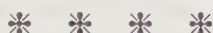

9 Fictional Bands with Hit Songs

Check out these fictional hit makers, but be prepared to get at least one song stuck in your head.



1. The Chipmunks: The Chipmunks, a fictitious music group created by Ross Bagdasarian in 1958, featured singing “chipmunks” Alvin, Simon, and Theodore. The trio was managed by their human “father,” Dave Seville. In reality, Dave Seville was the stage name of Bagdasarian, who electronically sped up his own voice to create the higher-pitched squeaky voices of the chipmunks. This process was so new and innovative that it earned a Grammy for engineering in 1959. The Chipmunks released a number of albums and singles, with “The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don’t Be Late)” spending four weeks atop the charts in the late 1950s.

2. The Monkees: Hey, hey... were the Monkees a real band? In 1965, auditions were held for “folk & roll musicians” to play band members on a new TV show called *The Monkees*. Actors Davy Jones and Micky Dolenz and musicians Mike Nesmith and Peter Tork were chosen to be The Monkees. The show won two Emmy Awards in 1967, and the band was so successful that it went on tour—with The Jimi Hendrix Experience as their opening act! The Monkees reached the top of the charts with the hits “I’m a Believer,” “Last Train to Clarksville,” and “Daydream Believer.” Although the show was canceled in 1968 and the band officially broke up in 1970, they have continued to record and tour with some or all of the original members.



3. The Archies: Stars of the comic strip *Archie* and the Saturday morning cartoon *The Archie Show*, The Archies were a garage band “founded” in 1968. Band members included fictional characters Archie, Reggie, Jughead, Betty,

and Veronica. Producer Don Kirshner gathered a group of studio musicians to perform the group's songs. They scored with "Sugar, Sugar," which topped the pop charts in 1969 and was named *Billboard* magazine's song of the year, the only time a fictional band has ever claimed that honor. The Archies also reached the top 40 with "Who's Your Baby?," "Bang-Shang-a-Lang," and "Jingle Jangle."

4. The Kids from *The Brady Bunch*: Marcia, Marcia, Marcia! The music group known as The Kids from *The Brady Bunch* was made up of—who else—the young cast members from the popular sitcom that originally aired from 1969 to 1974. The cast recorded several albums, including *Christmas with the Brady Bunch* and *Meet the Brady Bunch*. None of the songs topped the charts, but some fan favorites include "Sunshine Day," "Time to Change," and "Keep On."

5. The Partridge Family: *The Partridge Family*—a popular TV show that aired in the early 1970s—focused on Shirley Partridge (played by Shirley Jones) and her brood of five children, who performed as a band. To promote the show, producers released a series of albums by The Partridge Family. Although the music was originally created by studio musicians with Jones singing backup, David Cassidy, who played eldest son Keith, quickly convinced producers to let him sing lead vocals. The show and the band became overnight sensations, making Cassidy a teen idol. The group's most popular hits include the show's theme song "C'Mon, Get Happy," "I Woke Up in Love This Morning," and "I Think I Love You," which spent three weeks at number one in late 1970.

6. The Blues Brothers: In April 1978, *Saturday Night Live* cast members John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd appeared on the show as The Blues Brothers. Dressed in black suits, fedoras, and sunglasses, Belushi sang lead vocals as "Joliet" Jake Blues while Aykroyd portrayed Elwood Blues, singing