

10 GREATEST COVERS

[1]
"All Along the Watchtower"
JIMI HENDRIX
EXPERIENCE
1968

[2]
"Hurt"
JOHNNY CASH
2002

[3]
"I Will Always Love You"
WHITNEY HOUSTON
1992

[4]
"The Man Who Sold the World"
NIRVANA
1993

[5]
"Tainted Love"
SOFT CELL 1981

[6]
"Jolene"
THE WHITE STRIPES
2000

[7]
"Across the Universe"
FIONA APPLE
1998

[8]
"Hallelujah"
JEFF BUCKLEY
1994

[9]
"Landslide"
DIXIE CHICKS
2002

[10]
"Hazy Shade of Winter"
THE BANGLES
1987

The Pop Icons

Bruce Springsteen, *Born to Run* (15)—and to be the Boss; natural born Thriller (4) Michael Jackson; Jay-Z, the architect of rap's *Blueprint* (36); Madonna became one lucky star with *Madonna* (43); Elvis Presley, the *Sunrise* (16) supernova; Bob Dylan left *Blood on the Tracks* (6); Prince reigned on *Purple Rain* (2)

4
Thriller

Michael Jackson

1982

If you grew up in the '80s, this isn't just an album; it's the soundtrack to the first half of your life. Your first dance, your first summer romance, your first (and, rest assured, not your last) heartbreak. Thank you, Michael. Signed, everyone.

5
London Calling

The Clash

1979

A lot of punks sneered about rebellion back then, but these boyos gave 'em a real revolution—musical and political—with the eternally urgent, genre-defying document that earned them the sobriquet the Only Band That Matters.

6
Blood on the Tracks

Bob Dylan

1975

Supposedly inspired by the collapse of his marriage, Dylan's 15th album is a mellow-dude detonation of anger, regret, and acceptance that features some of his most

soulful singing and enduring melodies. "It's hard for me to relate to...people enjoying that type of pain," he later said in an interview. But it's harder to imagine anyone not getting swept up in this masterpiece of deeply emotional songwriting.

7
Lady Soul

Aretha Franklin

1968

"Lady" is a too modest honorific: She's forever the Queen, whether suffering a "Chain of Fools," making hotfooted horns

follow in her wake on "(Sweet Sweet Baby) Since You've Been Gone," or feeling like a natural woman (woman!).

8
My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy

Kanye West

2010

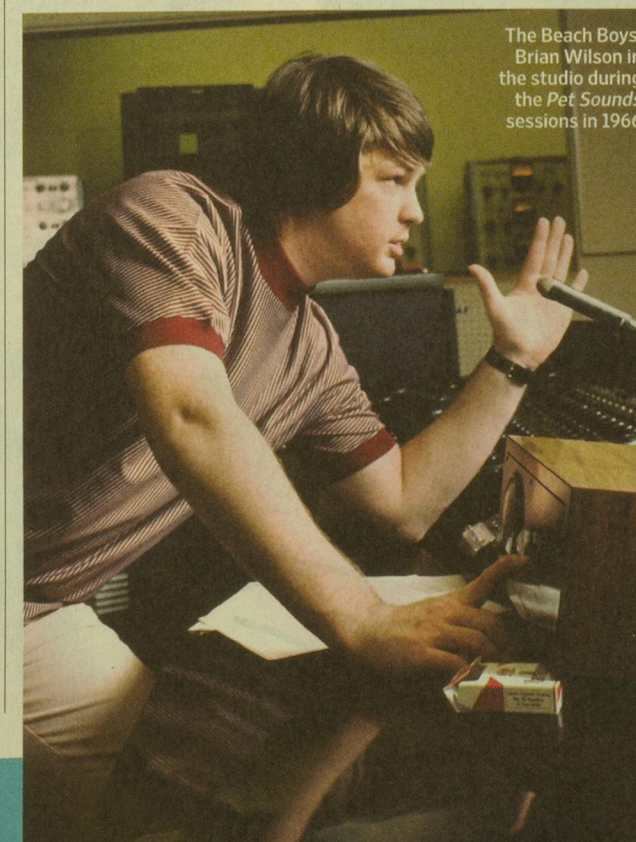
It starts with a question: "Can we get much higher?" After 70 thunderous minutes of hip-hop anthems, prog-rock bliss-outs, and I'ma-let-you-finish bravura, you have your answer: No. No, we cannot.

9 ↓
Pet Sounds

The Beach Boys

1966

The Boys could have cruised forever on surfin' safaris and little deuce coupes; instead, they dove into the deep end of the Pacific (and into Brian Wilson's often untethered psyche) on this impeccably layered, gorgeously woebegone pop masterwork.



The Beach Boys' Brian Wilson in the studio during the *Pet Sounds* sessions in 1966

2
Purple Rain

Prince

1984

Sexiest album ever? The PMRC thought so. The watchdog group was literally formed in response to this paisley-funk heavy breather, which builds to one awesome climax after another. How fitting that the movie the album was made for charts the Kid's rise to fame: The moment Prince sang "Baby I'm a Star," he was one.

3
Exile on Main Street

The Rolling Stones

1972

Given the legendarily louche circumstances in which *Exile on Main Street* was made (heroin! French villa! More heroin!), it's a miracle this double set of blues-, country-, and gospel-infused rock contains any great songs. In fact, they're all great songs—even the one called "Turd on the Run."