

# Who I Am, As Represented By Music

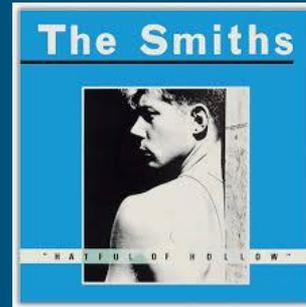
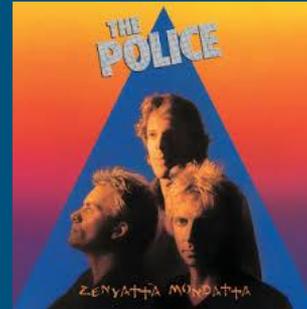


By Brendan Toon



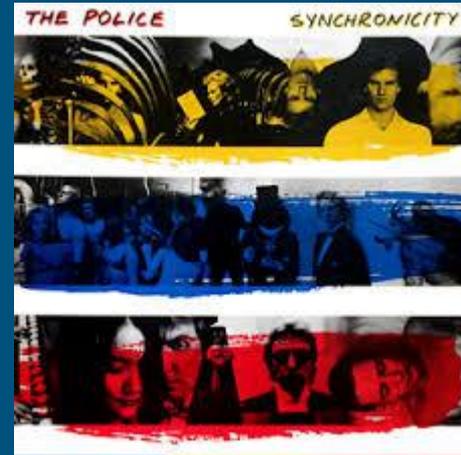
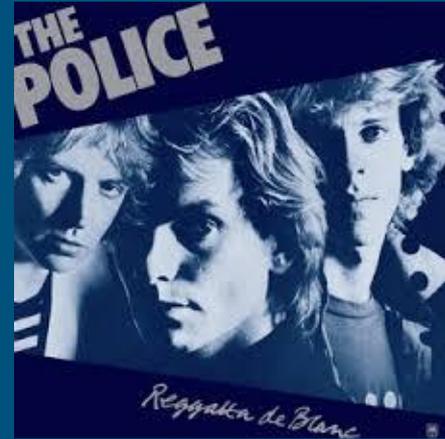
# My Favorite Bands

The top row of bands represents the happier side of myself. The middle represents, the darker, more realistic side of myself. The bottom represents an even balance between the two. The left side is a more logical and controlled personality. The right side is more raw in emotion and feeling.



# The Police

The Police (1979-1983) consisted of Sting, Stewart Copeland, and Andy Summers. They were part of the musical genre New Wave and released 5 studio albums, and were best known for songs like the "Every Breath You Take" and "Roxanne." While they aren't known for their joyous lyrics, their melodies and riffs are light and funky, which makes for a very vibrant and happy listening. This fits part of me very well, as I can also be a very happy, bounce-around type of person.



# The Beatles

The Beatles (1957-1970) were comprised of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr, and are one of the greatest, if not the greatest rock band of all time. They started out as a pop group, the first boy band, and gradually became more and more experimental. Their subject matter was typically love, and how powerful it was. This is a big part of me, loving your family and friends around you.



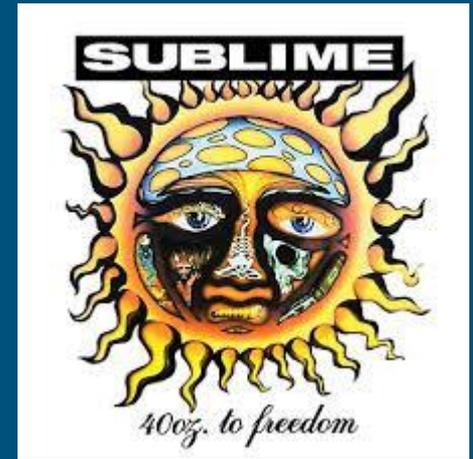
# Nirvana

Nirvana (1987-1994) was formed by Kurt Cobain and Krist Novoselic and featured many drummers, the most known being Dave Grohl. Pioneers of the grunge movement, they released 3 studio albums, a B-Side compilation, and many live albums. They are most known for their 1991 album *Nevermind*, and one song in particular, "Smells Like Teen Spirit." Their songwriter and lyricist, Cobain, had many views on life that I share. He felt a lot of alienation with society and politics, which I also feel are very unsettling. The band was also feminist, and against racism, and homophobia, which are subject matters I agree with as well. They represent a lot of my negative views on humans and society.



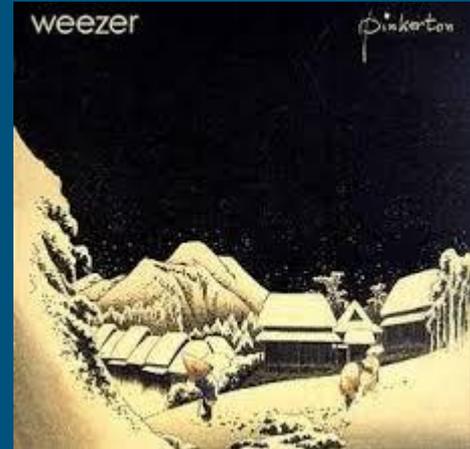
# Sublime

Sublime (1988-1996) consisted of members Bradley Nowell, Bud Gaugh, and Eric Wilson. They were a mixture of many genres, primarily garage and reggae, and mixtures of punk. They had 3 studio albums, and after lead singer Bradley Nowell's death, have continued on as Sublime with Rome. Some of their most known works include "Santeria" and "What I Got." Their lyrics consisted of ironic wise mouthing, as well as about more pressing matters, like racism. It reminds me of my own sarcastic remarks, as well as a more serious side of myself.



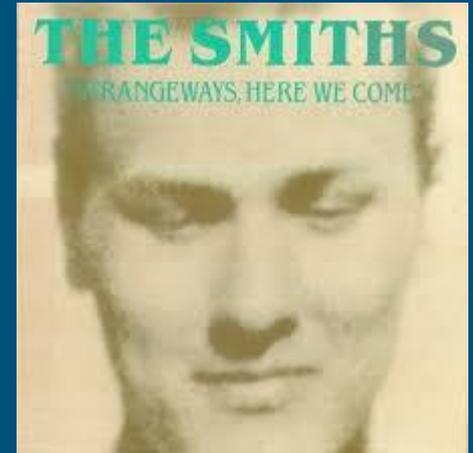
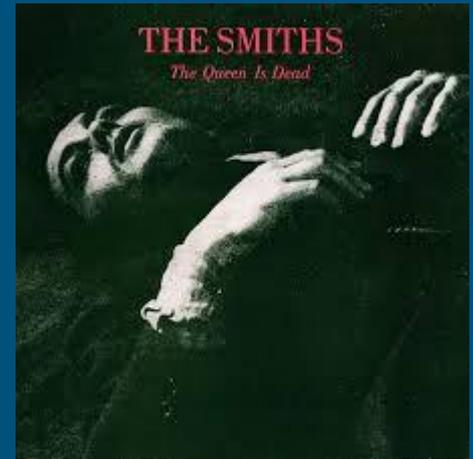
# Weezer

Weezer (1992-Present) was formed by Rivers Cuomo and has featured a rotating lineup, its core members being Rivers Cuomo, Patrick Wilson, Brian Bell, and Matt Sharp. This lineup released two albums, the self-titled Weezer (1994) and Pinkerton (1996), both considered the bands best work. They represent the nerdier side of me, as many of their tracks consist of being an introvert and having non-mainstream passions. They also show many themes of not being comfortable in one's skin, unassured of one's self, another topic I can relate too.



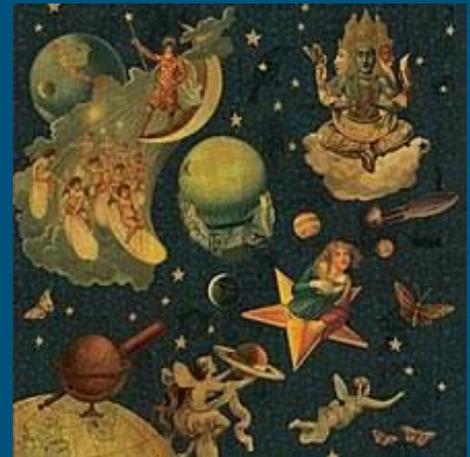
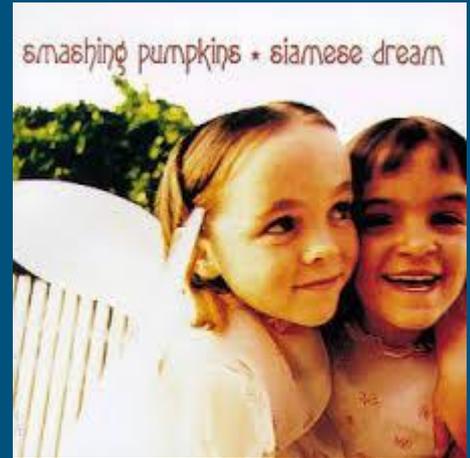
# The Smiths

The Smiths (1982-1987) were a band made up by artists Morrissey, Johnny Marr, Mike Joyce, and Andy Rourke. Playing indie rock, they released 4 studio albums before breaking up. Best known for the B-Side, "How Soon Is Now," they were hugely influential on the goth, grunge, and indie scene. Morrissey's lyrics were full of obscure pop culture, which is very similar to my knowledge of "obscure" music. Morrissey was also very passionate about his beliefs, like vegetarianism. This is another trait I share with Morrissey, passionate beliefs on certain subjects.



# The Smashing Pumpkins

The Smashing Pumpkins (1988-2000, 2007-present) are an alternative group with many different band members. The most known of these is Billy Corgan, James Iha, D'arcy Wretzky, and Jimmy Chamberlin. Their most prominent work was 3 studio albums, Gish, Siamese Dream, and Melon Collie and the Infinite Sadness. The subject matter of most of their work is very heavy and dark, much like me when I'm angry or sad. Their music is also very moody, sometimes not needing words, but a melody to evoke feeling.



# Others Opinions - How they have shaped me

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When talking to others about my music, it has certainly shaped who I am. It has helped me become more confident and proud of my taste. This is through having the approval of my tastes from others. "I like a lot of the stuff you listen to," said Reece. And this has helped me to be happier with my own tastes. "I think you can tell a lot about a person by what music they listen to. And from your taste, you obviously care about the lyrics and the meaning," said Kyle. And Kyle is right. I think I care a lot about the message behind the songs, sometimes, more than the actual songs. Thanks to Claire for helping me fix grammar issues and requesting for more information on some slides.