

# Disco

Disco commenced in the 70's.

In response the predominance of Rock Music & the need for dedicated dance music.

Disco is a specific genre of dance music.

It is an extension of Motown with influences from Latin and a very specific sound, almost manufactured.

Arose in cities like Philadelphia and New York City.

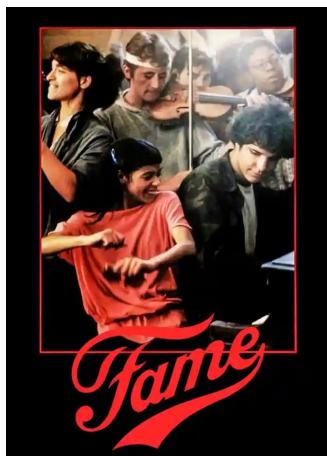
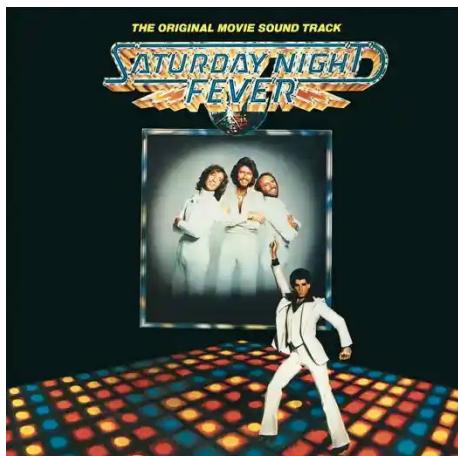
Night Clubs such as Studio 54 in Manhattan (New York City) became trendy and popular with celebrities.

DJs became stars in their own right.

The change in Bee Gees sound around this time added credibility to disco music.

In general disco was rejected by rock music fans as fake and lacking any real substance.

Movies such as "Saturday Night Fever" in 1977 dominated by the Bee Gees new dance sound and "Thank God Its Friday" (1978) further secured its popularity. Other movies included "Can't Stop The Music" (1980 - Village People), "Fame" (1980) and "Flashdance" (1983)



The TV show "Soul Train" in the USA was a showcase for Disco Music.

The main fashion trends were flared pants, platform shoes, sequins, spandex, crop tops and medallions.

1971 [Isaac Hayes](#) "Theme from Shaft" {Enterprise/Isaac Hayes/Isaac Hayes} ..... Label / Writer / Producer

1972 [Curtis Mayfield](#) "Superfly" {Buddah/Curtis Mayfield/Curtis Mayfield}

1972 [O'Jays](#) "Love Train" {Philadelphia Int/Gamble & Huff/ Gamble & Huff}

1972 [Manu Dibango](#) "Soul Makossa" {Atlantic/Manu Dibango}

1973 [O'Jays](#) "Now That We Found Love"

1973 [Love Unlimited Orchestra](#) (conducted by [Barry White](#)) {Philadelphia Int/Gamble & Huff/Gamble and Huff}

1974 [MFSB](#) (incl [The Three Degrees](#)) - "TSOP (The Sound of Philadelphia)"

Early disco was dominated by record producers and labels.

Salsoul Records (Ken, Stanley and Joseph Cayre)

West End (Mel Cheren)

Casablanca (Neil Bogart)

Prelude (Marvin Schlachter)

Another feature of this period was the introduction of the 12" single - extended versions of the original single used in night clubs.

Also the concept of the remix came into play, with various DJs doing their own remixes of popular disco songs.

1974 - 1977 was the real rise of Disco Music. By the early 80s, however, this genre began to fade.

1977 saw the advent of the Punk Music scene, particularly in the UK, which was a violent reaction to both the establishment, formulaic disco music and progressive rock, like Yes, that youths on London housing estates could not relate to (as stated by Glen Matlock from the Sex Pistols). While the 80s saw the arrival of the stadium rock sound with bands like Bon Jovi, Van Halen, Def Leppard, Journey, Aerosmith, Motley Crue, and Whitesnake claiming the new limelight, punk was morphing into the less aggressive and less confronting new wave and new romantic sounds.

During the Disco era another thing was observable in music charts. The singles charts and the album charts were very different. The artist in singles charts were, for the most part, completely different to those in the album charts. Bands like Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Yes, The Rolling Stones, Jethro Tull continued to dominate the album charts while Disco Music dominated the singles charts.

For the most part disco artists were one hit wonders. The only disco artists to really break into the albums charts were the Bee Gees (Australia / UK), Barry White, KC and the Sunshine Band, LaBelle, Boney M (*Germany*), Village People, Donna Summer, Sister Sledge, Kool and the Gang, Chic, Earth Wind and Fire, Billy Ocean and Gloria Gaynor because they were quite prolific with their hits over a longer period of time. Most of the artists were American. If not, their country of origin is listed. Even ABBA (*Sweden*) seemed to get caught up in the Disco Era (even though they weren't really disco) as did John Paul Young (*Australia*) with "Love Is In The Air". In fact, at the time ABBA was music that 10 – 12 year olds were listening to (think The Wiggles for primary school students).

1974 [The Hues Corporation](#) "Rock the Boat" {RCA /wr:Wally Holmes/ pr:John Florez}

1974 [Carl Douglas](#) "Kung Fu Fighting" {Pye/Carl Douglas/Biddu Appalah}

1974 [George McCrae](#) "Rock Your Baby" {TK/Harry Wayne Casey(KC)/KC}

1974 [Gloria Gaynor](#) "Never Can Say Goodbye" remake of a Jackson 5 song {Motown/Clifton Davis/Hal Davis}

1974 [Bee Gees](#) "Mr Natural" {RSO/wr:Barry Gibb & Robin Gibb}S

1974 [LaBelle](#) "Lady Marmalade"

1975 [Gloria Gaynor](#) "Reach Out (I'll Be There)" {Motown/wr:Holland-Dozier-Holland/pr:Holland-Dozier}

1978 [Gloria Gaynor](#) "I Will Survive" {Polydor/wr:Freddie Perren/pr: Freddie Perren}

1975 [Van McCoy](#) "The Hustle" {Avco/wr:Van McCoy/pr:Hugo Peretti}

1975 [Donna Summer](#) "Love To Love You Baby"

1975 [Earth Wind and Fire](#) "Shining Star"

1975 [KC and the Sunshine Band](#) "Get Down Tonight"

1975 [KC and the Sunshine Band](#) "That's The Way (I Like It)"

1975 [Bee Gees](#) "Jive Talkin"

1976 [Boney M](#) "Daddy Cool"

1976 [Boney M](#) "Sunny"

1976 [KC and the Sunshine Band](#) "(Shake, Shake, Shake) Shake Your Booty"

1976 [Billy Ocean](#) "Love Really Hurts Without You"

1976 [Bee Gees](#) "you Should Be Dancing"

1977 [Joe Tex](#) "Ain't Gonna Bump No More (With No Big Fat Woman)"

1977 [Barry White](#) "You're the First, the Last, My Everything"

1977 [KC and the Sunshine Band](#) "Keep It Coming Love"

1977 [Donna Summer](#) "I Feel Love"

1977 [Boney M](#) "Ma Baker"

1977 [Village People](#) "San Francisco (You've Got Me)"

1977 [Bee Gees](#) "How Deep Is Your Love"

1977 [Bee Gees](#) "More Than A Woman"



Bee Gees



Donna Summer



THAT'S THE WAY (I LIKE IT) GET DOWN TONIGHT I'M SO CRAZY (ABOUT YOU) BOOGIE SHOES

**Links to various DISCO artists:** the Bee Gees, Donna Summer, KC and the Sunshine Band, the Village People, Boney M., Gloria Gaynor, Earth Wind & Fire, Chic, Sister Sledge, Thelma Houston, The Ritchie Family, Labelle, Sylvester, The Trammps Giorgio Moroder (*Italy*), Baccara, Chaka Khan, Kool and the Gang



Village People



Boney M



Gloria Gaynor

## Also gave birth to new dance styles *The Bump, The Hustle, Bus Stop*



Chic



Barry White



Sister Sledge

1977 [Bee Gees](#) "Stayin Alive"

1978 [Village People](#) "Macho Man"

1978 [Village People](#) "YMCA"

1978 [Chic](#) "Le Freak" {Atlantic / wr: Nile Rodgers/Bernard Edwards}

1978 [Donna Summer](#) "Last Dance"

1978 [Donna Summer](#) "Heaven Knows" {Casablanca/writers: [Donna Summer](#), [Giorgio Moroder](#), [Pete Bellotte](#)}

1978 [Earth Wind and Fire](#) "Fantasy"

1978 [Earth Wind and Fire](#) "September"

1978 [Boney M](#) "Rivers of Babylon"

1978 [Boney M](#) "Rasputin"

1978 [Bee Gees](#) "Night Fever"

1978 [Bee Gees](#) "Too Much Heaven"



1978 [KC and the Sunshine Band](#) "Boogie Shoes"

1979 [Donna Summer](#) "Hot Stuff" {Casablanca/writers: [Pete Bellotte](#), [Harold Faltermeyer](#), [Keith Forsey](#)}

1979 [Donna Summer](#) "Bad Girls"

1979 [Donna Summer](#) "No More Tears (Enough is Enough)"

1979 [Donna Summer](#) "On The Radio" {Casablanca/writers: [Donna Summer](#), [Giorgio Moroder](#)}

1979 [Village People](#) "In The Navy"

1979 [Village People](#) "Go West"

1979 [Earth Wind and Fire](#) "Boogie Wonderland"

1979 [Sister Sledge](#) "He's the Greatest Dancer"

1979 [Sister Sledge](#) "We Are Family"

1979 [Bony M](#) "Hooray! Hooray! It's A Holi-Holiday"

1979 [KC and the Sunshine Band](#) "Please Don't Go"

1979 [Bee Gees](#) "Tragedy"

1980 [Village People](#) "Can't Stop The Music"

1980 [Village People](#) "Magic Night"

1980 [Kool and the Gang](#) "Celebration"

1981 [Sister Sledge](#) "All American Girls"

1981 [Earth Wind and Fire](#) "Let's Groove"

1981 [Kool and the Gang](#) "Get Down On It"

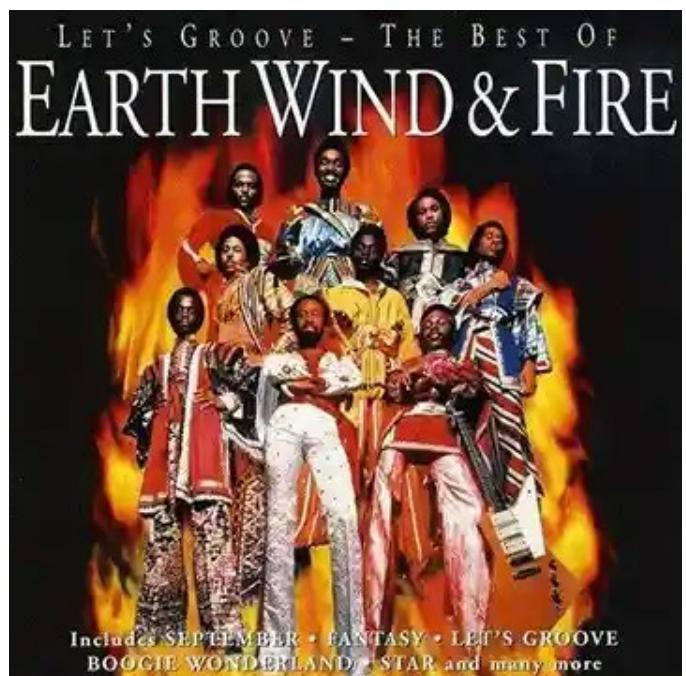
1982 [Donna Summer](#) "Love is in Control"

1982 [Donna Summer](#) "State of Independence"

1983 [Donna Summer](#) "She Works Hard For the Money"

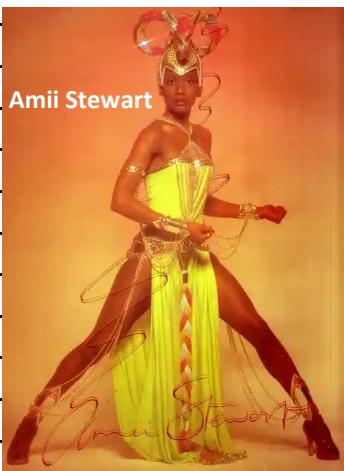
1985 [Kool and the Gang](#) "Cherish"

1985 [Sister Sledge](#) "Frankie"



# Disco One Hit Wonders and Two Two Hit Wonders!

A Taste of Honey – “Boogie Oogie Oogie”	1978	
Alicia Bridges – “I Love The Nightlife”	1978	
Amii Stewart – “Knock On Wood”	1979	
Andrea True Connection – “More More More”	1976	
Anita Ward – “Ring My Bell”	1979	
Baccara – “Yes Sir I Can Boogie”	1977	Spain
Belle Epoque – Black Is Black”	1976	France
B T Express – “Do It (Til You’re Satisfied)”	1974	
Candi Staton – “Young Hearts Run Free”	1976	
Carl Douglas – “Kung Fu Fighting”	1976	Jamaica / UK
Dan Hartman – Instant Replay”	1978	
Disco-Tex and the Sex-O-Lettes – “Get Dancin””	1975	
Eruption – “I Can’t Stand The Rain”	1977	UK
Eruption “One Way Ticket”	1979	
Evelyn “Champagne” King – “Shame”	1977	
Fatback Band – “Do The Bus Stop”	1976	
Frankie Smith – “Double Dutch Bus”	1981	
George McCrae – “Rock Your Baby”	1974	
Gloria Gaynor – “Never Can Say Goodbye”	1975	
Hues Corporation – “Rock The Boat”	1973	
Kelly Marie – “Feels Like I’m In Love”	1979	Scotland
La Belle – Lady Marmalade”	1974	
Lipps Inc – “Funky Town”	1980	
M – “Pop Muzik”	1979	England (real name Robin Scott)
Manu Dibango – “Soul Makossa”	1972	Cameroon
Maxine Nightingale – “Right Back Where We Started From”	1976	
McFadden and Whitehead – “Aint No Stoppin’ Us Now”	1979	
MFSB – “TSOP”	1974	
Michael Zager Band – “Let’s All Chant”	1977	
Natalie Cole – “This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)”	1975	<i>daughter of Nat King Cole</i>
Ottawan – “D.I.S.C.O”	1979	France
Ottawan – “Hands Up”	1981	France
Patrick Hernandez – “Born To Be Alive”	1979	France
Peaches and Herb – “Shake Your Groove Thing”	1978	
Penny McLean – “Lady Bump”	1975	Austria (real name Gertrude Wirschinger)
Rick Dees – “Disco Duck”	1976	
Rose Royce – “Car Wash”	1977	
Santa Esmerelda – “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood”	1977	France
Shirley and Company – “Shame, Shame, Shame”	1974	
Shocking Blue – “Venus”	1969	The Netherlands
Silver Convention – “Fly Robin Fly”	1975	Germany
Silver Convention – “Get Up and Boogie”	1976	
SOS Band – “Take Your Time (Do It Right)”	1980	
Sylvester – “Do You Wanna Funk”	1982	
Sylvester – “You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)”	1978	
Tavares – “Heaven Must Be Missing An Angel”	1976	
The Emotions – “Best Of My Love”	1977	



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The Real Thing – “You To Me Are Everything”	1976	
The Weather Girls – “It’s Raining Men”	1982	
Thelma Houston – “Don’t Leave Me This Way”	1976	
The Trammps – “Disco Inferno”	1976	
Tina Charles – “I Love To Love (But My Baby Loves To	1976	UK
Van McCoy – “The Hustle”	1975	
Vicki Sue Robinson – “Turn The Beat Around”	1976	
Wild Cherry – “Play That Funky Music”	1976	

## Other International Artists

Jamaican born, **Grace Jones** was another unusual artist that seemed to fall into the Disco Era.

Although it was only her 1975 hit that was released during the Disco Era.



### Her Songs included

“I Need A Man” (1975)

“Slave To The Rhythm” (1985)

“Private Life” (1980)

“Pull Up To The Bumper” (1986)

## The Beginning of the End of Disco

**July 12, 1979** A Chicago radio station hosted the infamous “Disco Demolition Night” where rock fans destroyed disco records, symbolised the backlash and led to a sharp drop in popularity.

Specifically, at Comiskey Park, DJ Steve Dahl blew up disco records between baseball games, leading to a riot, field damage, and the White Sox forfeiting the second game of a doubleheader against the Detroit Tigers.

But, nevertheless, it hastened the death of Disco, even though it was probably on the way out. Although all it did was transform into Electronic Dance Music, House, Hip Hop etc.

