

Top 5 Underrated Queen Songs

Everyone knows the classics, 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and 'Killer Queen' to name just two. But what about those songs that are less well-known and equally as good? Here's a list of five of Queen's most underrated songs (in my opinion!).

1. One Vision (A Kind of Magic)

In top position comes 'One Vision'. It starts with a slow, sci-fi sound, building into a funky beat and that classic Brian May guitar solo. The lyrics are memorable and catchy, with a fun backstory as to why they became so iconic.

When the band were recording this, they played around with the lyrics, finding alternative versions of 'one vision' which would fit the number of syllables. Some examples include, 'John Deacon', 'one sex position', then drifting into ones that didn't quite fit, like 'one shrimp' and 'one clam'.

They actually settled on 'fried chicken' and, if you listen closely, it's the final line in the song.

Despite the comedic aspect, this song has quite a serious and meaningful undertone. It was written following Queen's performance at Live Aid in 1985 and depicts the joining together of millions of people, united with the 'one vision' of making a better world for everyone. For this reason, it makes the top of the list.

2. Death on Two Legs (Dedicated To...) (A Night at the Opera)

As one of Queen's heavier songs, it's not for everyone. It's wildly different from most of their music and the lyrics tell a story in such an aggressive way that the emotion felt when Mercury wrote this song is evident. It changes pace, volume and instrument so much that each section sounds almost like a new song.

This was written about the band's former manager, Norman Sheffield. He mistreated them, tangling them in a deal that was virtually unbreakable and completely unfair. Queen not only recorded and dedicated this song to him in his own studio, but wrote yet another track about him, entitled 'Flick of the Wrist'. Sheffield attempted to sue them after the song came out.

For all the reasons above and keeping in mind why it was written, it's a great song to sing if you're angry and need to release some frustration.

3. I Can't Live with You (Innuendo)

This upbeat track uses the voices of the whole band to tell the story of difficulties within a relationship. It focuses particularly on a break-up and the emotions that come with it.

Written by Brian May in light of his divorce in 1988, the lyrics are honest and heart-breaking.

Unlike a usual love song, it's lively and happy-sounding in tune, which completely juxtaposes the sentiment behind the lyrics and is what makes it so unusual.

One line in particular, 'I can't let you stay, but I can't live if you go away,' portrays the frustration May must have been feeling and that many people have felt when going through the break up. It's realistic and different from most ballad-style break-up songs.

4. Liar (Queen)

This song is a confidence booster. It's aggressive, powerful and full of energy. There's a force that can be felt, pushing the lyrics and the meaning behind them.

It showcases the talent of each of Queen's members, two of which being Roger Taylor on the cowbell and Freddie Mercury on the Hammond organ. Despite the sounds being so contrasting, they bounce off of each other effortlessly.

The lyrics reflect a church confessional and the controversies behind religious beliefs. When listening, you can feel the frustrations of the band, particularly Freddie, and the backlash they received for some of their controversial lyrics and behaviour.

5. Sheer Heart Attack (News of the World)

And finally, the fast-paced and intense 'Sheer Heart Attack'. This song isn't one to relax to. Right from the off, you're hit with the distinctive sound of Roger Taylor on the drums.

Written by Taylor, it was originally intended for an album of the same name in 1974. However, it wasn't quite finished, so was released three years later. Much like this song, the 1974 album emits the same liveliness, with tracks like, 'Brighton Rock' and 'Stone Cold Crazy'.

Aptly named, there are no breaks in the energy the band brings to this track.

Honourable Mentions:

These are two songs which didn't make it to the main list, but are definitely worth a listen.

Lazing on a Sunday Afternoon (A Night at the Opera)

Short and sweet, the lyrics describe some normal and not-so-normal activities to do during the week.

I'm in Love with my Car (A Night at the Opera)

The epitome of Roger Taylor - rocky, humorous and full of innuendo. It even features the revving of Taylor's own car.