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From a pop musical standpoint, the 1990s was 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, 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 new sense of urgency. So who were some of the biggest acts of the '90s? Mariah Carey had more no.1 hits than any other during that decade. Other artists who dominated the parades included Janet Jackson, Boyz II Men, Whitney Houston and TLC. In the early 1990s, Seattle gave birth to the grunge movement, which merged punk and hard rock, producing influential bands such as Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. As the decade progressed, grunge was absorbed by the larger and radio-radioable alternative rock genre, and then gave way to agro-rock and nu-metal bands like Limp Bizkit and Linkin Park at the end of the decade. Fatboy Slim and the Chemical Brothers rejuvenated electronics, Shania Twain and Garth Brooks spurred a resurgence in the popularity of country music, and Jay-Z and Tupac Shakur brought new life to hip-hop. Find out if your favorite song from the 1990s made the cut on this list of 100 hits of the decade. Nirvana - Smells Like Teen Spirit. Courtesy DGC Records The emergence of Nirvana's Smells Like Teen Spirit as a top-10 pop hit remains one of the most dramatic pop music events of the 1990s. Kurt Cobain's sarcastic ode to teenage angst, defined as a drum-beat pop melody and guitars bathed in diffused distortion, shook the establishment of pop music. It was all accompanied by a music video that featured a memorable and unforgiving vision of the classic high school pep rally. Grunge had arrived. Watch the Video Los Del Rio - Macarena. Courtesy RCA Today, most people regard Macarena as having been ridiculously exaggerated, a peculiar relic only for wedding reception dances. The truth is it was one of the most fun and catchy hits of the decade. Watch the Boyz II Men - End of the Road Video. Courtesy Motown While his group of adoring fans waited for a second album, Boyz II Men recorded this ballad for the soundtrack to Eddie Murphy's boomerang film. The four-part crooning and the gorgeous supplicant fade are irresistible. Along with Whitney Houston's I Will Always Love You, it became the second 1992 hit to make the top-10 of all time. Watch the video Elton John - Candle in the Wind 1997. Courtesy A&M The summer of 1997 came to a tragic end when Princess Diana died in a terrible car accident. The world's attention was riveted at his funeral, and Elton John reworked his song Candle in the Wind for the occasion. It quickly became their best-selling single in the world. Watch video tag team - Whoomp! (There it is). Life Records Although no one is suscptibly claim that Whoomp! Whoomp! It's) it's art, it's possibly the most popular party single of the last 25 years. The incessant singing of Whoomp! (There It Is) could also be heard for many years as part of the soundtrack for breaks at sporting events of all kinds. This is hip-hop in its most unaforsuringly fun. Watch Whitney Houston - I Will Always Love You video. Courtesy Arista 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 film The Bodyguard, in which she starred alongside Kevin Costner. With this song, one of the most beautiful voices in music finds one of the most impressive ballads ever written, and made history, becoming the biggest pop hit of all time. Watch Coolio - Gangsta's Paradise Video. Courtesy Tommy Boy Before 1995, Coolio was best known for the lightest and most humorous hip-hop, which provided an alternative to West Coast gangsta rap. Fascinating and atmospheric, Gangsta's Paradise was a change of focus that Coolio's label decided to leave him off their solo album and instead put it on the soundtrack to the movie 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 the video Sinead O'Connor - Nothing Compares 2 U. Courtesy Chrysalis It's hard to remember now the image of Sinead O'Connor before the controversial television appearances that almost brought down his career, but few pop artists have put together more powerful and exciting performances than this. The song itself, written by Prince, is excellent, but Sinead's emotional and courageous performance made it a classic. The painful loss finds an impressive vocal beauty with a perfectly understated instrumental arrangement. Watch the R.E.M. video losing my religion. Courtesy Warner Bros. With the grunge revolution lurking just above the horizon, R.E.M., pioneers of alt-rock, burst into the mainstream with this song. Unleashing dozens of conversations about its meaning, Losing My Religion is, in its most basic sense, a beautiful folk-influenced pop song about the feeling of going crazy. Watch the video Alanis Morissette - You Should Know. Courtesy Maverick Alanis Morissette's debut sent shockwaves through the music industry. No pop singer had said the anger and pain of a relationship that went wrong so explicitly. You Oughta Know clearly touched a nerve and led the audience to the complex and intricate songs from the phenomenally successful album Jagged Little Pill. Watch the video Jay-Z - Hard Knock Life. Courtesy Roc-a-Fella Jay-Z has consolidated his status as the best of east coast rappers with this brilliant single that turns a show-stop number from Broadway musical Annie into an exciting hip-hop opus. It was proof of how far hip-hop artists could overcome the of the genre. Watch the Video Courtesy Columbia This song from the Titanic Titanic soundtrack certainly one of the most exaggerated ballads of the 1990s. Listen minutely, though, and you'll realize how beautiful the music is—and Celine Dion is undoubtedly one of the best voices in the business. Watch the video Courtesy Def Jam LL Cool J established himself as a hard-edged rapper when he was still a teenager. In the late 1980s, however, he was being accused of selling to pop audiences. Mama Said Knock You Out is her response to criticism. It's an aggressive and hard-hitting rap classic that brought together rap and pop audiences and consolidated LL's status as one of the greatest rap artists of all time. Watch the backstreet boys video - I Want It That Way. Courtesy 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 the TLC video - No Mops. Courtesy LaFace The R&B trio TLC electrified the world of pop music with their phenomenal album Crazysexycool, released in 1994. So it was a five-year wait for the next installment. Fortunately, Fan Mail was almost as good as its predecessor. On Scrubs, the lead single, is The Watch Video Beck - Loser. Courtesy DGC If any big pop hit from 1994 could be described as coming from left field, it would be Beck's Loser. It's a bit like welding a self-deprecating killer chorus to Dylan's Subterranean Homesick Blues. In the following years, Beck would prove that Loser was just a drop in the deep pit of his creativity. Watch fugees video - Killing Me Softly. Courtesy Ruff House On their second album, The Score, the Fugees showed that hip-hop could be much more than gangsters. Lauryn Hill's stunning voice was at the center of this most successful remake of Roberta Flack's Killing Me Softly With His Song. Watch the video Ricky Martin - Livin' La Vida Loca. Courtesy Columbia Ricky Martin began his career as a vocalist with the legendary boy band Menudo. In 1999, he was a household name for the Latin music audience. When Livin' La Vida Loca fell, the English-speaking world discovered what they were missing. It is irresistibly sexy and almost impossible to hear without moving the body. Watch the mariah carey video - Vision of Love. Courtesy Columbia This number 1 hit was the world's first introduction to Mariah Carey's voice. Echoes of Whitney Houston's influence are evident, but the absolute power and highs are all Mariah's. This debut is still one of his best recordings. Watch the Santana video with Rob Thomas - Smooth. Courtesy Arista Records Who knew the legendary Latin guitarist Carlos Santana would record one of the greatest successful pop singles of all time? Also, who knew their lead singer would be the lead singer of the post-grunge band Matchbox 20? But it happened, and Smooth deserved his subsequent sales and acclaim. In Rob Thomas proved that his performance on Smooth was no accident when releasing the stellar solo album... Something to be. Watch the Mercury Courtesy Video The duo of Mellencamp and NédgeOcello in this irresistible pop song is a game made in rock and roll heaven. Together, they took a chestnut van Morrison and turned it into something transcendent. Turn this one over and try not to dance. Watch the video Courtesy Geffen Lisa Loeb quickly rose to stardom in the wake of her hit Stay from the soundtrack for the movie Reality Bites. Do You Sleep? is the first hit from their first solo album, Tails. Watch the Columbia Courtesy Video For the centerpiece of his 1993 album, Billy Joel put together this gospel-influenced stream of consciousness recording. He spent three weeks at the top of the pop singles chart and is one of the most uplifting hits of Joel's career. Watch the video Courtesy Atlantic Sugar Ray's feel-good vibe is one of the pure pleasures of 90s pop music. This tale about a girlfriend who has a halo hanging in the corner of her four-poster bed is instantly recognizable and memorable. Watch Video Courtesy Capitol Records Although they are best known for a long series of rock hits dating back to 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 love with a carnamer - was initially controversial, but in essence it is a fun fantasy straight from a novel. Watch The Courtesy Capitol Video The optimistic feeling of Blind Melon's biggest hit, No Rain, contrasts with the band's tragic story. Vocalist Shannon Hoon struggled with drug addiction for much of the early 1990s and was dead in late 1995 at the age of 28. Although many people remember the video of their sweet dancing bee-girl, the song itself is much darker, outline with bassist Brad Smith's efforts to deal with his girlfriend's struggles with clinical depression. Watch the emi courtesy emf video rode the wave of British invasion that broke down on US shores in the wake of the popularity of the Manchester dance scene. Unbelievable mixed intoxicating rhythms, sweet vocals from vocalist James Atkin, and cheering screams to reach the top of the pop charts. Watch the video Courtesy Arista When the 1990s were nearing its end, it's been eight years since Whitney Houston released a studio album. Music industry legend Clive Davis convinced her to record a new set of songs, and the resulting album, My Love Is Your Love, includes some of her best work. It's Not Right, But It's Okay is a tough anthem for women on the way out of relationships that sounds great on the radio and on the dance floor. Watch the Ben Folds Epic Courtesy Video and company brought the issue of abortion to the pop charts — from a male standpoint. A particularly fascinating twist is that it seems that the narrator of this melancholic song is selfish and a little. Lyrically, this is one of the most unique songs from the 1990s. Watch video Courtesy Chrysalis Arrested Development ended its banner year by being awarded the Grammy Award for Best New Artist of 1992. The detailed spiritual search in Tennessee was a big part of the band's success. The uplifting, intelligent lyrics and positive tone seemed to herald a new direction for rap, but it turns out that the acquisition of gangsta, just a year away, would win. Watch the Columbia Courtesy Video The humorous approach of the presidents of the United States of America stands out amid the onslaught of Seattle bands surfing the wave of the grunge revolution. Lump crosses the line between punk and bubblegum pop, and the result is one of the most unusually catchy songs of the decade. Watch the Video Courtesy Reprise Records For many, the mileage varied in the success of. His pure kinetic energy certainly reinvigorated pop radio playlists, debuting at No. 3 before eventually spending, appropriately, a week at No. 1. While some of his raunchy, self-indulgent humor can go far, few songs symbolize 90s pop like One Week. Watch the Columbia Courtesy Video Ricky Martin's early 1999 success opened the door for other Latin artists to enter the mainstream of pop music. One of the most talented is Marc Anthony. I Need to Know was the perfect vehicle to land your beautiful voice on the radio waves. Watch the Virgin Jamaican Courtesy Video Orville Burrell had great success with Boombastic, one of the first dancehall — a reggae subgenre — songs to break with the American pop charts. Shaggy, who took his stage name from a Scooby Doo character, displays oodles of personal charm alongside funky grooves. Watch the Video Courtesy Creation Records The Gallagher brothers - Liam and Noel - and their band, Oasis, helped usher in a new period of glory for British guitar pop, at least in the UK. This is one of his few American successes. It's beautiful and irresistibly encourages you to sing along. Watch the A&M Courtesy Video We still don't know exactly what this hit song is about, but it's definitely catchy. The final hook in the lyrics is the phrase Tell me all your thoughts about God/ Because I would really like to meet her, and it has something to do with asking questions, as children usually do. Watch video Courtesy Warner Bros. R.E.M. the album Automatic for the People is one of the main artistic achievements of pop music of the 90s, and Man on the Moon is one of the most memorable and beautiful songs on this album. It's both a moving tribute to comedian Andy Kaufman and a thoughtful meditation on the power of popular culture. Watch the Tim Mosenfelder/Getty Images video If you don't know its history, this song may seem a bit treacly, and it's certainly no match for a host of other Eric Clapton classics. But given that this gentle ballad was written in response to Clapton's young son, Conor, becomes one of the greatest songs of sadness and comfort ever written. Was. Was. from the rush soundtrack, and Clapton's unplugged album featured the even more popular acoustic version. Watch the video Alanis Morissette - Not Invited. Courtesy Maverick This is one of Alanis Morissette's most memorable and lyrically disordered songs. The Gothic musical and foreboding textures blend well with their vocal intensity. Watch the Tim Roney/Getty Images video Even after years of hype surrounding this all-girl group and its members, Wannabe is an exciting listening experience. The group's Girl Power swept the UK in 1996 and then conquered America the following year. Watch the cranberries - Linger video. Courtesy Island Records Although later hits more dramatically demonstrated the vocal acrobatics of the group's lead singer, Dolores O'Riordan, Linger has an almost ethereal beauty that actually remains long after the end of the song. It was the parade of one of the most striking voices of the 1990s. Watch the video without a doubt - Don't Talk. Courtesy Interscope This moving song about the end of a long-standing love affair is a bit of a stylistic anomaly given the rest of the ska and punk work influenced by No Doubt. Still, it served to make the group's lead singer, Gwen Stefani, a star in good faith. The song's irresistible pop hooks kept it on the chart for most of the year. Watch the video Edwin Collins - A Girl Like You. Courtesy Setanta This Scottish artist put together one of the most captivating and unique hits on radio in the 90s, sounding a lot like a more pop Iggy Pop. Unfortunately, Collins failed to replicate this success. Watch the video Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch - Good Vibrations. Courtesy Interscope Good Vibrations introduced the world to Mark Wahlberg (also known as 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 video-ready body and good looks, combined with energetic dance beats and diva-esque vocals by Loleatta Holloway, made for a successful pop hit. Mark Wahlberg never repeated this musical success, but he went on to be a respected film actor. Watch the video R. Kelly - Bump n' Grind. Courtesy Jive Records This song demonstrates exactly why we fall in love with R. Kelly's music, if not the man. The a cappella angst in Kelly's voice at the opening of the song is brilliant, and becomes an incredibly sexy song. Bump 'N Grind connects the vocal styles of the new jack swing of the early 90s with the novel of the 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 classic jazz samples from the Blue Note label. Cantalooop (Flip Fantasia) is built on a sample of Herbie Hancock from Cantalooop Island. The merger did not always work well, but this time it worked, and the is eminently engaging. Watch the video Jesus Jones - Doubt. Courtesy SBK The band Jesus Jesus rode the same wave from the UK to the American shores that carried EMF. Right Here Right Now is less frantic than EMF's Unbelievable, but it easily settled into mainstream pop and quickly climbed to the top of the pop singles chart. Watch the video Will Smith - Gettin' Jiggy Wit It. Courtesy Sony Will Smith's first solo effort resulted in this catchy and cool single. His brand of clean hip-hop, humorous, party picked up instantly. Like Mark Wahlberg, he went on to enjoy much more success as an actor, but this remains one of the most charming pop musical relics of the 1990s. Watch the Madonna - Secret Video. Courtesy Warner Bros. Secret is one of the least extravagant of Madonna's hits in the 1990s, but remains one of her most satisfying. It features a mid-tempo beat and some of the hottest and most inviting vocals the singer has ever recorded. Watch Video Quad City - C'mon Ride It (The Train) DJs. Courtesy Quadrasound The producers behind the irresistibly captivating Whoomp! (There It Is) came with another irresistible success of the party. C'mon 'N Ride It (The Train) has inspired another wave of sonic hits and is perennially welcome on any party soundtrack. Watch the video Bell Biv DeVoe - Poison. Courtesy MCA In the wake of the disintegration of the New Edition, three of the group's members, Ricky Bell, Michael Bivins and Ronnie DeVoe, proved that Bobby Brown was not the only breakout talent in the group. Poison's hard-edge R&B led the development of the new jack swing as one of the coolest R&B bands in a decade. Watch the Faith No More - Epic Video. Courtesy Reprise Records This top-10 hit from Faith No More in San Francisco was both heavy and absurd. A set of inscrutable lyrics meets a punk/funk/rap beat and the result is one of the most exciting aural experiences of any decade. Watch the Marlin Page Video - At the House of Stone and Light. Courtesy Mercury This effortless pop nugget 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 is not artistically innovative, but almost perfectly encapsulates the mainstream of pop around 1995. Page disappeared from the radio waves shortly after this coup. Watch the video Tracy Chapman - New Beginning. Courtesy Elektra Most pop fans thought Tracy Chapman would be relegated to the anais of a hit-wonderdom based on the success of Fast Car from her first album. Then she reappeared with this deeply bluesy audience delight, proving that there is still room for innovation and surprise within the genre. Watch video house of pain - Jump Around. Courtesy XL Recordings For a brief period of time in the 1990s (see Faith No More), it seemed that the marriage of bold rock and hip-hop could really become a thing. Jump Around is proof that the union can be incredibly infectious irritating, depending on the tolerance for the incessant siren that accompanies the beats. Unfortunately Unfortunately of pain never recaptured this moment of grandeur. Watch underground digital video - sex packages. Courtesy Tommy Boy Some can dismiss this song as simply an innovative hit, but deserves to hear it more closely. As hip-hop moved further into the mainstream, this Oakland group distinguished themselves by supporting stooping raps with Parliament-Funkadelic-inspired funk. Rarely does a pop classic make sex sound so fun and funny. Watch the video michael jackson - Black or White. Courtesy Epic Records This is undoubtedly Michael Jackson's last major single. It features Guns 'n Roses guitarist Slash, launching an uplifting message about racial unity. As was the norm for Michael Jackson's releases at the time, the song was accompanied by a big-budget video. This was directed by John Landis and featured actors Macaulay Culkin, George Wendt and Peggy Lipton. Watch dj jazzy jeff and the fresh prince - summertime video. Courtesy Jive Records D.J. Jazzy Jeff and Will Smith (also known as Fresh Prince) took a big step forward in the maturity of their sound with the 1991 album Homebase. Summertime, his biggest hit, is the centerpiece of the album. His relaxed grooves settled as the summer song of 1991. Watch the video Sarah McLachlan - Adia. Courtesy The voice of Arista Sarah McLachlan is almost supernatural in its beauty. This single came out as the Lilith Fair concert tour, hosted by McLachlan, was just getting the gear. It remains one of the hymns of that particular period, when women in rock were asserting themselves on radio waves and on stage. Watch janet jackson's video - Escapade. Courtesy A&M Records Taken from Janet Jackson's concept album Rhythm Nation: 1814, Escapade at first looks like a simple, light piece of pop fluff. After hearing it several times, however, its escapist charm sinks. This was one of the most joyful hits of 1990, an atmosphere further enhanced by the accompanying video. Watch Video Wreckz -N-Effect - Rump Shaker. Courtesy MCA All I want to do... zooma zooma zoom zoom... At this point, hip-hop began to walk the fine line between the acceptability of pop radio and the unacceptably explicit sexual content. Rump Shaker is innocent by current standards, but has crossed boundaries in his time. Watch Video Collective Soul - The World I Know. Courtesy Atlantic So I walk high / And I pass to the brim / To see my world below. The rock band Collective Soul pulled all the stops musically, including high strings, to support this beautiful ballad. An excellent music video added more resonance to this powerful song. Watch the video Melissa Etheridge - Come To My Window. Island Courtesy Although his style is often considered excessively serious, Etheridge can also be distressing. Come to My Window evokes a powerful image of romantic anguish and accompanied by direct guitar and raspy vocals from the artist. Watch the Wallflowers video - Bringing down the 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 a seductive worldwide weariness that is sometimes a dead touch to tom petty's voice. Watch MC's Stereo Video - Connected. Courtesy Island Stereo MCs has become one of the most successful of British hip-hop acts. Connected is driven by a captivating but untied atmospheric brand of hip-hop. Watch the video Amy Grant - Baby Baby. Courtesy A&M Amy Grant spent the 1980s as one of the most successful pop singers, but it wasn't until 1991 that she enjoyed a major crossover in mainstream pop. Baby Baby is a delicious celebration of love between life partners. Watch the Video Various Artists - ESPN Presents Jock Jams Vol. 1. Courtesy Tommy Boy This medley will not win art awards, but it wields some of the most popular songs used at sporting events and was almost inevitable in 1997. Starting with the immortal You are ready to rumble... This pop culture artifact is sure to make your blood pump with snippets of tracks like Whoomp! There It Is, It Takes Two, YMCA and Pump Up the Jam. Watch the Video TLC - Waterfalls. Courtesy LaFace Slimmy, softly insistent backing horns and guitar combine with smooth, languid vocals to create an instant R&B classic. In addition to its audio appeal, Caohoeiras is a disturbing commentary on street violence and its impact on the lives of young black people. Watch Video Seal - Kiss From a Rose. Courtesy Warner Bros. This was another single saved from obscurity by its inclusion on a film soundtrack. A Kiss of a Rose was presented as the theme of love in the film Batman Forever. Seal's perfectly balanced, acrobatic and romantic vocals make this song simply enjoyable a work of art. Watch the Deborah Cox video - No One Should Be Here. Courtesy Arista This song, a beautiful R&B ballad revved up with a mix of club, was one of the main dance hits of the decade. Music industry executives wanted Deborah Cox to be the next Whitney Houston. That didn't work, but she contributed to this timeless break. Watch the Video Counting Crows - Mr. Jones. Courtesy Geffen The voice of Counting Crows frontman Adam Duritz is a magnificent instrument. Mr. Jones introduced music fans to the singer's incredible ability to tell a story within the context of a song. Try to sing along, and after you've finished panting, you'll realize how phenomenal this performance is. Watch the video Dr. Dre - Nothing But a G Thang. Courtesy Death Row This single and the album from which it came, Chronic, by Dr. Dre, took hip-hop down an entirely new road, which would eventually be known as gangsta rap. Nuthin' But a 'G' Thang features Dre's protégé Snoop Doggy Dogg, who would soon become a star on his own. funky fat, Parliament style, laid-back rap vocals, words that reflect the violence of street life, and pop hooks combined for a tremendously new sound. Watch the video Backstreet Boys - Everybody (Backstreet's Back). Courtesy Jive Records With the current reaction against boy bands, few remember that these male vocal groups recorded 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 - it will make you sweat. Courtesy Columbia Inspired by the powerful beats of house music, hit after hit crossed from the dance chart to the top-10 pop in 1990 - but it prompted producers Robert Civillies and David Cole (also known as C&M;C Music Factory) to climb all the way up to number 1. Going to Make You Sweat featured the powerful vocals of Martha Wash and a rap from Freedom Williams, along with state-of-the-art rhythms to make up one of the most exciting songs of the year. Watch the video bruce springsteen - Streets Of Philadelphia. Courtesy Columbia Jonathan Demme Philadelphia was the first big-budget and mainstream film to deal directly with the AIDS epidemic, and Streets of Philadelphia is the perfect theme for this. With this, Springsteen creates an atmosphere of darkness and solitude that still manages to maintain a sense of dignity. The song won an Academy Award for Best Song in a Movie. Watch the dave matthews band video - Crash Into Me. Courtesy RCA Although the lyrics invite ambiguous interpretation, for many this is one of the most erotic songs of the decade. Listen and enjoy Matthews' intimate vocals on the intricately arranged pop of bluegrass. Watch the MC Hammer - U Can't Touch This video. Courtesy Warner Bros. Mc Hammer's importance to the history of pop music was his ability to prove, no doubt, that rap could be as much fun as any other musical genre. U Can't Touch This is little more than Hammer's simple rap superimposed on Rick James' Super Freak, but the image of Hammer working in the crowd in his oversized parade pants is one of the most memorable pop cultural moments of the 1990s. Watch the video In Kamozie - Here Comes the Hotstepper. Courtesy Columbia Selected to play a key role in the soundtrack to Robert Altman's exploration of the fashion world in the film Pre-t-a-Porter, Here Comes the Hotstepper brought dancehall into the mainstream, and introduced the world to Jamaican slang for a man fleeing the law. It remains one of the most catchy songs of the mid-1990s. Watch the video Lauryn Hill - Doo Wop (That Thing). Courtesy Columbia After the Fugees' very early breakup, the music world waited impatiently for 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) is a brilliantly fine-tuned dissection of sexual politics from the point of view of both sexes. Watch the video Puff Daddy and Faith Evans feat. 112 - I'll Be Missing You. Courtesy Bad Boy Entertainment Notorious Rap star B.I.G. Smalls) was shot in March 1997. His recording partner, Puff Daddy (now known alternately as Sean Combs, P Diddy, or just Diddy - set up this moving memorial with Smalls' widow, Faith Evans, and vocal group 112. It memorably shows the classic cop Every Breath You Take and became a favored memorial track from the late 90s. Watch the video Gloria Estefan - Coming Out of the Dark. Epic Courtesy In March 1990, Gloria Estefan, her husband and their son were injured when a truck crashed into their tour bus. Gloria suffered a fractured vertebra and was unable to get a tour for a year. The accident and the long recovery inspired this beautiful ballad of success. Coming out of the Dark is now considered one of the greatest inspirational pop hits of all time. Watch the Shawn Colvin Video - Some Minor Repairs. Courtesy Columbia Sunny, the protagonist of this folk song, comes home with some business to settle. Parts of this song can send chills to your column, while Colvin's voice gently cradles you back into history. Watch the Smashing Pumpkins Video - 1979. Courtesy Virgo Within the context of Melon Collie and the Infinite Sadness, an expansive double album dedicated to depression, 1979 seems almost cheerful. It's a gentle sense of nostalgic reverie definitely stirred with the mood of the decade of inner contemplation. Watch the video Red Hot Chili Peppers - Under the Bridge. Courtesy Warner Bros. It's ironic that a soft ballad has become the success of a band best known for mixing classic funk uptempo with alternative rock. The song arose from vocalist Anthony Kiedis' struggles to overcome heroin addiction. After addiction destroyed several of his personal relationships, Kiedis reflected on his relationship with the city of Los Angeles itself. Under the Bridge peaked at number 2 on the pop singles chart. Watch the Hanson Video - MmmBop. Courtesy Mercury Records The Hanson brothers brought back pop gum in all its glory. MMMBop is captivating, sweet and irresistible. Try to avoid singing along. Watch the Blackstreet Video - No Diggity. Courtesy Interscope This is the pinnacle of the work created by producer, composer and performer Teddy Riley, leader of the group Blackstreet. He is one of the leading R&B masters of the 1990s and one of the leading architects of the new jack swing. In Diggity is this fully refined genre. Watch the video U2 - Mysterious Paths. Island of Courtesy After its dramatic success with The Joshua Tree and an epic US tour, U2 completely reinvented its musical style on the album Achtung Baby. Glorious pretensions have given way to some of the sexiest rocks of the decade. Mysterious Ways features a meandered guitar work by The Edge and vocals influenced by Bono's gospel that take home one of U2's most uninhibited pop-rock songs. Watch The Soul Asylum Video - Runaway Train. Courtesy Columbia Soul Asylum to the top of the ranks of alt-rock bands with this folkish classic. The video of Runaway Train was for ads about missing children, serving a powerful public service. Many alt-rock fans abandoned Soul Asylum as having sold into 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 Elektra In a danceable pop setting, this trio swept with a classic that still sound kind of retro, half contemporary and completely groovy. Groove Is in the Heart glides effortlessly between hip-hop genres to home and funk. Guest musicians—including Bootsy Collins, Fred Wesley, Maceo Parker and A Tribe Called Quest's Q-Tip—add to the party's atmosphere. This was the song of the summer of 1990. Watch 4 Non Blondes - What's Up Video. Courtesy Interscope What's Up? apparently appeared out of nowhere, becoming a neo-folkie hit first on modern rock radio stations and then on the pop charts. Although it only reached number 11, it's been a radio installation ever since. The group never doubled the success of this song, but vocalist Linda Perry became a successful songwriter and producer, creating hits for everyone from Pink to Courtney Love. Watch madonna video - Vogue. Courtesy Warner Bros. It was not part of any album project, but was added to the dick tracy soundtrack album. Vogue was also significantly late in highlighting the underground world of voguing, but it is possibly the most perfect dance music madonna has ever recorded. David Fincher's acclaimed video wraps up a stunning pop dance package. Watch the video Mariah Carey - Fantasy. Courtesy Columbia Using Tom Tom Club's instrumental track from Genius of Love as the backdrop for Mariah Carey's effortless vocals was a stroke of genius. This romantic gem remains the best recording of Carey's phenomenal career. Watch the Cher - Believe Video. Courtesy Warner 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 a perfect piece of dance-pop, and has taken the whole world by storm. More dance hits followed in his wake, along with a farewell tour that lasted more than three years. Cher is certainly someone who believes in life after love. Watch The Proclaimers Video - I'm Going Be (500 Miles). Courtesy Chrysalis I'm going Be (500 Miles) was originally released in 1988, but after its inclusion on the benny and joon soundtrack, energetic pop-rock music became a 90s hit and is now a classic. The Proclaimers are composed by the Scottish duo of Craig and Charlie Reid, who created an energetic and contagious brand of pop-rock with influences from their Scottish background. Watch the Boyz II Men - Motownphilly Video. Courtesy Motown This remains one of the best autobiographical songs of a pop artist. Motownphilly details the group's discovery by Bivins, da New Edition e Bell Biv DeVoe, e e first taste of stardom. The break of the a cappella is simply beautiful. Watch the Sheryl Crow video - All I want to do. Courtesy A&M with the words This is not a disco. It's not a country club either. We're in L.A., the world was introduced to sheryl crow's neo-folkie, irresistible pop. All I want to Do unfolds as a mini-movie thanks to Crow's artful vocals, whose lyrics paint a luminous portrait of Sheryl and Billy's adventures until the sun rises on Santa Monica Boulevard. Watch the video Madonna - Ray of Light. Courtesy Warner Bros. Madonna explored the pop potential of electronics with her all-new first studio album in four years. Working with collaborator William Orbit, the result is new, new and invigorating. Ray of Light is aptly named as it is a luminous, extremely danceable and ingenious piece of techno. Watch the Smash Mouth Video - Fush Yu Mang. Courtesy Interscope The ska-punk-bound Smash Mouth exploded in the spotlight with this captivating slab of psychedelic soul from the 1960s. Unfortunately, the band never returned to the glory of this single, but it is one of the biggest tracks of the decade. Watch the video Everything But the Girl - Missing. Courtesy Atlantic How deserts lose rain... Remixed in countless ways over the years, there has never been a more powerful expression of emotional and sexual desire in pop music than at the heart of Missing. In a year marked by melancholy and longing for pop songs, this is the pinnacle. Watch britney spears video... baby once more. Courtesy Jive Records She won the first national notice as a member of The New Mickey Mouse Club on disney's cable network, but it was as a pop singer that Britney Spears became the most watched celebrity in the world. His first single ... Baby One More Time is a brilliant piece of pop music. It's captivating and sexy, and sports a slightly controversial video that still has people talking today. Watch the video

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