

# Two thumbs up:

The Collegian's music critics pick their favorite 1990 recordings

by Greg Geibel  
The Collegian

1. Extreme  
*Pornograffiti*

*Pornograffiti* is one of the best albums of 1990. The talent and diversity shown on this album outshines any rock and roll album of the year. Nuno Bettencourt's guitar playing is fresh, powerful, and an enormous step above from their debut album.

2. Steve Vai  
*Passion and Warfare*

When talking of a solo album, this one takes the word "solo" one step further. With the exception of other musicians to help with the album, Vai was the only person in the studio. There were no producers, engineers, or directors in the studio other than Vai. This album was his baby, and the end result was nothing short of genius.

3. Living Colour  
*Time's Up*

With their follow up to *Vivid*, Living Colour proved their place in the music industry. *Time's Up* is a very diverse and powerful album, stressing the issues of today while also showcasing each member's abilities and attitudes.

4. Flim and the BB's  
*New Pants*

*New Pants* is the latest release from Flim and the BB's. One of the finer albums, this easy going jazz album makes for perfect lazy Sunday listening pleasure.

5. Harry Connick Jr.  
*We Are In Love*

With his latest release, the 23 year old Connick compiled an album solely of love songs. Working with top-rated musicians, Connick has released his most impressive recording to date. Some critics are calling him the next Sinatra, some are calling him a wanna-be, I just call him great.

by Christi Luden  
The Collegian

1. Janet Jackson  
*Rhythm Nation 1814*

The best tape of the year! Every song is full of meaning and beat. Seven out of 12 songs have been in the Top 5 this year which breaks her previous record of five off of her Control tape. Two of my favorites include "Black Cat" and "Miss You Much." Janet's whole *Rhythm Nation* project including music, videos, and shows is the best I've ever seen.

2. Paula Abdul  
*Shut Up and Dance*

Abdul's remix of her 1989 *Forever Your Girl* is definitely worth buying. The outstanding dancer-singer adds the computer touches to her old songs and produces a medley combining them all at the end. Great dance music!

3. M.C. Hammer  
*Please Don't Hurt 'Em*

Although Hammer has poor taste in clothes, his music and attitude are quite different. The jacket on his tape contains some great statements about God, discrimination, and the fight against drugs. It's about time a rap artist sings about decent topics and has some substance (Unlike 2 Live Crew).

4. Heart  
*Brigade*

Great mix of slow love ballads, heavier songs, and still one dream-like fantasy song resembling the pieces from their 1985 *Heart* tape. My favorites are radio hit "I Didn't Want To Need You" and "Tall Dark Stranger."

5. Whitney Houston  
*I'm Your Baby Tonight*

Houston continues to use her beautiful voice to create works of art. She has added some quicker-paced music to offset the slow, love songs, and a duet with Stevie Wonder entitled "We Didn't Know."

by Robb Frederick  
The Collegian

1. The Black Crowes  
*Shake Your Money Maker*

The Crowes shot out of Boston and up the charts with this selection of chord-driven guitar rock. The disc captures the blues-inspired sound of the early Rolling Stones, and the band's live performances proved an attitude to match.

2. Sinead O'Connor  
*I Do Not Want What I Have Not Got*

Forget about O'Connor's Andrew "Dice" Clay boycott and her national anthem scandal. This album, launched by the Prince-penned single "Nothing Compares 2 U," clearly established O'Connor as the first true star for the 90's.

3. Neil Young  
*Ragged Glory*

For this disc, Young followed a simple formula: Turn it up and let it go. Once again backed by his band Crazy Horse, Young hammered out ten incinerating tracks. The band crams its lengthy solos with distortion and feedback, redefining the term "garage rock."

4. Edie Brickell and New Bohemians  
*Ghost of a Dog*

It's Edie Brickell, and that's good enough for me.

5. Tesla  
*Five Man Acoustical Jam*

I'm not a Tesla fan, but I had to buy this when I heard they did a cover of the Grateful Dead's "Truckin'." This recording captures the band during a stripped-down acoustic show and proves that Tesla's talent goes far beyond that of the average rock band. The unplugged sound revamps several of the group's hits, and revives a few classics like "We Can Work It Out" and "Mother's Little Helper." The raw cover of "Signs" is incredible.

by Floyd J. Csir  
The Collegian

1. Robert Plant  
*Manic Nirvana*

Songs like "Got my eyes on you" and "Tye Dye on the Highway" prove this old rocker still has plenty of punch and yet, he always manages to break new ground, a unique concept for some musicians.

2. Don Henley  
*The End of the Innocence*

Several tracks from this album made the charts, but more importantly, Henley has the ability to combine elements of Americana, for better or for worse, into compelling guitar riffs and melodies. The title track and "The Heart of the Matter" will undoubtedly become Henley classics.

3. Roger Waters  
*The Wall*

This double live album is a remake of that epic Pink Floyd album *The Wall*. Artists Sinead O'Connor, Bryan Adams and Cyndi Lauper give the songs an appealing flavor. Because of these supporting musicians, this album is more accessible to listeners unfamiliar to Pink Floyd music.

4. Patrick O'Hearn  
*Mix Up*

O'Hearn's upbeat New Age music is remixed by technical artists who mix dance, rap and blues influences into some of his best instrumentals. This music isn't as discordant and is more consistent than The Art of Noise but actually a nice blend with a heavy emphasis on base beats.

5. Scorpions  
*Crazy World*

Maybe not as artistically gifted as some of the other musicians mentioned, but they have a distinctive sound. Songs like "Can't Explain" and "Tease Me, Please Me" emphasize explosive guitars and fast track lyrics.

by John Flick  
The Collegian

1. Winger  
*In The Heart Of The Young*

I "Can't Get Enough" of this album! It is the freshest hard rock album to come out this year, with everything from Reb Beach's beautiful guitar work to the heart-touching voice of Kip Winger.

2. Phil Collins  
*But Seriously...*

There is a lot of first-rate talent on this beautiful work. Eric Clapton's leads on "I Wish It Would Rain Down" are a prime example. Phil's voice only gets better with time.

3. Don Dokken  
*Up From The Ashes*

Don Dokken has teamed up with a group of talented individuals to put together a wonderful collection of songs. Don's voice gives a haunting aura to his songs, while the band plays solidly and tightly.

4. Slaughter  
*Stick It To Ya*

Here is an album that is just plain fun to listen to. Mark Slaughter has one of the most distinctive voices in rock music today. Listening to the band gives one the impression that they were having a blast.

5. Steve Vai  
*Passion and Warfare*

What does he do to that guitar? Steve Vai puts on a tremendous show on this solo work, with his clean sound and neat licks.

Rolling Stone's  
Top 5

1. M.C. Hammer - *Please Don't Hurt 'Em*
2. Phil Collins - *But Seriously...*
3. Michael Bolton - *Soul Provider*
4. Janet Jackson - *Rhythm Nation 1814*
5. Wilson Phillips - *Wilson Phillips*

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