

PCR: Saturday Night @Home – Ian Darby



1: The Jam: That's Entertainment

Paul Weller is my music hero. I could have chosen 25 tracks of his work alone! Have been watching him play live for nearly 40 years starting as a 16-year-old schoolboy from Surrey. 'That's Entertainment' is an iconic track from the 1980s and musical poetry. Took him 10 minutes to write. Genius!!



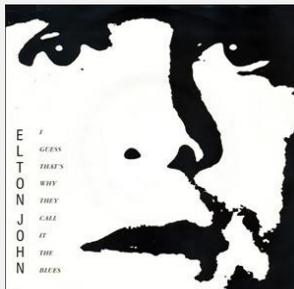
2: Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here

I'm not particularly into Pink Floyd but the words and pared down simplicity of the vocals and guitar on this track are very special. It would be in my Top 5, that's how special I think it is.



3: Fleetwood Mac: Songbird

What a voice and such a beautifully haunting song. In my youth, the album 'Rumours' was basically No. 1 for what felt like forever. Apparently, Christine McVie wrote the lyrics in half an hour!!!!



4: Elton John: I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues

I love Elton and have been lucky enough to see him play live with Francesca on a couple of occasions. Difficult to choose a song but this one was played at our wedding during the meal. As a result, our guests moved the tables to make room for a dance floor and nobody ate their puddings!!!!



5: Stereophonics: Handbags and Gladrags

Rod Stewart might have sung it first but Kelly Jones' voice out gravels even him!! I was lucky enough to meet the band backstage at a gig. Really down to earth.



6: The Verve: Lucky Man

Richard Ashcroft has a magnificent voice. This is such an uplifting track and resonates with me. The best version of this is on YouTube where he played live on Chris Evans's Breakfast Show.



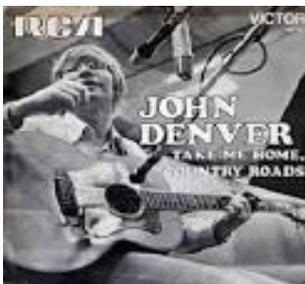
7: Elton John: Your Song

Beautiful track and his breakthrough song. We saw him sing this live at a small Aids charity function in Cape Town. Just him and his piano – no backing singers or razzmatazz. To this day it sends shivers down my spine.



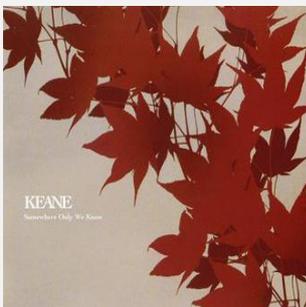
8: Oasis: Wonderwall

Iconic. They took the music world by storm. Absolutely awesome live and fantastic anthem. Gallagher has a great voice (even if he is a City supporter!!).



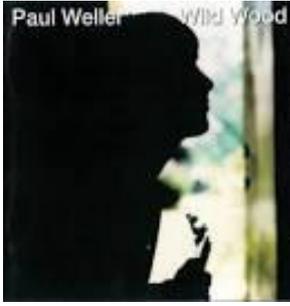
9: John Denver: Take Me Home, Country Roads

Possibly one of the first musicians I got into. This is a great track, you just can't help but sing it, and now a Man Utd anthem (slight adaptation of words), which automatically meant it had to be in my Top 25!!



10: Keane: Somewhere Only We Know

Debut single from their first album 'Hope and Fears'. Tom Chaplin's voice is like honey and his lyrics are just beautiful.



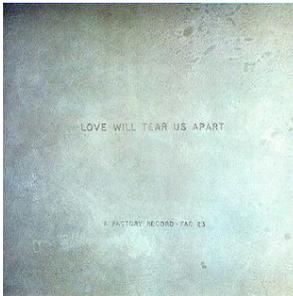
11: Paul Weller: Wild Wood

Weller again and in my view his greatest song as a solo artist. Lyrics are sheer poetry. The album of the same name is a real classic and for me is some of the finest work he has written. It has apparently been included in the book '1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die'. Enough said!!



12: David Bowie: Space Oddity

Wow, where do you start with this man? Much like Weller I could have chosen endless tracks for my Top 25. Space Oddity is just a masterpiece. Both man and music are iconic.



13: Joy Division: Love Will Tear Us Apart

Released in 1980 after the tragic suicide of the lead singer, Ian Curtis, at only 23. The track has become iconic. I was 17 at the time and massively into my music.



14: Mike & The Mechanics: The Living Years

Another '80s anthem, moving lyrics and a really great song all about making sure you say the things you want to people whilst you can.



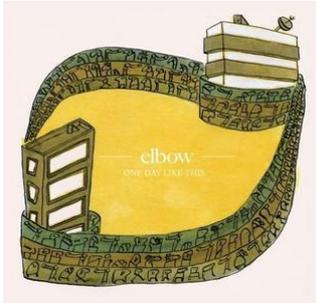
15: Billy Joel: Piano Man

From the album 'The Stranger' released in 1973. It tells the story of Billy Joel at the start of his career. He is another artist whose lyrics are poetry.



16: The Choir of Trinity Cambridge: Jerusalem

Should be England's national anthem. Played at the beginning of every England cricket test match and at Twickenham before the rugby internationals. It still sends a shiver down my spine when you hear a large crowd singing it.



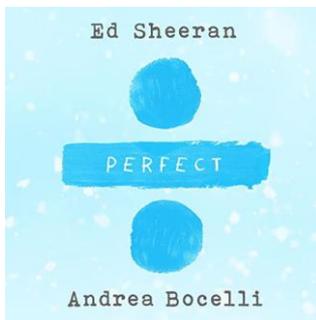
17: Elbow: One Day Like This

Saw them perform this track at Glastonbury on TV. Absolutely brilliant (check it out on YouTube). It was also performed at the closing ceremony at this country's greatest sporting event – The Olympics 2012. What a great summer that was.



18: Snow Patrol: Chasing Cars

I am not very original as this has apparently been voted the most popular song of the 21st century (to date I should add!!). A really beautiful song with great lyrics – you can't help but sing this one aloud whenever you hear it.



19: Ed Sheeran with Andrea Bocelli: Perfect Symphony

What a combination, both with amazing voices. It is touching to see the reverence with which Sheeran holds Bocelli in the video of them recording it. Missed the chance of seeing them perform this live at Wembley as one of our cats had gone missing for four days only to be found that evening with severely fractured leg. Hey ho! We were happier to have the cat back, I can assure you!!



20: Coldplay: Viva La Vida

I so love watching Chris Martin in concert. He is an absolute showman and holds an audience in the palm of his hand. I could have picked a number of their tracks but settled on this one for its anthem-like quality.



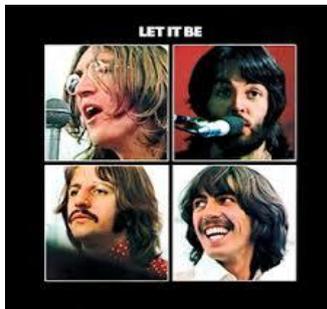
21: U2: Beautiful Day

What a band and what a voice. Whilst most of their songs have socio-political undertones I just think 'Beautiful Day' a wonderfully uplifting song and defy anyone not to sing or hum to it.



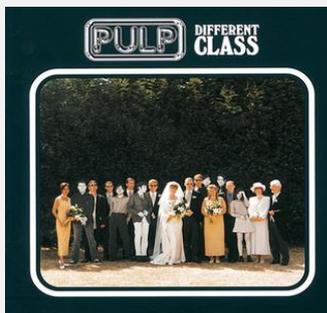
22: Don MacLean: Vincent

What a poignant beautiful song. Amazing to think it was written about the painter Van Gogh. Don MacLean's voice is so tender and as with John Denver, very distinctive.



23: The Beatles: Let It Be

Neither the band nor this song needs any introduction. The Beatles were before my time, and neither of my parents cared for them. I really discovered them at school. I love the lyrics of this song. We need quite a lot of 'Let it Be' at the moment as the world tries to deal with the impact of Covid-19!



24: Pulp: Common People

Who can forget the band wars of the 1980s between Pulp and Oasis? I'm afraid I liked both. The lyrics are just priceless.

*"I took her to a supermarket
I don't know why
But I had to start it somewhere
So it started there
I said, "pretend you've got no money"
She just laughed and said
"Oh you're so funny"
I said "Yeah?
Well I can't see anyone else smiling in here?
Are you sure"*



25: The Style Council: My Ever Changing Moods

Finish where I started – with Paul Weller. The Style Council wasn't every Weller fan's cup of tea, but this song makes for a brilliant live performance. The music itself is really uplifting and the sax superb juxtaposed with his moody lyrics – typical Weller. This is a wonderful acoustic version. The man, his piano and his music.