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POP LIFE.



Historically, pop music has been a bit of a punching bag by “discerning” music aficionados whose carefully cultivated tastes and MP3 folders fostered in them a sense that what the masses are enjoying can't possibly be among the most creative and entertaining music that's available. People who enjoy having fun in their lives, though, know that this just isn't the case.

Pop music is awesome! What's wrong with a catchy, well-written song? Pop has also been used as a place for exploration beyond the established rules of what's been algorithmically proven to hit commercial benchmarks. 2023 yielded tons of pop music that excelled in all its forms, whether you're talking about the continued North American emergence of international-originating genres like K-pop and Latin music, innovators bending the genre's conventions to their wills, or more conventional busting out straightforward, undeniably catchy hits.

Let's reflect on the year in pop (and perhaps catch up on what you missed) by checking out [our list of the best pop albums of 2023](#).

Derrick Rossignol and Uproxx Music — *The Best Pop Albums Of 2023*

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Demi Lovato is reportedly engaged to a fellow artist after being spotted together at several events.

Speaking of romantic partners, **Selena Gomez** officially confirmed her relationship with **Benny Blanco**.

Reneé Rapp collaborated with **Megan Thee Stallion** on a really fun track for the upcoming *Mean Girls* film.

Uproxx also dropped our **2023 Critics Poll** list, which rounds up the favorite albums of nearly 300 music critics. [Check it out here.](#)

NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



MARIAH CAREY

Mariah Carey is back on the *Billboard* Hot 100 this week, just in time for Christmas — with her clear hit, “All I Want For Christmas Is You.” As Carey returns to claim the top spot, it has now become the only song in history to hit No. 1 in five separate years (2019-2023). Brenda Lee’s “Rockin Around The Christmas Tree” follows close behind. One thing is for sure, listeners getting into the holiday mood is paying off for Carey — and all other Christmas carolers.

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BUBBLING UNDER



GRIFF

Uproxx cover star Griff has been making waves this year, as she is in the middle of her *Vertigo Vol. 1* chapter. Starting over the summer with the title track, "Vertigo," the UK musician has followed it up with her "Astronaut" ballad. The latter gets an added layer, as Coldplay's Chris Martin contributed a piano instrumental on the song.

"I wrote 'Astronaut' about the idea of being left behind," Griff shared. "In young relationships, when someone needs time to figure out and find themselves without you, it hurts because you're left wondering what about yourself wasn't enough for them."

LISTEN

CHECK OUT

CHARLIE PUTH — HOODIE



The cold weather is upon us, and while the days may be getting finally longer soon, you can still cozy up in this comfortable Charlie Puth hoodie.

PICK IT UP

REMEMBER WHEN



PSY'S 'GANGNAM STYLE'

This week in 2012, the South Korean musician Psy became the first musician to have a YouTube video that reached a billion views. His song, "Gangnam Style," went viral during the summer of that year, with its chaotic music video sparking a dance trend. Because of this, it would go on to win Best Video at the MTV Europe Music Awards. It held the record as the most-watched YouTube video until 2017, when it was surpassed by Wiz Khalifa's video for "See You Again."

LOVE LETTERS



BILLIE EILISH

Billie Eilish recently appeared as the musical guest on *Saturday Night Live*, where she showed off her vocal talent on a cover of "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas." As Eilish's second song, she treated viewers to the vulnerable "What Was I Made For?" — her original track that was written for the *Barbie* movie soundtrack. (Director Greta Gerwig helped introduce her to the stage.)

As for new music, Eilish has said that she's in the "final stages" of finishing her third studio album, during an interview on Westwood One's segment *The Cookout*. Not much else is known about it at the moment, but here's hoping fans can hear more from the pop star soon.

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