

Editor's Letter

I came of age in the '70s, entering high school at one end and playing in rock 'n' roll bands at the other. In between, I attended classes, went on dates, drove my first car, worked my first jobs delivering papers and bagging groceries, and started playing a guitar with dreams of glory. I also moved around, living in Florida, Chicago, Spokane, New York City, Spokane again, Pennsylvania, Spokane again and Orlando — not unusual for a kid with itchy feet.

Except for shows like *Saturday Night Live* and *Don Kirshner's Rock Concert*, I didn't watch TV much those years — my world was on the radio. Also typical for those who traveled from first date to first marriage through the '70s, my tastes roamed the pop-rock-soul dial: Philly soul, folk, soft rock, hard rock, progressive, glam, disco, electronic. It was hard to be faithful to any one of them when seductive sounds were playing on just about every station.

Music made the mercurial '70s, and this issue of *ReMIND* takes a pop tour of the most memorable pop stars. We'll swoon to the pop songs, hit the dance floor to shake our disco booties and pack stadiums holding up our lighters for the rock 'n' roll greats. We'll also give a nod to heartthrobs of the era like Bobby Sherman and Donny Osmond, and even offer a tap of the sequined top hat to pop stars in music shows of other decades.

Lots of ground to cover, so let's not waste any time and get started ...

Won't you join us in Funkytown?

David

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Cassidy: Michael Ochs Archives/
Getty Images; Osmonds: ABC
Photo Archives/AEC/Getty
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TOP POP IDOLS OF THE '70s

"And they called it puppy love ..." So fitting are the lyrics of Donny Osmond's 1972 top single "Puppy Love" in describing our adoration of our favorite chart-topping pop stars. From those purple socks (Donny!) to those feathered locks (David!), we littered our bedroom walls with their pinups and wore out our record players with their LPs. Every hard-earned dollar we made babysitting helped fuel our delirious devotion to these superstars. Here we asked music veteran and radio host Steve Palec to take us back to the 1970s and spotlight the top pop icons of that decade in no particular order.

DAVID CASSIDY

He was Keith Partridge on TV alongside his actual stepmother Shirley Jones. *The Partridge Family* was both a huge hit show and a recording entity. Originally much like *The Monkees*, the idea was to use studio musicians for the records. When *The Partridge Family* producers realized their long-haired pretty boy star could really sing, they let David into the studio. "I Think I Love You" was the band's first big hit, and during the show's run, David released eight albums with the Partridge Family and four solo LPs. There were also massive concert tours, in which Cassidy could draw enough fans to fill stadiums — a major milestone in the early '70s. Sadly, the man who entered the hearts of so many adoring fans died at age 67 in 2017 waiting for a liver transplant.



DONNY & MARIE

Donny began his career at age 5 under the tutelage of his siblings, the Osmond Brothers. By age 13 he had gone solo and started breaking hearts with melodies like "Sweet and Innocent" and his first and only No. 1 hit, "Go Away Little Girl." By the time he was 20, Donny had a slew of Top 10 hits — including two with his beloved sister Marie ("I'm Leaving It All Up to You" and "Morning Side of the Mountain") — along with the hit variety show *Donny & Marie* and a new wife, Debbie Glenn (whom he married in 1978). Fast-forward 45 years, and Donny continues to make his fan base swoon. His six-decade career has included a bestselling book, Broadway runs, a TV hosting gig, a syndicated talk show, a long-running Vegas act with Marie, a Mirror Ball Trophy for winning *Dancing With the Stars* (2009) and his most recent success on the hit 2019 singing competition series *The Masked Singer*.