



PLAYLIST ARTIST TRIVIA

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4t6UJcnYr2mooxFbGGP7b?si=qR3xoiztTcSLTrD0rSWLaw>

Billy Joel (1949) - born in the Bronx; the family moved to Hicksville when he was one. His first solo studio album was released in 1971 and was titled *Cold Spring Harbor*. An error in mastering caused the songs to play slightly too fast, making Joel's voice higher than it was in reality.

Blue Oyster Cult - Formed 1967 in Stony Brook. The band went through several names before reluctantly settling on BOC, taken from a poem by their manager, Sandy Pearlman. In the poem, BOC is a group of aliens who had assembled secretly to guide Earth's history.

Mariah Carey (1970) - Grew up in Huntington. Carey is #2 on the Billboard Hot 100 list of artists with the most number-one singles, between The Beatles at #1 and Elvis at #3.

Eddie Money (1949-2019) - Grew up in Levittown. His path to becoming a New York City Police officer ended when it did not align with his musical endeavors. The force wouldn't allow him to have long hair and his bandmates fired him for being a police officer.

Simon and Garfunkel - Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel grew up together in Kew Gardens Hills. They began their professional careers at 15 under the name 'Tom and Jerry' after being overheard by a promoter while recording.

William 'Count' Basie (1904-1984) - Basie and his wife bought a home in 1946 in the neighborhood of Addisleigh Park, St. Albans (originally a 'whites-only' community that evolved to become a prominent African American enclave). They would hold community parties, including a Juneteenth pool party in 1946.

Ramones - Formed in Forest Hills, Queens in 1974. All band members assumed pseudonyms employing the last name Ramone, despite not being related. This was inspired by Paul McCartney, who at one point used the pseudonym 'Paul Ramon'.

Sharon Jones (1956-2016) - Jones grew up in Bedford Stuyvesant and worked for years as a corrections officer and Rikers Island and an armored car guard before breaking through in 1996 at age 40.

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) - Born in Brooklyn. Copland was blacklisted during the 'Red Scare' of the 1950s and questioned on Capitol Hill by Joseph McCarthy. This was despite the fact that his work was generally viewed as patriotic. His home in Cortlandt Park is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lou Reed (1942-2013) - Grew up in Freeport. *Loureedia* is a genus of spiders, so named because they have furry, velvet-like bodies and live underground.

Pat Benetar (1953) - Born in Greenpoint and grew up in Lindenhurst. In 1976, she had a part in Harry Chapin's (another artist on our list) musical, *The Zinger*, performed at the Performing Arts Foundation's Playhouse in Huntington Station.

Stray Cats - Formed 1979 in Massapequa. In their early days, the band would change their name to confound venue promoters, who would not play the same act two nights in a row.

John Coltrane - (1926-1967) John and Alice bought the home where he composed *A Love Supreme* (considered one of his masterworks) in Dix Hills, 1964. This home, saved from demolition, is now in the process of being restored with plans to open it to the public. Follow the progress at <https://www.thecoltranehome.org>

Run DMC - Formed in Hollis, Queens in 1983. The group was one of the earliest in the rap-rock subgenre and their street style defined hip hop fashion for the next 25 years.

Debbie Gibson (1970) - Grew up in Merrick. At 17, she entered the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the youngest artist to have written, produced, and performed a Billboard number one single (Foolish Beat).

Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) - He made his home in Corona, Queens from 1943 until his death in 1971. His lips suffered greatly as a result of his playing and choice of mouthpiece. In the 1950s, he became the official spokesperson for *Ansatz-Creme Lip Salve*.

Taylor Dane (1962) - Grew up in Baldwin. Dane recently appeared on TV's *The Masked Singer*, costumed as popcorn.

Carole King (1942) - Born in Brooklyn. She has written or co-written 118 pop songs that appeared on the *Billboard Hot 100*.

Guy Lombardo (1902 -1977) - Lombardo earned the name "Mr. New Year's Eve" from his orchestra's over 40 years of live New Year's Eve performances (first by radio and then TV, popularizing Auld Lang Syne). He spent his later years in Freeport, becoming promoter and musical director of the Jones Beach Theater.

Cyndi Lauper (1953) - Grew up in Ozone Park, Queens. Lauper's hit, *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, was written and recorded in 1979 by Robert Hazard. Originally written from a man's perspective, Lauper rewrote the lyrics to reflect a female point of view: that girls just want the same experience as men.

Tony Bennet (1926) - From Asoria, Queens. Bennet performed at the opening of the Triborough (Robert F. Kennedy) Bridge in 1936.

Little Anthony and the Imperials - Formed in Brooklyn in the 1950s. The James Bond theme, "You Only Live Twice", ultimately performed by Nancy Sinatra, was originally recorded for the film by the group.

Harry Chapin (1942-1981) - Born in NYC, lived in Huntington Bay. Chapin was highly philanthropic (half of his concerts were benefits). In 1980, he founded food bank *Long Island Cares*.