

Album Choice: **Back in Black** by AC/DC

1. **“Hells Bells”:**

The introduction song that every album is envious of, as the listener is transported to an abandoned churchyard which just so happens to be the venue for an instant rock and roll classic. Like the echo of church bells, the opening guitar riff will echo in your heads for days to come. This track immediately establishes the tone of the album as one meant to be played at full volume.

2. **“Shoot to Thrill”:**

High octane electric guitar riffs and heavy hitting drums are punctuated by Brian Johnson’s voice as he takes over after the untimely passing of Bon Scott. If this song doesn’t get you excited enough to run through a wall, stop reading and please see your local health care facility. Perhaps you will be prescribed one of the many same pills that too many women have.

3. **“What Do You Do for Money Honey”:** Short strokes of the guitar, and a steady drum line is all it takes for the band to deliver another energized performance. Their opinion on a topic most would avoid discussing is heard through the lyrics of the Young brothers and the high-pitched vocals of Brian Johnson yet again.

4. **“Givin’ the Dog a Bone”:** Warning, not appropriate for all listeners – then again, if you wanted clean and censored music I don’t think you would have read this far. Another high octave and fast paced song that fits right in with the rest of the album. There is little variation with the lyrics on this one, as it relies heavily on the repeated phrases of ‘using her head again’ and the title of this track. It is a recipe for success however, as I predict to hear this song on the next Petco commercial.

5. **“Let Me Put My Love Into You”:** Able to slow the pace down but maintain the same level of intensity and energy is surely one of AC/DC’s specialties – the band takes a crack at their version of a love song, which fair warning, will probably only work if you’re a rock star. Their slow opener seduces the listener, as the mostly quiet for their standards song serenades you with steady drumming and the occasional electric guitar riff to keep the spice up. This song is a long way away from the works of Marvin Gaye and Al Green, but it might just do the trick.

6. **“Back In Black”:** The title track of the album has a lot of pressure to deliver for the fans, and this one delivers in rain, sleet, hail, snow, and even on Sundays. This song is a message to all of their doubters and critics as the band begins a new leg of their career where they move out of the red ledger and back into black. They pay tribute to their late lead singer, Bon Scott, with the lyrics telling how he will never truly be gone: “Forget the hearse, ‘cause I’ll never die. I got nine lives, cat’s eyes – Abusin’ every one of them and runnin’ wild”.

7. **“You Shook Me All Night Long”**: The high hat is put to work on this one as it establishes the beat for this recount of a long night of love – perfect for any victory lap the following day, and most likely the success story from their earlier track, ‘Let Me Put My Love Into You’. The guitar solo performed in the middle of the song uncorks the bottle of the again unusually quiet for them song as it finishes strong and sets the stage for the following track.
8. **“Have a Drink On Me”**: This song is a must play for anyone drinking while the sun is still high in the sky – it embodies the message of enjoying the moment and living life to its fullest. Another song that would make Bon Scott proud, the song is focused on getting your friend to have a drink with you. While many will see it as untimely and even thoughtless, the band is assured that the late singer who passed away from a drinking overdose would want nothing more than this tribute. I for one, will drink to that.
9. **“Shake a Leg”**: As the album is nearing its end, this song is here to reenergize anyone who might be struggling to keep up with the band and their power chords and power vocals. Taking the cake for the most intense song on the album, the song dictates the juvenile that fights on the wrong side of the law, kicking, biting, etc. as he shakes a leg through the now trademarked voice of Brian Johnson. Angus and Malcolm Young perform elaborate guitar riffs and Phil Rudd beats his drums harder than ever before. This track is the unsung treasure of the album.
10. **“Rock and Roll Ain’t Noise Pollution”**: To close the album, the band sends a message to all of the people and parents that don’t agree with their style of music – beginning as a slow ballad before once again returning to their heavy decibel and speaker breaking music that will never die as long as there is one person who ‘wants to hear some more’. I am now formally asking you, the reader, if you have made it this far and are still hesitant about this band or album, just play this song, and thank me later.