

# 51<sup>st</sup> Grammy Awards

**H**alf a century after the inception of the Grammys, the most prestigious music awards ceremony in the world, receiving an award at the event is still considered by musicians to be the highest honour possible. Taking place this month, the 51st Grammy Awards show is being held in the Staples Center in Los Angeles for the sixth year in a row.

Even though newer music awards ceremonies, such as the American Music Awards or the MTV Video Music Awards, seem to be more fun, artists and fans alike still seem to believe that winning a Grammy is the ultimate achievement. When a musician is nominated for, or wins, a Grammy award, the whole world watches. Past winners such as Tony Bennett, Olivia Newton-John, Stevie Wonder and Celine Dion are all multiple Grammy Award recipients who are set firmly in the firmament of musical stars. Conversely, young pretenders such as Amy Winehouse and Rihanna have been propelled to International fame on the back of recent Grammy wins.

This year, rapper Lil Wayne is leading the pack with 8 nominations including one in the much coveted 'Album of the Year' category for his set *Tha Carter III* which sold over a million copies in its first week of release last June. Lil Wayne first started his rapping career in 1997, when he was only 15 years old, with the group Hot Boys. A couple of years later he went solo and released *Tha Block is Hot*. However, it was his 2004 album, *Tha Carter*, which finally won him global recognition.

British rock band Coldplay made an engaging return to the charts in 2008 with the single "Viva la Vida" (nominated for 'Record of the Year' and 'Song of the Year'). The song is taken from the No.1 album *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends* (also a contender for Album of the Year). Coldplay are the only act this year to be nominated in all three categories.

Singer-songwriter and producer, Ne-Yo, might have missed the top spot with his latest album *Year of the Gentleman* (his first two LPs reached No. 1) however the disc has gained him an 'Album of the Year' nomination. Ne-Yo has also scored another four nominations in the R&B category for his singles "Closer" and "Miss Independent".

Other hot names this year include 20 year-old Adele from London who has garnered four nominations for her soulful song "Chasing Pavements". The young singer has also been nominated in the 'Best New Artist' category, alongside Welsh singer Duffy and teen sensations, Jonas Brothers, as well as Lady Antebellum and Jazmine Sullivan.

The collaboration album between Led Zeppelin front man, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, *Raising Sand*, has been nominated for five Grammys including 'Album of the Year' and 'Record of the Year' (for the song "Please Read the Letter"). The unusual, yet beautiful, harmonic interplay between the two singers has made *Raising Sand* a huge seller in both the US and the UK.

Catch the ceremony on February 8th 2009 and see if your favourite artist takes a trophy home.



## NOMINATIONS

### RECORD OF THE YEAR

- "Chasing Pavements"  
Adele
- "Viva la Vida"  
Coldplay
- "Bleeding Love"  
Leona Lewis
- "Paper Planes"  
M.I.A.
- "Please Read the Letter"  
Robert Plant & Alison Krauss

### ALBUM OF THE YEAR

- Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends*  
Coldplay
- Tha Carter III*  
Lil Wayne
- Year of the Gentleman*  
Ne-Yo
- Raising Sand*  
Robert Plant & Alison Krauss
- In Rainbows*  
Radiohead

### SONG OF THE YEAR

- "American Boy"  
Estelle feat. Kanye West
- "Chasing Pavements"  
Adele
- "I'm Yours"  
Jason Mraz
- "Love Song"  
Sara Bareilles
- "Viva la Vida"  
Coldplay





# LOVE SONGS THROUGH THE YEARS

BY ALEX HANSEL SIMANJUNTAK

**S**urely everyone has a memorable romantic song that they treasure. Whether it's an entirely personal musical moment or a track that has been shared with a partner, a love song always holds a special place in our hearts.

Throughout the years there have been literally millions of songs written about relationships, heartache and lust and with Valentine's Day coming up this month, we decided to take a journey through the most unforgettable love songs and ballads of the past few decades.

## 1950'S "Love Me Tender"

Elvis Presley  
*OST Love Me Tender* (1956)  
This sentimental ballad was one of the many hits of the late Elvis Presley. Numerous musicians, moved by the song's simplistic sound but powerful lyrics, have since covered "Love Me Tender" including Tony Bennett, Kenny Rogers and Norah Jones.

## 1960'S "Love Me Do"

The Beatles  
*Please Please Me* (1962)



The bluesy harmonica, here played by John Lennon, along with his shared vocal duties with Paul McCartney, made "Love Me Do" (as well as "Please Please Me" itself of course) a smash hit and The Beatles into a worldwide phenomenon.

## "Baby Love"

The Supremes  
*Where Did Our Love Go* (1964)  
Motown divas The Supremes gave us one of the most popular songs of the late 20th century in "Baby Love". The infectious track was a chart topper, both in the US and the UK, and was one of many hits by the group.

## 1970'S "Feel Like Makin' Love"

Roberta Flack  
*Feel Like Makin' Love* (1974)  
This award-winning song is perhaps the biggest of Roberta Flack's career. Her soulful voice sounds comforting and sincere and has made this mellow tune a favourite of lovers the world over.

## "I Honestly Love You"

Olivia Newton-John  
*If You Love Me, Let Me Know* (1974)  
"I Honestly Love You" was Olivia Newton-John's first No.1 hit in the US and Canada and made the Australian singer into an international

household name. This beautiful ballad has since been re-recorded by the lady herself a few times too.

## "Love to Love You Baby"

Donna Summer  
*Love to Love You Baby* (1975)  
This disco tune by Donna Summer was a dance floor hit in 1975. The lyrics are quite sexually explicit and the erotic moans and groans of the extended version made "Love to Love You Baby" a controversial moment in pop history.

## "How Deep is Your Love"

Bee Gees  
*OST Saturday Night Fever* (1977)



"How Deep is Your Love" topped the charts during the Christmas of 1977 and was a much loved winter ballad in the US at that time. "How Deep is Your Love" was taken from the successful movie, *Saturday Night Fever*, and the soundtrack album remains one of the top selling records of all time, sitting alongside Michael Jackson's *Thriller* and Prince's *Purple Rain*.

## "Love Is in the Air"

John Paul Young  
*Love Is in the Air* (1977)  
This eminently danceable song, sung by John Paul Young, has been a lovers' anthem since its release in the late seventies. The phrase itself is now famous and plenty of movies have used this track in their romantic scenes.

## 1980'S "Love is a Battlefield"

Pat Benatar  
*Live from Earth* (1983)



Many people seem to relate to this 80's power ballad. Love is a battlefield of course; just reflect on all the problems that arise in relationships. Pat Benatar's 80's hit has made frequent

appearances in pop culture too, most notably in Jennifer Garner's 2004 comedy, *13 Going on 30*.

## "I Just Called to Say I Love You"

Stevie Wonder

*OST The Woman in Red* (1984)

Written, produced, and performed by Stevie Wonder, "I Just Called to Say I Love You" is the mid-tempo ballad that rebooted Stevie's career and topped charts around the world.

## "Addicted to Love"

Robert Palmer

*Riptide* (1985)

Robert Palmer's signature song, "Addicted to Love", is probably one of those love songs that you either love or hate. One of the catchiest songs, and videos, from the 1980's (remember those robotic girls?).

## 1990'S "Justify My Love"

Madonna

*The Immaculate Collection* (1990)

Although this song aroused international controversy and censorship for the explicit sex scenes of its accompanying video, "Justify My Love" still reached the top of the charts. Madonna's breathily spoken vocals are indeed very sensual but people inevitably seem to remember the video more of course.

## "I Will Always Love You"

Whitney Houston

*OST The Bodyguard* (1992)



Originally recorded by country singer Dolly Parton in 1974, "I Will Always Love You" found its way to the No.1 spot around the world 18 year later

when Whitney Houston covered the track for her own debut flick, *The Bodyguard*.

## "Forever in Love"

Kenny G

*Breathless* (1993)

Saxophonist Kenny G scored a crossover hit with this beautiful piece, "Forever in Love".

The instrumental track has since become a romantic staple.

## "That's The Way Love Goes"

Janet Jackson

*janet.* (1993)



"That's the Way Love Goes" is one of Janet Jackson's most memorable songs. With its graceful yet seductive vocals and a melody

sampled from a James Brown track, this song was seemingly on every play list in the world during the summer of 1993.

## "The Power of Love"

Celine Dion

*The Color of My Love* (1993)

Celine Dion's cover of Jennifer Rush's, "The Power of Love", is a straightforward ballad that tells of a first experience of true love. A No.1 on every chart, this was Celine's first global breakthrough.

## "Love is All Around"

Wet Wet Wet

*Picture This* (1994)

"Love is All Around" by Wet Wet Wet topped the UK charts for fifteen consecutive weeks and was featured in the romantic film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* which starred Hugh Grant.

## "I Love You Always Forever"

Donna Lewis

*Now In a Minute* (1996)

This song contains all the right ingredients of a romantic pop smash: sweet vocals, a simple melody and a catchy hook ("I love you, always forever. Near and far, closer together"). Over a decade later, "I Love You Always Forever" is still constantly requested on radio shows.

## "I Wanna Love You Forever"

Jessica Simpson

*Sweet Kisses* (1999)

Before she was a newlywed superstar on TV, Jessica Simpson released her debut single, "I

Wanna Love You Forever". Recorded when she was only 19 years old for her *Sweet Kisses* CD, Jessica's voice on this darkly bittersweet ballad is breathtaking.

## 2000'S "Let Me Love You"

Mario

*Turning Point* (2004)

Mario was barely 'legal' when he came out with this sexy song. The song was hugely popular in the US, UK, and Asia because Mario's smooth vocals sound so sincere and boyish as he politely asks a girl to let him love her. A smash hit in 2004.

## "My Love"

Justin Timberlake Feat T.I.

*FutureSex/LoveSounds* (2006)

The lyric, "If I wrote you a symphony. Just to



say how much you mean to me..." sounds so sweet on this R&B/Hip-Hop track by Justin Timberlake. People dancing to this song might have

not realised how charming "My Love" really is. Even T.I.'s verse sounds unusually sensitive for the Atlanta rapper.

## "Hate That I Love You"

Rihanna & Ne-Yo

*Good Girl Gone Bad* (2007)

This Stargate-produced duet by young superstars Rihanna and Ne-Yo explores the feeling of being in love when we perhaps don't want to be in love. Although this song mentions the word "hate" a few times in its lyrics, it is in fact a truly passionate love song.

## "I Stay in Love"

Mariah Carey

*E=MC<sup>2</sup>* (2008)

"I Stay in Love" is Mariah Carey's sequel to her past hit about lovers belonging to each other. Her incredible vocals on this song sound quite raw; however her ability to imbue the simplest of melodies with the deepest of emotions can be clearly heard on this track.