

❖ Hit List

MMMBop keeps rockin'

Hanson on the albums that inspire them

By Iris Kuo

In today's rinse-and-repeat, disposable pop-music world, the three brothers of pop-rock band Hanson have hung on much longer than many people expected following their 1997 hit "MMMBop." A decade ago, the Hansons—then all under the age of 18—scored three Grammy nominations and sold more than four million copies of their debut album, "Middle of Nowhere." Today, Oklahoma natives Isaac

Hanson, 26 years old, Taylor, 24, and Zac, 22, still garner critical acclaim for pitch-perfect harmonies. Their self-released 2004 album, "Underneath," reached No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Independent chart. The trio are currently on tour in the U.S. to promote their fourth album, "The Walk," and say they hope to tour Asia next year. Here, the albums they say influenced them most.



Pet Sounds, Beach Boys (1966)
With singles like "Sloop John B," "Wouldn't It Be Nice" and "God Only Knows," this album is widely recognized as a pop classic. "It's really complex, but it is done so effortlessly that it sounds simple," says Hanson guitarist Isaac. "That's an important part of what music can be and is."



The Rock N' Roll Era: 1958 (1987)
This compilation includes hits by Chuck Berry, Little Richard and Bobby Darin, among others. The Hansons say they first listened to it as kids, and began to write music soon after. "That music was kind of the heart of rock 'n' roll," says Zac, the band's drummer. "It was one of the things that changed the culture."



River of Dreams, Billy Joel (1993)
This album includes the piano-backed ballad "Lullaby (Goodnight, My Angel)" and the gospel-tinged "River of Dreams." The band particularly admires Mr. Joel's storytelling abilities, which epitomize "the intrinsic core of how to pull people in," says Hanson lead singer and keyboard player Taylor.



Rubber Soul, The Beatles (1965)
The Fab Four's sixth album, featuring singles such as "Drive My Car" and "Norwegian Wood," has been hailed as the turning point in The Beatles' evolution—and in rock 'n' roll history. "They took...the '50s swing thing and gave it a more straight-up kind of feel," says Isaac. "This is pop-rock perfection."



Dangerous, Michael Jackson (1991)
This album spawned the hits "Black or White" and "Remember the Time." The band members say they admire Mr. Jackson's ability to craft catchy, irresistible grooves. "Sometimes the lyrics don't matter," says Zac. "It's about the visceral emotion coming across. No one ever made 'ugh' sound so good."

THE JOURNAL CROSSWORD / Edited by Mike Shenk

- Across**
- 1 Indifferent
 - 5 "Houston, we have a problem"
 - 9 Wood's "West Side Story" co-star
 - 15 Regarding
 - 19 "NFL Live" carrier
 - 20 Florid line
 - 22 Run through
 - 23 Flying after?
 - 25 "If I Were King of the Forest" singer
 - 26 Suggested
 - 27 Marked by speculative investing
 - 28 1927's Flying Cloud, for one
 - 29 Pie chart dividers
 - 30 Deuxieme -- (the nobility)
 - 32 Sesame/honey confection
 - 35 "Body Surfing" writer Shreve
 - 36 Renovation
 - 40 Home of Monty Python and
 - Benny Hill?
 - 44 Charlemagne's sister
 - 45 Pre-euro money in Milano
 - 47 Endure successfully
 - 48 Song recounting a leisurely walk?
 - 52 Gives strength to

Taking Up a Collection / by Harvey Estes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
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- 57 Universal donor classification
- 58 Sticky stuff
- 59 Pack of lifesavers, briefly
- 60 "The Flying Dutchman" tenor
- 61 "Stop the game!"
- 63 Runway model
- 66 Slips between the covers?
- 68 Collection from 23-, 40-, 48-, 88-, 95- and 117-Across
- 73 Wheaties, e.g.
- 74 Terrifying
- 75 Mach 1 toppers
- 76 Level
- 77 "Amscray!"
- 79 Exercises
- 82 1969 Hitchcock spy thriller
- 86 Chancellor from Cologne
- 88 Double bar?
- 91 Understanding words
- 93 Celestial bear
- 94 MGM mascot
- 95 Canal counterpart?
- 100 Makeup kit item
- 103 Lightning byproduct
- 104 Turns over
- 106 Directly
- 107 Uninspiring
- 108 Hoppy brew
- 110 High point
- 113 Tusked beasts
- 116 Admiral Zumwalt
- 117 Vidalia growers' agency?
- 121 Hardly prosperous
- 122 St. Jude Children's Hospital founder
- 123 Biblical birthright seller
- 124 In need of
- 125 Go over
- 126 Planner of long trips
- 127 Balkan native
- astronauts
- 4 Like some inspections
- 5 Java vessel
- 6 Boss of "The Dukes of Hazzard"
- 7 1952 Winter Olympics setting
- 8 Start of a "Snow White" song
- 9 Follower of Fannie or Ginnie
- 10 ... pro nobis
- 11 Give a new corporate image to
- 12 Buffalo's county
- 13 Ustinov's "Quo Vadis" role
- 14 Left over
- 15 Leaning
- 16 Old arenas
- 17 1788 stop for the Bounty
- 18 "Master and Commander" writer Patrick
- 21 Alternative to "cheers!"
- 24 Talk of Tuscany: Abbr.
- 29 "Something to Talk About" singer
- 31 It may have a glazed look
- 33 Singer of "Footloose"
- 34 Word on a sample check
- 36 ... accompli
- 37 Forever's partner
- 38 Betray nervousness
- 39 The Dixie Chicks, e.g.
- 41 They're not critical
- 42 Ring event
- 43 Baking potatoes
- 46 Paul Anka's "... Beso"
- 49 Caused to go, poetically
- 50 Anjou divider
- 51 Jobs can be found there
- 53 Fine mist
- 54 Azerbaijan neighbor
- 55 Tiny criticisms
- 56 Reggae relative
- 59 Big name in ambient music
- 62 Title awarded annually since 1952
- 64 Grazing spot
- 65 Make sense
- 67 Fashion photographer Herb
- 68 Decent
- 69 Initiate without dignity
- 70 Heartthrob's fan
- 71 "My man!"
- 72 Basilica di San Francesco setting
- 73 Monk's title
- 78 Pump part
- 80 Cook of Creedence Clearwater Revival
- 81 Count's counterpart
- 83 Chopin creation
- 84 A month of Sundays
- 85 Chaotic scenes
- 87 Televised
- 88 Place to put in
- 89 Blown away
- 90 Refreshers of a sort
- 92 "Well done!"
- 95 Steel works?
- 96 Spring bloomer
- 97 Honcho
- 98 Mergers
- 99 Make contact with
- 101 Oodles
- 102 Sets free
- 105 Setting piece
- 108 Some have it to grind
- 109 "The Mod Squad" character
- 111 Jane Austen classic
- 112 Present time?
- 114 Crowd response
- 115 Slight
- 117 Poetic paeon
- 118 Comic Louis
- 119 No. to measure against
- 120 "... penny earned"

Last week's solution

D	O	R	I	A	N		S	A	K	E	S		R	A	P	E	D				
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Chitty U.K. (Chitty Chitty Bang Bang); Lois Greenfield (Paul Taylor Dance Company); Ismael Roldan (Hit List illustration)