

THE 100 MOST-RECORDED SONGS 1890-1954

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During the pre-rock era, one of the most important indicators of a song's enduring musical greatness was the number of artists to record it. This list represents the most comprehensive survey ever made of the pre-1955 songs which have been recorded by the most artists (multiple versions by an artist do not count). It encompasses: Edison and Columbia cylinders; all 78s in the extensive collections of the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library and the Syracuse, Stanford and Yale University Libraries; and all new Recordaid listings from the 1950s to the 1980s. Songs written before 1955 but most popular later, such as "Misty" and "Autumn Leaves", are not included. The year published and the songwriters are shown after the title.

- 1 SILENT NIGHT (1818)-JOSEPH MUHR & FRANZ GRUBER
- 2 ST. LOUIS BLUES (1914)-W.C. Handy
- 3 STAR DUST (1929)-Hoagy Carmichael & Mitchell Parish
- 4 BODY AND SOUL (1930)-Johnny Green, Ed Heyman, Robert Sauer & Frank Eyton
- 5 SUMMERTIME (1935)-George Gershwin & Dubose Heyward
- 6 THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME (SWANEE RIVER) (1851)-Stephen Foster
- 7 TEA FOR TWO (1925)-Vincent Youmans & Irving Caesar
- 8 WHITE CHRISTMAS (1942)-Irving Berlin
- 9 ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE (1939)-Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein II
- 10 NIGHT AND DAY (1932)-Cole Porter
- 11 Begin The Beguine (1935)-Cole Porter
- 12 Danny Boy (1913)-Traditional, adapted by Fred Weatherby
- 13 Sweet Georgia Brown (1925)-Maceo Pinkard, Kenneth Casey & Ben Bernie
- 14 The Man I Love (1924)-George Gershwin & Ira Gershwin
- 15 Over The Rainbow (1939)-Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg
- 16 Caravan (1937)-Duke Ellington, Juan Tizol & Irving Mills
- 17 After You've Gone (1918)-Turner Layton & Harry Creamer
- 18 Yesterdays (1933)-Jerome Kern & Otto Harbach
- 19 Ain't Misbehavin' (1929)-Fats Waller, Harry Brooks & Oscar Hammerstein II
- 20 Lover, Come Back To Me (1928)-Sigmund Romberg & Oscar Hammerstein II
- 21 What Is This Thing Called Love? (1930)-Cole Porter
- 22 I Can't Get Started (1936)-Vernon Duke & Ira Gershwin
- 23 Jingle Bells (1857)-J.S. Pierpont
- 24 I Can't Give You Anything But Love (1928)-Jimmy McHugh & Dorothy Fields
- 25 My Old Kentucky Home (1853)-Stephen Foster
- 26 When The Saints Go Marching In (1896)-James Black & Kathrine Purvis
- 27 Tenderly (1947)-Walter Gross & Jack Lawrence
- 28 Blue Skies (1927)-Irving Berlin
- 29 September Song (1938)-Kurt Weill & Maxwell Anderson
- 30 My Blue Heaven (1927)-Walter Donaldson & George Whiting
- 31 Always (1925)-Irving Berlin
- 32 Tiger Rag (1917)-Harry DeCosta & Original Dixieland Jazz Band
- 33 The Rosary (1898)-Ethelbert Nevins & Robert Cameron Rogers
- 34 Home, Sweet Home (1823)-Henry Bishop & John Howard Payne
- 35 Smoke Gets In Your Eyes (1933)-Jerome Kern & Otto Harbach
- 36 These Foolish Things (Remind Me Of You) (1936)-Jack Starchey, Harry Link & Holt Marvell
- 37 Ol' Man River (1928)-Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein II
- 38 Limehouse Blues (1924)-Phillip Braham & Douglas Furber
- 39 Sheik Of Araby (1923)-Ted Snyder, Harry B. Smith & Francis Wheeler
- 40 Embraceable You (1930)-George Gershwin & Ira Gershwin
- 41 My Funny Valentine (1937)-Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart
- 42 Stormy Weather (1933)-Harold Arlen & Ted Koehler
- 43 12th Street Rag (1914)-Euday L. Brown
- 44 Blue Moon (1935)-Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart
- 45 The Battle Hymn Of The Republic (1863)-Julia Ward Howe & William Steffe
- 46 My Melancholy Baby (1913)-Ernie Burnett & George Norton
- 47 I Got Rhythm (1930)-George Gershwin & Ira Gershwin
- 48 Honeysuckle Rose (1929)-Fats Waller & Andy Razaf
- 49 Love's Old Sweet Song (1884)-G. Clifton Bingham & James Mulloy
- 50 The Stars And Stripes Forever (1896)-John Phillip Sousa
- 51 Where Or When (1937)-Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart
- 52 Laura (1945)-David Raskin & Johnny Mercer
- 53 Mood Indigo (1931)-Duke Ellington, Barney Bigard & Irving Mills
- 54 The Christmas Song (1946)-Mel Torme & Robert Wells
- 55 Love For Sale (1930)-Cole Porter
- 56 Georgia On My Mind (1930)-Hoagy Carmichael & Stuart Gorrell
- 57 San Antonio Rose (1939)-Bob Wills
- 58 How High The Moon (1940)-Morgan Lewis & Nancy Hamilton
- 59 Someone To Watch Over Me (1926)-George Gershwin & Ira Gershwin
- 60 I Only Have Eyes For You (1934)-Harry Warren & Al Dubin
- 61 Sweet Sue, Just You (1928)-Victor Young & Will Harris
- 62 The Darktown Strutters' Ball (1917)-Shelton Brooks
- 63 On The Sunny Side Of The Street (1930)-Jimmy McHugh & Dorothy Fields
- 64 Silver Threads Among The Gold (1877)-Hart P. Danks & Eben Rexford
- 65 I'm In The Mood For Love (1935)-Jimmy McHugh & Dorothy Fields
- 66 Deep Purple (1939)-Peter DeRose & Mitchell Parish
- 67 Sometimes I'm Happy (1925)-Vincent Youmans & Irving Caesar
- 68 I've Got You Under My Skin (1934)-Cole Porter
- 69 The Star-Spangled Banner (1814)-Francis Scott Key
- 70 Easy To Love (1936)-Cole Porter
- 71 Avalon (1921)-B.G. DeSylva, Vincent Rose & Al Jolson
- 72 Willow Weep For Me (1932)-Ann Ronell
- 73 Dinah (1925)-Harry Akst, Sam Lewis & Joe Young
- 74 Moonglow (1934)-Will Hudson, Eddie DeLange & Irving Mills
- 75 Auld Lang Syne (1711)-adapted by Robert Burns
- 76 Carry Me Back To Old Virginny (1879)-James A. Bland
- 77 Alexander's Ragtime Band (1911)-Irving Berlin
- 78 Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town (1934)-J. Fred Coots & Haven Gillespie
- 79 Basin Street Blues (1929)-Spencer Williams
- 80 Sweet Lorraine (1935)-Clifford Burwell & Mitchell Parish
- 81 I'll Remember April (1942)-Don Raye, Gene DePaul & Patricia Johnston
- 82 Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer (1949)-

Johnny Marks 83 Solitude (1934)-Duke Ellington 84 Some Of These Days (1910)-Shelton Brooks 85 Stella By Starlight (1947)-Victor Young & Ned Washington 86 Maple Leaf Rag (1899)-Scott Joplin 87 Lover (1933)-Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart 88 The Way You Look Tonight (1936)-Jerome Kern & Dorothy Fields 89 Pennies From Heaven (1936)-Arthur Johnston & John Burke 90 Dancing In The Dark (1931)-Howard Dietz & Arthur Schwartz
91 Indiana (1917)-James Hanley & Ballard MacDonald 92 April In Paris (1932)-Vernon Duke 93 As Time Goes By (1931)-Herman Hupfield 94 Royal Garden Blues (1923)-Spencer Williams & Clarence Williams 95 The Very Thought Of You (1934)-Ray Noble 96 Lover Man (1942)-Jimmy Davis,Roger Ramirez & Jimmy Sherman 97 'Round Midnight (1947)-Thelonious Monk & Cootie Williams 98 Perdido (1942)-Juan Tizol,Ervin Drake & Hans Lengsfelder 99 All Of Me (1931)-Seymour Simons & Gerald Marks100 What's New? (1939)-Johnny Burke & Robert Haggart

* This list was compiled by data from the book titled "Joel Whitburn's Pop Memories 1890-1954"(1986) by Billboard Publications,Inc.