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Under the deft touch of an Elton John, or suffering the bruising punishment dished out by Ben Folds, or any number of iconic performances, the piano can be a vehicle for some serious rocking. A list of some of the greats is a tough one you could fill it with songs from one artist. We had to leave some out but found some top rock songs with piano. We judged the best based on the iconic nature of the piano parts, the songs staying power, and what the player delivers. Song year: 1975 Other than Chopsticks, the first few piano notes of Bohemian Rhapsody might be the most recognizable of all. Even without all the mamma mia and Brian Mays solo-stirring guitar solo, Freddie Mercury piano playing on this signature song could have carried the day. It didn't, but it could have. Song year: 1973 When anyone hears that first F major 7-chord stab at the beginning, they know the song. Another instantly identifiable piece, Bennie and the Jets has a jazzy piano solo in it that's as recognizable as everything else out there. Lyrically, it's about a futuristic rock band of robot goddesses and tops the list of misheard lyrics. She actually has electric boots. Song year: 1977 While Scenes wasnt released as a single, this Billy Joel song stands as one of his most ambitious and memorable works. Somewhat patterned after side two of The Beatles Abbey Road, it's essentially several songs in one. Theres a driving piano section, a Dixieland jazz section, and a balladesque introduction and coda. Its an album in seven minutes and tells a lifelong story of love and loss. Song year: 1981 Journeys signature song charted in the early 80s. With Steve Perrys soaring vocals and the churning piano riff from Jonathan Cain that kicks it off and runs through the piece, no one could wonder why it took a hit. But then Tony Soprano and his family faced an uncertain end in their eponymous HBO series in 2007 as Dont Stop Believin played and the screen went black. Journey made it to the top ten in 1981, then charted with the song again worldwide, starting in 2007. 12 times in the next 16 years. Song year: 1977 Dennis DeYoung powered Stix through a nearly 20-year reign of rock music, and Come Sail Away epitomizes the bands ethos. Half of the song centers around a lyrical sound with delicate, ornamented piano before going to the aliens-coming-to-take-us-away rock of the songs coda. Cartman from South Park did a memorable job on this one, but DeYongs piano is unforgettable. Song year: 1957 Perhaps The Iconic Piano Rock Song, Great Balls of Fire had it all Jerry Lee frolicking over all 88 piano keys, a hoogie-woogie bass line that white listeners were, up to then, unfamiliar with, and a vocal line that dared the listener not to have a good time. Jerry Lee Lewis had a hit or two before Great Balls of Fire. But selling five million copies of one single tends to make people remember that one. Song year: 1968 People remember the na na na gang vocals at the songs end, but without Sir Pauls steady eighth-note piano rhythms, Hey Jude never gets off the ground. Weve all heard the stories of him telling John hed change this lyric or that one because he didnt know what it meant, and we all know John told him. No, you wont. I know what it means. Fun tales, but Hey Jude is one of the closest things to a perfect piece of music the Beatles ever made. Song year: 2001 Ben Folds made a name for himself with his band, Ben Folds Five. When he made a few solo records, he brought a different sound from his efforts with his band. The rolling triplet eighth notes that drive Zak and Sara make it both fun and unsettled, which more than matches the songs female protagonist. The lyrics tell of what she says and does. Shes clearly disturbed, but Zak loves her. Song year: 1974 Sure, the song is a polemic against Neil Yongs songs about injustice in the South. But it nobody hears anything political when it comes to the radio. When it plays, drunk college girls go, Woo! Woo! The guys hitting on them tap their toes, and everyone knows that one piano riff that sings its descending notes after nearly every phrase in the verse. Dont know what we mean? Listen to it. Once you hear it, youll never hear anything else on the song song year: 1971 Shapeshifter Davey Bowll would, of course, be the song that starts with schmalzy piano, leading the stoner to expect another introspective song on the band starts earnest while Bowie stutters out chorus. The saxophone line in this one is just as identifiable as the piano riffs, but leave it to Bowie to make a rock song into a piano classic even though thats not even the main instrument in the piece. Song year: 1986 Bruce Hornsby never had the huge, record-smashing career of an Elton John or a Billy Joel, but his thoughtful lyrics always paired well with the easy-going piano lines he came up with. The Way It Is sings of injustice and the shoulder shrugs that most people on the wrong end of that injustice use to deal with it a sort of what-can-I-do-about-it stoicism. Hornsby includes added seconds and sixths in many chords, which makes for a longing sound. Its effective, and the word that best describes his music is usually plaintive. Although some claim rock is losing its mainstream popularity, there is no doubt that some rock songs will remain immortal. And there are too many reasons for that. Theyre full of energy, they have great melodies and great progressions, the warmth of analog recording equipment, and so on. In this article, well be looking specifically at the best rock songs with piano incorporated into them.Photo by Raph PHWeve also included the official music video of each song so you can easily listen to them and find your favorites. If youre a piano player, you can find a lot of great tutorials on YouTube showing exactly how to play each of these songs. Slowing down the video and looping specific parts of it really helps to have a productive practice session. You can even find some Google Chrome extensions to loop different sections on

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