



★ CLASSIC ★
Rock
 ON THIS MONTH'S FREE CD...
2015: THE BEST OF THE YEAR



Fifteen from '15: the biggest, most rock'n'roll tracks of the last 12 months, from Def Lep, Motörhead, Clutch, Faith No More - and more!

1 Def Leppard

Let's Go

After seven long years without a Leppard studio album, the Steel City survivors returned to the fray touting a stadium-sized lead-off single with a chorus good enough to scratch the paint off *Pour Some Sugar On Me*. As Joe Elliott says: "It's a call to arms, you know?"

From: *Def Leppard* (earMUSIC)

2 Clutch

Your Love Is Incarceration

Between the stabbing funk-metal riffs, the dino-stomp beat, Neil Fallon's chippy vocal and skin-flick grunts, *Your Love Is Incarceration* was the thrilling fulcrum of the Maryland rockers' semi-concept album, *Psychic Warfare*. It kicked in your teeth, in three minutes flat.

From: *Psychic Warfare* (Weathermaker)

3 The Darkness

Last Of Our Kind

Lyrical inspired by cult 1980 sword-and-sorcery flick *Hawk The Slayer*, this glam-rock sugar rush was described by Dan Hawkins as "possibly one of the most 80s songs ever made", and by Justin Hawkins as having the best guitar solo "since the *Top Gun* soundtrack". As usual, you'll either love it or hate it.

From: *Last Of Our Kind* (Canary Dwarf)

4 Faith No More

Sunny Side Up

The second single from comeback album *Sol Invictus*, *Sunny Side Up* rode on a loping bassline and seismic vocal, before pulling the trigger with the year's most sinister scream-along chorus. Don't miss the video, in which Mike Patton and co turn a retirement home into an acid-dropping vice den.

From: *Sol Invictus* (Reclamation)

5 Halestorm

New Modern Love

Halestorm bassist Josh Smith remembers the writing of this stalking slow-burner as the "aha! moment" of new album *Into The Wild Life*, while Lizzy Hale says its groove was inspired by covering Fleetwood Mac's *Gold Dust Woman*. "You're like, 'Wow, this feels good. We need to have a song that feels like this...'"

From: *Into The Wild Life* (Atlantic)

6 Black Star Riders

Finest Hour

The title was a pretty bold statement - especially for a Thin Lizzy splinter group - but *Finest Hour* wasn't far off. "It's almost a love song," notes frontman Ricky Warwick. "It's about remembering times when we were young, and stealing money to see the bands we loved in Glasgow."

From: *The Killer Instinct* (Nuclear Blast)

7 Walter Trout

Haunted By The Night

The restored bluesman might have survived last year's touch-and-go liver transplant, but this moody highlight of *Battle Scars* revisited his headspace as he awaited a donor organ at the Nebraska Medical Center. As Trout told *The Blues*: "At night, it was rough. Those nights felt like they were weeks long..."

From: *Battle Scars* (Provogue)

8 Thunder

Wonder Days

The title track of *Wonder Days* showed the reunited Thunder meant business, with Danny Bowes reflecting on misspent youth while Luke Morley turned in a full-fat riff and borrowed a solo from Tom Morello's back pocket. No wonder it's been their set opener in recent times, touted by Bowes as "a statement of intent"

From: *Wonder Days* (earMUSIC)

9 Blackberry Smoke

Wish In One Hand

A highlight of *Holding All The Roses*, this ode to a social-climbing scenester not only rides on the Stony crunch of Charlie Starr and Paul Jackson's duelling guitars, but also has arguably the year's finest lyric: "Wish in one hand, shit in the other/See which one fills up first for you, brother."

From: *Holding All The Roses* (Earache)

10 Biters

The Kids Ain't Alright

This year's *Electric Blood* vindicated our early faith in Biters, especially on this social critique of a tech-obsessed blank generation who have "lost their minds". It might start off as an Elton John-worthy piano ballad, but by the 40-second mark, the Atlanta rabble-rousers can't keep their feet off the overdrive pedal.

From: *Electric Blood* (Earache)

11 Steven Wilson

Happy Returns

With *Hand. Cannot. Erase.*, modern prog's poster boy fused the bleakest of themes - a dead woman who lay undiscovered in her flat for three years - into the most magnetic of concept albums. This six-minute stunner offered a fleeting flash of hope amid Wilson's black night of the soul.

From: *Hand. Cannot. Erase.* (Kscope)

12 Nightwish

Élan

Élan's leaking onto the web in February left the band feeling "violated", yet it only raised anticipation for their eighth album, *Endless Forms Most Beautiful*. In her debut vocal outing for the Finnish symphonic metallers, Floor Jansen brought a cut-glass purity to Tuomas Holopainen's Celtic-flavoured epic.

From: *Endless Forms Most Beautiful* (Nuclear Blast)

13 Killing Joke

Euphoria

Pylon was the sting in the tail of 2015, with bassist Youth describing the album's vibe as "stark brutal industrial suicide". Relatively speaking, *Euphoria* was the light beneath the curtain. "The verses are absolute depression," noted Jaz Coleman, "and then we lift up in that chorus. It's a very special song."

From: *Pylon* (Spinefarm)

14 Ghost

From The Pinnacle To The Pit

The spooky Swedes channelled their inner Zeppelin on this growling rocker, taken from their third album *Meliora*. "We have always had the craving for a truly stomping riff-based song," noted a Nameless Ghoul. "Something that would sound great coming out of a car stereo in an American high school parking lot." Job done - they've nailed it with this thumping track.

From: *Meliora* (Spinefarm/Loma Vista)

15 Motörhead

Thunder & Lightning

It's been a rough 12 months for Lord Kilmister, but you'd never guess it from this business-as-usual hard rocker from Motörhead's 22nd album, *Bad Magic*. "Thunder & Lightning came easy, in, like ten minutes," remembers indefatigable frontman Lemmy. "It's just a bit of rock'n'roll, really."

From: *Bad Magic* (UDR)

GET MORE CLASSIC ROCK CURATED TRACKS...

Head over to our brand-new updated website at www.classicrockmagazine.com to hear all the latest - and hottest - rock songs, from artists young and old. We've got dozens of videos, streams and free downloads for your delectation. You'll need to check the site on a daily basis, because the music comes thick and fast. Plus you can vote for your fave track!



recycle
 Respect the Environment
 Throwing away old or surplus discs?
 If you would like your CDs and DVDs to be recycled rather than put into landfill, please post them to:
 Polymer-Reprocessors,
 Reads Lane, Morston, Wirral, CH46 1DW
 Please respect the environment and dispose of waste plastic responsibly.