There are some things that are undeniably American: baseball, fireworks on the Fourth of July, and Miley Cyrus. From America's Sweetheart to America's Nightmare to the latest mastering of subverting Americana iconography, Miley Cyrus has been a kaleidoscopic mirror to American society since 2006. Nearly two decades ago, Miley Cyrus captured the hearts of millions of kids, topped the Billboard 200, and launched a gold mine for Disney with the debut of Hannah Montana. The show, which centered on a regular teen named Miley Stewart who lived a double life as a pop star named Hannah Montana, has both defined Miley and threatened to box her into a hyperspecific brand of pop stardom. The electro-rock rush of much of 2020's Plastic Hearts finds its roots in Hannah Montana soundtrack songs like “Rock Star” and “Nobody’s Perfect,” and the entirety of Bangerz and Miley Cyrus & Her Dead Petz exist in direct opposition to the saccharine cookie-cutter teen pop gloss of the Hannah brand. In “Best of Both Worlds,” the show’s theme song, Miley sings, “Mix it all together and you know that it’s the best of both— / You know the best of both worlds.” In a way, this has been the governing mantra for most of Miley’s career.

Instead of straddling the line between teen pop idol and provocateur extraordinaire, Miley now seeks to straddle all of the different musical worlds that tug at her heartstrings. Following in the footsteps of Madonna, the Queen of Pop Metamorphosis, Miley transforms into a new iteration of herself with every album, but each new version of Miley builds on the previous one. From the reflective country-inflected pop balladry of Younger Now to the hip-hop-indebted psychedelic
sleaze of She Is Coming, Miley has made it her mission to expand her musical boundaries. In Miley’s discography, rousing covers of rock and roll classics (take her stunning version of The Cranberries’ “Zombie,” for example) sit next to country-rap fusions like the Nelly-assisted “4×4″ and the brain-melting acid trip that is “Tangerine.” The most fearless pop star of her time, Miley’s range is vast and her commitment to exploration is second to none.

Kyle Denis — The Best Miley Cyrus Songs, Ranked

NUMBER ONE STUNNERS

MILEY CYRUS

Miley Cyrus’ “Flowers” has found its way to the top of this week’s Billboard Hot 100 chart for a second week. “I love that this record is connecting in such a positive way & it’s a pleasure to continue creating music for you. These milestones are only made possible by the listeners & my incredible fans. Endlessly thankful,” she posted about the news.

According to the publication, it also is the first song since Olivia Rodrigo’s “Drivers License” to have consecutive weeks of 50+ million
streams. Considering such a powerful lead single, Cyrus' new album, *Endless Summer Vacation*, drops in March — and just might be her biggest era yet.
ASHLEY SIENNA

Ashley Sienna only has two singles under her belt so far, but she's already making some serious waves. Last year, she dropped “What You Need” and a haunting ode to angel numbers on “444,” earning her spots on Spotify’s Pop Sauce playlist. The witchy Canadian performer is perfect for fans of Dove Cameron and Billie Eilish, as she also jams along to their songs.

LISTEN

CHECK OUT

ED SHEERAN — SUNSHINE AND FLOWERS T-SHIRT
Warmer days may be months away, but that doesn't mean you can't brighten up your wardrobe. Pick up Ed Sheeran's Sunshine and Flowers t-shirt, which is printed on an environmentally friendly, organic fabric. It also comes with a "seed paper" tag, which can be planted to grow wildflowers.

**PICK IT UP**

**REMEMBER WHEN**
BRITNEY SPEARS' DEBUT SINGLE

We’re throwing it back to 1999 this week, as Britney Spears’ debut single “...Baby One More Time” kicked off its two-week run at No.1 on Billboard’s Hot 100. On the same day, Spears’ debut album of the same title reached the same feat on the 200 Albums Chart. Released when she was just sixteen, it’s been considered among the best first singles of all time and has sold over ten million copies to prove it.

As a fun little fact, what some might not know is that Spears originally felt nervous while recording it during the first take. To calm down, she went for a night out and then hit the studio the next day. The rest, as we know, is history.

LOVE LETTERS

BLEACHERS

Bleachers, aka Jack Antonoff’s band, dropped their last album, Take The Sadness Out Of Saturday Night, back in 2021 — but they’ve become more of a presence beyond just the sole producer since. For
starters, they've been featured on a recent remix of Taylor Swift’s “Anti-Hero” and are set to collaborate with Lana Del Rey on her forthcoming album track “Margaret.” Add in a few scheduled festival appearances, including New Jersey’s Adjacent and the Super Bowl Music Fest, and Bleachers are gearing up for a massive year.

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