchy and cool single. His brand of pure, good-humoured, party-hip-hop caught on right away. Like Mark Wahlberg, he continued to enjoy much more success as an actor, but this remains one of the more charming pop musical relics of the 1990s. Courtesy Warner Bros. The secret is one of Madonna's least dazzling hits, but it remains one of her most satisfying. It features a mid-tempo rhythm and some of the hottest and most invited vocals the singer has ever recorded. Watch THE VIDEO quad city DJ - C'mon Ride It (Train). Courtesy quadrasounda The producers behind the irresistibly addictive Whoopi! (There It Is) came up with another irresistible party hit. C'mon 'N Ride It (The Train) inspired another wave of soundalike hits and is constantly welcome on any party soundtrack. Watch the Video Bell Div Devoe - Poison. Courtesy of the MCA in the aftermath of the new edition's breakup, three members of the group, Ricky Bell, Michael Bivins and Ronnie DeVoe, proved that Bobby Brown is not the only talent in the group. Poision's hardline funky R&B spearheaded the development of a new jack swing as one of the freshest sounds in R&B/B in a decade. Watch Faith No More Video - Epic. Courtesy Reprise Records This top-10 hit from San Francisco's Faith No More was both difficult and absurd. A set of insubtable lyrics meets a punk/funk/rap rhythm and the result is one of the most amazing aural experiences of any decade. Watch The Video martin page - In the House of Stone and Light. Courtesy Mercury This mainstream pop nugget effortlessly followed Page's success as a songwriter for hits such as Starship's We Built This City and Heart's These Dreams. In The House of Stone and Light it's not artistically innovative, but it almost perfectly embraces mainstream pop circa 1995. fated from the air shortly after this one hit. Watch Tracy Chapman's video - A New Beginning. Courtesy of Elektra Most pop fans thought Tracy Chapman would be transferred to the annales of one-hit-wonderdom based on Fast Car's success from her first album. She then reappeared with this deeply bluesy crowd pleaser, proving that there is still room for innovation and surprise within the genre. Watch Video House of Pain - Jump Around. Courtesy XL Recordings Briefly in the Nineties (see Faith No More), it seemed that the marriage of edgy rock and hip-hop might actually become a thing. Jump Around is proof that the union could be either incredibly contagious or boring, depending on the tolerance to the incessant siren that accompanies the pounding of the beat. Unfortunately, the House of Pain has never recaptured this moment of greatness. Watch Video Digital Underground - Sex Packets. Courtesy Tommy Boy Some might dismiss this song as just a novelty hit, but deserves closer listening. As hip-hop moved further into the mainstream, this Oakland group stood out by supporting wacky raps with a hot funk inspired by Parliament-Funkadelica. Rarely has a pop classic made sex sound so fun and funny. Watch the video Michael Jackson - Black or White. Courtesy of Epic Records This is arguably Michael Jackson's last major single. It features Guns guitarist 'n Roses Slash introducing an uplifting message of racial unity. As was the norm for Michael Jackson's releases at the time, the song was accompanied by a big-budget video. This one was directed by John Landis and starred Macaulay Culkin, George Wendi and Peggy Lipton. Watch dj Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince's video - Summertime. Courtesy of Jive Records D.J. Jazzy Jeff and Will Smith (better known as Fresh Prince) took a big step forward in the maturity of their sound with the 1991 album Homebase. Summertime, their biggest hit, is the centerpiece of the album. His relaxed grooves settled in as a 1991 summer song. Watch the video sarah mclachlan - Adia. Ariste Sarah McLachlan's voice is almost alien in its beauty. This single came out as an all-female Liliith Fair concert tour, organized by McLachlan, was just kicking into gear. This remains one of the anthems of that particular period, when women in rock got involved on the air and on stage. Watch Janet Jackson's video - Escapade. Courtesy A&M Records Taken from Janet Jackson Rhythm Nation's hit-filled concept album, 1814, Escapade at first acts as a simple, light piece of pop hair. However, after listening to him repeatedly, his scathing charm sinks in. It was one of the most happy hits of 1990, the atmosphere further enhanced by the accompanying video. Watch Video Wreck - N-Effect - Rump Shaker. Courtesy mca all I want to do... zoom zoom zoom zoom... At this point, Began to walk a fine line between pop radio acceptability and unacceptably explicit sexual content. Rump Shaker is innocent by today's standards, but he has pushed the boundaries in his time. Watch the video Collective Soul - The World I Know. Courtesy Atlantic So I walk up at a high! And I step the world over / See your world below. Rock band Collective Soul musically pulled out all the stops, including huge strings, to support this beautiful ballad. The remarkable music video added more resushing to this powerful song. Watch Melissa Etheridge's video - Come to my window. Kindness Island Although her style is often considered overly serious, Etheridge can also be gut-wrenching. Come to My Window evokes a powerful image of romantic anxiety and erotic tension, accompanied by the artist's direct guitar music and raspy vocals. Watch The Wallflowers Video - Horse Wrecking. Courtesy Interscope This band, led by Bob Dylan's son Jakob, spent more than a year on the pop singles chart with this quiet masterpiece. Jakob Dylan's vocals have an enticing worldwide ttre that is sometimes dead ringers for Tom Petty's voice. Watch Stereo MC's Video - Connected. Courtesy Island Stereo MCs has become one of Britain's most successful hip-hop acts. Connected is powered by an appealing but downbeat atmospheric brand of hip-hop. Watch the video any grant - baby baby. Courtesy of A&M/M Amy Grant spent the 1980s as one of the most successful Christian pop singers, but it wasn't until 1991 that she enjoyed a major crossover in the pop mainstream. Baby Baby is a wonderful celebration of love between life partners. Watch the video various artists - ESPN presents Jock Jams Vol. 1. Courtesy of Tommy Boy This medley will not win art awards, but it combines some of the most popular songs used at sporting events and was almost inevitable in 1997. Starting with immortal are you ready to smud... This pop culture artifact is sure to pump your blood with clips from such songs as Whoopi! There it is, it takes two, YMCA and pump up jam. Watch Video TLC - Waterfalls. Courtesy of LaFace Slinky, gently tenacious backing horns and guitar combine with smooth, languid vocals to create an instant R&B/B classic. In addition to the audio appeal, Slaps is a disturbing commentary on street violence and its impact on the lives of young black men. Watch Video Seal - Kiss From a Rose. Courtesy warmer bros. This was another single saved from obscurity by its inclusion on the film soundtrack. A kiss from a rose is portrayed as a love theme in the movie Batman Forever. Seal's perfectly balanced, acrobatic, romantic vocals make this otherwise simply enjoyable song a work of art. Watch Deborah Cox's video - No one should be here. Courtesy of Aristoty This song, a beautiful R&B ballad brought to life by club was one of the best dance decade. Record industry executives intended Deborah Cox to be the next Whitney Houston. That didn't really work, but it contributed to this timeless smash. Watch a video in which he counts crows - Mr. Jones. Courtesy of Geffen Counting Crows lead vocalist Adam Duritz is a magnificent inspiration. Mr. Jones introduced music lovers to the singer's incredible ability to tell the story in the context of the song. Try to continue with the song, and after you're done with your breath, you'll realize how phenomenal this performance is. Watch the video of Dr. Dre - Nothin' But a G Thang. Courtesy Death Row This single and the album he came from, Chronic Dr. Dre, they took hip-hop down a whole new path, which would eventually be known as gangsta rap. Nuthin' But a 'G Thang portrays Dre's protégé Snoop Doggy Dogg, who is about to star on his own. Thick Funky Parliament-style beats, relaxed rap vocals, words reflecting the violence of life on the street and pop hooks combined for a tremendously successful new sound. Watch The Backstreet Boys Video - Everybody (Backstreets Back). Courtesy Jive Records With the current backlash against boy bands, he too little remembers these male vocal groups recording some great pop songs. This is the masterpiece that helped the Backstreet Boys win the hearts of millions. Watch Video C and C Music Factory - will make you sweat. Courtesy Columbia Inspired by the powerful beats of house music, hit after hit vent from the dance chart to pop top-10 in 1990 - however producers Robert Cliviles and David Cole (aka C&C Music Factory) needed to climb all the way up to No. Going to Make You Sweat featured strong vocals by Martha Wash and rap from Freedom Williams along with the most recent house beats to make one of the most celebrated songs of the year. Watch the video of Bruce Springsteen - Streets of Philadelphia. Jonathan Demme's Philadelphia Columbia was the first big-budget, mainstream film to directly address the AIDS epidemic, and Philadelphia Streets is the perfect theme to do so. With it, Springsteen creates an atmosphere of darkness and loneliness that still manages to maintain a sense of dignity. The song won a well-deserved Academy Award for best song from a movie. Watch the Dave Matthews Band video - Crash into Me. Courtesy of RCA Although the lyrics evoke an ambiguous interpretation, for many this is one of the most baseless erotic songs of the decade. Listen and enjoy Matthews' intimate vocals over intricately arranged bluesgrass-influ pop. Watch Video MC Hammer - U Can't Touch This. Courtesy warmer bros. Mc Hammer's importance to pop music history was his ability to not only prove that rap can be as effortlessly entertaining as any other music genre. There's little more to Can't Touch This than Hammer's simple rap building on Rick. Super Freak, but the image of Hammer working with the crowd in his oversized parachute pants is one of pop's most memorable cultural moments of 1990. Watch the video Ini Kamozo - Here Comes the Hotstepper. Courtesy of Columbia Chosen to play a key role on robert altman's fashion world research soundtrack in Pret-a-Porter, Here Comes the Hotstepper brought dancehall into the mainstream and introduced the word to Jamañn slang for a man on the run from the law. It's still one of the most memorable songs of the mid-'90s. Watch Lauryn Hill's video - Doo Wop (That Thing). Courtesy of Columbia After the premature dissolution of the Fugees, the music world was anxiously awaiting Lauryn Hill's first solo effort. The wait was worth it. The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill is one of the top albums of the decade, and Doo Wop (That Thing) brilliantly polished the dissection of sexual politics from the point of view of both sexes. Watch Puff Daddy and Faith Evans feat video. 112 - I'll Be Missing You. Courtesy Bad Boy Entertainment Rap star Notorious B.I.G. (Biggie Smalls) was tragically murdered in March 1997. His recording partner, Puff Daddy – now alternately known as Sean Combs, P Diddy or just Diddy – has compiled this touching memorial with Smalls' widow Faith Evans and vocal group 112. He memorably sampled the police classic Every Breath You Take and became a favourite memorial track of the late '90s. Watch Gloria Estefan's video - Coming Out of the Dark. Courtesy of Epic in March 1990, Gloria suffered a fractured vertebrae and couldnt rap for a year. The accident and long recovery inspired this lavish hit ballad. Coming out of the Dark is now considered one of the best inspirational pop hits of all time. Watch the video Shawn Colvin - A few small repairs. Courtesy of Columbia Sunny, the protagonist of this folkie song, she returns home with some things to deal with. Parts of this song can send a tear to your spine, while Colvin's voice gently lulls you back into the story. Watch the video Smashing pumpkins - 1979. Courtesy Virgin In the context of Melon Collie and the Infinite Sadness, an expansive double album dedicated to depression, 1979 sounds almost lively. It's a slight sense of nostalgic respect definitely jibed with decades of mood inner contemplation. Watch the video Red Hot Chili Peppers - Under the Bridge. Courtesy warmer bros. Ironically, the gentle ballad has become a breakthrough hit for a band best known for mixing classic uttempo funk with alternative rock. The song stemmed from lead vocalist Anthony Kiedis' struggles to overcome heroin addiction. After addiction destroyed many of his personal relationships, Kiedis reflected on his relationship with the city of Los Angeles itself. Below He made it all the way to No. 2 on the pop singles chart. Watch The Hanson Video - MmmBop. Courtesy of Mercury Records, the Hanson Brothers returned bubblegum pop in all its glory. MMBBop is appealing, sweet and irresistible. Just try to avoid singing. Watch The Blackstreet Video - No Diggity. Courtesy Interscope This is the culmination of work created by producer, songwriter and performer Teddy Riley, leader of the group Blackstreet. He is one of the best R&B masters of the 1990s and a key architect of the New Jack Swing. But Diggity is this genre completely refined. Watch Video U2 - Mysterious Ways. Kindness Island After its dramatic success with The Joshua Tree and an epic concert tour of the US, U2 has completely reinvented its musical style on the Achtung Baby album. Celebrity pretensions have given way to some of the sexiest funky rock of the decade. Mysterious Ways features a sinuous guitar piece by The Edge and gospel-influenced vocals from Bono that drive home one of U2's most unfettered pop-rock songs. Watch Soul Asylum Video - Runaway Train. Courtesy Columbia Soul Asylum shot to the top of the charts of alt-rock bands with this folkish classic. The video for the song Runaway Train is accompanied by commercials about missing children, serving a powerful public service. Many alt-rock fans left Soul Asylum as sold out in the mainstream, but pop fans pushed Runaway Train to Number 5 on the charts, and it became a well-deserved classic. Watch The Video deee-Lite - Groove Is in the Heart. Courtesy of Elektra In a dance-happy pop setting, this trio fell in with a classic that still sounds semi-retro, semi-contemporary and utterly groovy. Groove Is in the Heart glides effortlessly across genres from hip-hop to house and funk. Guest musicians – including Bootsy Collins, Fred Wesley, Maceo Parker and A Tribe Called Quest's Q-Tip – are amplifying the entertainment atmosphere. This was the song of the summer of 1990. Watch Video 4 Non Blondes - What's Up. Courtesy Interscope What's Up? Seemingly appeared out of nowhere, becoming a neo-folkie hit first on modern rock radio stations and then on the pop charts. Although he only reached Number 11, he has been a fixture ever since. The group never duplicated the success of this song, but lead vocalist Linda Perry became a successful songwriter and producer, making hits for everyone from Pink to Courtney Love. Watch the video Madonna - Vogue. Courtesy warmer bros. It wasn't really part of any album project, but added to the soundtrack album Dick Tracy. Vogue is also significantly late in the spotlight on the underground world of voquing, but it's probably the most perfect dance song Madonna has ever recorded. David Fincher's acclaimed video ends a stunning pop-dance pack. Watch Mariah Carey's video - Fannies. Courtesy of Columbia using tom tom club instrumental from The Genius of Love as a backdrop of effortlessly huge vocalist Mariah Carey was a stroke of genius. This romantic gem remains the best single shot of Carey's phenomenal career. Watch The Video of Cher - Believe. Courtesy warmer bros. No one really doubted that Cher would eventually make another musical comeback, but this time it became the biggest hit of her entire career. Believe is the perfect piece of dance-pop, and it has taken the whole world by storm. More dance hits followed, with a farewell concert tour lasting more than three years. Cher is certainly someone who believes in life after love. Watch the video of the procuratorates - I will be (500 Miles). Courtesy of Chrysalis I'm going to Be (500 Miles) was originally released in 1988, but after being included in the Benny and Joon film soundtrack, the energetic pop-rock tune became a hit in the 90s and is now a classic. The proclaimators are made up of Scottish duo Craig and Charlie Reid, who have created an energetic, infectious brand of pop-rock with influences from their Scottish background. Watch Video by Boyz II Men - Motownphilly. Courtesy of Motown This remains one of pop artist's best autobiographical songs. Motownphilly details the discovery of Michael Bivins' group, the New Edition and bell biv devotee fame, and their first taste of the star. And the cappella break is just gorgeous. Watch Sheryl Crow's video - Everything I Want to Do. Courtesy of A&M/M with the words This is not a disco. It's not even a country club. This is L.A., the world has met neo-folkie, irresistible pop Sheryl Crow. All I want to Do unfolds like a mini-movie thanks to Crow's artisc vocals, whose lyrics paint a glowing picture of Sheryl and Billy's adventures until the sun rises over Santa Monica Boulevard. Watch the video Madonna - Ray of Light. Courtesy Warner Bros. Madonna explored the pop potential of electronica with her first brand new studio album in four years. Working with collaborator William Orbit, the result is fresh, new and empowering. Ray of Light is aptly named, because it is a luminous, extremely dance and artistic techno piece. Watch the video to break your mouth - Fush Yu Mang. Courtesy Interscope Ska-punk-bound Smash Mouth burst into the spotlight with this addictive '60s psychedelic soul record. Unfortunately, the band never quite returned to the glory of this single, but it's one of the greatest songs of the decade. Watch the video All But The Girl - Missing. Courtesy of Atlantic It's as if the deserts lack rain... Remixed in countless ways over the years, there has never been a stronger expression of emotional and sexual thriving in pop music than that at the core of The Missing. In a year marked by wit and longing in pop songs, this is the pinnacle. Watch Britney Spears' video ... baby one more time. Courtesy Jive Records First National Notice as a member of The New Mickey Mouse Club on disney's cable network, but it was as pop singer Britney Spears that she became the most watched celebrity in the world. Her first single ... Baby One More Time is a great piece of pop music. He's attractive and sexy, and he's dealing with a slightly controversial video where people still talk today. Watch videos

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