

crowded house the very very best of crowded house

Crowded House The Very Very Best of Crowded House

Introduction to Crowded House and Their Greatest Hits

Crowded House, the iconic Australian-New Zealand band formed in 1985, has left an indelible mark on the rock and pop music landscape. Their compilation album, *The Very Very Best of Crowded House*, serves as a definitive collection of the band's most beloved tracks, showcasing their evolution from catchy pop tunes to more introspective and mature songwriting. This album is essential for both newcomers eager to explore their music and longtime fans wanting a curated overview of their career highlights.

Overview of "The Very Very Best of Crowded House"

What is "The Very Very Best of Crowded House"?

Released in 2019, *The Very Very Best of Crowded House* is a comprehensive compilation album that features 20 tracks spanning their entire discography. It includes hits from their debut album to their later works, capturing the essence of the band's musical journey. The album is designed to appeal to a broad audience and serves as an accessible entry point or a nostalgic collection for seasoned fans.

Why is this compilation significant?

- **Comprehensive Selection:** The album consolidates Crowded House's most popular and influential songs.
- **Remastered Tracks:** Many songs have been remastered for enhanced sound quality.
- **Historical Context:** It offers listeners a chronological journey through the band's evolution.
- **Cultural Impact:** Highlights their contribution to the rock and pop genres.

Key Tracks Included in the Compilation

Iconic Hits and Fan Favorites

The album features many tracks that have become staples of 1980s and 1990s rock:

1. "Don't Dream It's Over" - Perhaps their most famous song, with its timeless melody and themes of perseverance.
2. "Something So Strong" - An upbeat, energetic track that captures the band's pop-rock essence.
3. "Weather With You" - A whimsical song with catchy lyrics and memorable chorus.
4. "It's Only Natural" - Showcasing their softer, introspective side.
5. "Fall at Your Feet" - A beautifully crafted ballad highlighting Neil Finn's songwriting talents.
6. "Distant Sun" - A reflective song with lush arrangements.
7. "Locked Out" - A powerful track with an engaging rhythm.

Deep Cuts and Lesser-Known Gems

In addition to the chart-toppers, the compilation includes some underrated tracks that showcase the band's versatility:

- "Italian Plastic"
- "Not the Girl You Think You Are"
- "Instinct"
- "Pouring Rain"
- "Everything Is Good for You"

Including these songs provides a richer listening experience and highlights the band's broader musical spectrum.

The Evolution of Crowded House's Sound

Early Years: Pop and New Wave Foundations

Crowded House's debut album, *Crowded House* (1986), established their signature sound—melodic, radio-friendly rock with clever lyrics. Tracks like "Don't Dream It's Over" and "Something So Strong" typify this era, emphasizing memorable melodies and tight arrangements.

Transition and Maturity: Exploring Different Styles

As they progressed, Crowded House began experimenting with more mature themes and diverse arrangements. Albums like *Woodface* (1991) and *Together Alone* (1993) saw them incorporating folk, alternative, and introspective elements. Songs such as "Fall at Your Feet" and "Distant Sun" reflect this artistic growth.

Reunion and Continued Creativity

After a hiatus, Crowded House reunited in 2007, releasing *Time on Earth* and *Intriguer*. These albums introduced a renewed energy and modern sensibility, blending their classic sound with contemporary influences. Tracks like "Don't Stop Now" and "Sunday Sun" demonstrate their ongoing relevance.

The Impact of Crowded House on Music and Culture

Chart Success and Critical Acclaim

Crowded House achieved commercial success across Australia, New Zealand, the UK, and the US. Their singles frequently charted, and they garnered critical praise for their songwriting craftsmanship and melodic sensibility.

Influences and Legacy

The band has influenced numerous artists in the rock and pop genres. Their blend of catchy hooks, heartfelt lyrics, and melodic originality has inspired many musicians worldwide.

Cultural Significance

Songs like "Don't Dream It's Over" have become anthems of hope and resilience, often used in films, commercials, and cultural references, cementing their place in popular culture.

Why Listen to "The Very Very Best of Crowded House"?

For New Listeners

- Comprehensive Introduction: Offers a curated overview of their most essential songs.
- High-Quality Remastering: Ensures optimal listening experience.

For Longtime Fans

- Remastered Classics: Provides fresh takes on beloved tracks.
- Rare and Live Versions: Some editions include alternate takes or live recordings, adding value.

For Collectors

- Limited Editions: Often released in special formats or with bonus material.
- Historical Significance: Celebrates the band's enduring legacy.

How to Experience "The Very Very Best of Crowded House"

Available Formats

- CD and Vinyl: For collectors and audiophiles.
- Digital Download: Easy access via streaming platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.
- Special Editions: Look for deluxe versions with bonus tracks or exclusive artwork.

Recommended Listening Tips

- Start Chronologically: To appreciate their evolution.
- Explore Related Albums: To delve deeper into individual phases.
- Attend Live Performances: If possible, to experience their music in concert.

Conclusion

Crowded House The Very Very Best of Crowded House is more than just a compilation; it's a musical journey through the career of one of the most influential bands of the late 20th century. With their timeless melodies, heartfelt lyrics, and enduring appeal, Crowded House continues to resonate with audiences worldwide. Whether you're new to their music or a dedicated fan, this album offers a perfect gateway to exploring their rich legacy and unforgettable songs.

Final Thoughts

Crowded House's ability to craft songs that are both catchy and emotionally resonant has secured their place in music history. Their greatest hits collection encapsulates the essence of their artistry and provides a lasting tribute to their contribution to the world of music. Dive into The Very Very Best of Crowded House and experience the magic that has captivated generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Very Very Best of Crowded House'?

'The Very Very Best of Crowded House' is a compilation album featuring the most popular and essential tracks by the Australian rock band Crowded House, released to celebrate their greatest hits.

When was 'The Very Very Best of Crowded House' released?

The album was released in 2010, marking a comprehensive collection of the band's most notable songs.

Which hit songs are included in 'The Very Very Best of Crowded House'?

The compilation features classics like 'Don't Dream It's Over,' 'Weather with You,' 'Something So Strong,' 'Into Temptation,' and many other fan favorites.

Is 'The Very Very Best of Crowded House' a studio album or a compilation?

It is a compilation album that collects the band's most successful and popular tracks from various albums.

Does the album include any rare or unreleased tracks?

No, 'The Very Very Best of Crowded House' primarily features their hit singles and well-known songs, without rare or unreleased tracks.

Is this album suitable for new fans of Crowded House?

Absolutely, it's a great starting point for new listeners to experience the band's most iconic songs and get introduced to their music.

Are there any remastered versions of the songs on this compilation?

Some tracks on the album may have been remastered for improved sound quality, but the primary focus is on presenting their classic hits.

How does 'The Very Very Best of Crowded House' compare to other compilation albums by the band?

It is considered one of the most comprehensive and popular compilations, offering a well-curated selection of their biggest hits in one collection.

Can I find 'The Very Very Best of Crowded House' on streaming platforms?

Yes, the album is available on major streaming services like Spotify, Apple Music, and others, making it accessible for digital listeners.

Why is 'The Very Very Best of Crowded House' popular among fans?

Because it encapsulates the band's most successful and beloved songs, making it a perfect collection for both new listeners and longtime fans to enjoy their timeless music.

Additional Resources

Crowded House: The Very Very Best of Crowded House — A Deep Dive into a Musical Legacy

Introduction

Crowded House: The Very Very Best of Crowded House stands as a definitive compilation that encapsulates the enduring legacy of one of Australia's most beloved and influential bands. Released as a curated collection of their most iconic hits, this album not only celebrates their musical achievements but also offers both newcomers and longtime fans an accessible gateway into their rich discography. With a career spanning over three decades, Crowded House has crafted a unique sound that blends melodic pop, rock, and subtle influences from various genres, making their music timeless and universally appealing. This article explores the band's history, their musical evolution, the significance of this compilation, and what makes Crowded House a lasting figure in the global music landscape.

The Origins of Crowded House: From Humble Beginnings to International Stardom

Formation and Early Years

Crowded House was formed in Melbourne, Australia, in 1985, but its roots trace back to the New Zealand-born musician Neil Finn. The band's original lineup included Neil Finn, his brother Tim Finn (formerly of Split Enz), and guitarist Paul Hester. Their initial goal was to create a band that could blend melodic songwriting with a fresh sound, and their early demos quickly drew attention.

The band's debut album, *Crowded House* (1986), was a commercial and critical success, spawning hits like "Don't Dream It's Over" and "Something So Strong." These songs established the band's reputation for crafting emotionally resonant melodies paired with accessible arrangements. Their early sound combined Neil Finn's lyrical craftsmanship with a polished yet heartfelt production style, which helped them stand out in the crowded 1980s music scene.

Building a Global Audience

The band's international breakthrough was driven by their ability to craft memorable, radio-friendly

tracks that transcended borders. "Don't Dream It's Over" became an anthem, topping charts in multiple countries and cementing Crowded House's place on the global stage. Their subsequent albums, *Temple of Low Men* (1988) and *Woodface* (1991), further solidified their reputation, showcasing a band that was both evolving and maintaining its core melodic sensibility.

Crowded House's music resonated across generations, thanks to their skillful songwriting, emotionally honest lyrics, and the relatable themes of love, loss, hope, and introspection. Their ability to balance commercial appeal with artistic integrity set them apart in an era often dominated by more manufactured pop acts.

Musical Evolution and Artistic Highlights

The Signature Sound

Crowded House is renowned for their distinctive sound characterized by Neil Finn's melodic songwriting, intricate arrangements, and a warm, layered production style. Their music often features jangly guitars, steady rhythmic grooves, and Neil Finn's emotive vocals. The band's ability to craft both upbeat anthems and tender ballads contributed to their versatile appeal.

Some of their hallmark characteristics include:

- Melodic hooks that linger in the listener's mind
- Lyrical depth that explores universal themes
- Rich instrumentation blending acoustic and electric elements
- A sense of warmth and intimacy that makes their recordings feel personal

Key Albums and Tracks

Beyond their debut, Crowded House's discography is punctuated with critically acclaimed albums and timeless tracks:

- *Temple of Low Men* (1988): A darker, more introspective album with songs like "Better Be Home Soon" and "Into Temptation."
- *Woodface* (1991): Featuring hit singles "Weather with You," "Four Seasons in One Day," and "It's Only Natural," this album showcased their ability to craft catchy yet meaningful songs.
- *Together Alone* (1993): An exploration of more mature themes and atmospheric sounds.
- *Intriguer* (2010): Marked their reunion and demonstrated their continued vitality and musical relevance.

Crowded House's ability to evolve while maintaining their core sound has kept their music fresh and engaging across decades.

The Significance of "The Very Very Best of Crowded House"

Curating a Musical Legacy

The Very Very Best of Crowded House serves as a carefully curated anthology that distills decades of musical innovation into a coherent listening experience. It functions as both an introduction for new listeners and a nostalgic journey for longtime fans. The compilation includes many of their chart-

topping singles, fan favorites, and hidden gems, providing a comprehensive snapshot of their career.

Highlights of the Compilation

While tracklists may vary across editions, typical selections include:

- "Don't Dream It's Over" — Their signature ballad and international hit
- "Weather with You" — Upbeat, jangly, and quintessentially Crowded House
- "Something So Strong" — An energetic, feel-good anthem
- "Better Be Home Soon" — A heartfelt plea with memorable melodies
- "Four Seasons in One Day" — A vivid depiction of changing moods and weather
- "Fall at Your Feet" — A tender acoustic ballad that showcases Neil Finn's songwriting skills

This collection not only highlights their commercial successes but also underscores their consistent ability to craft emotionally resonant music.

Why It Matters

The compilation underscores Crowded House's influence on contemporary pop and rock music. Their songwriting has inspired countless artists and continues to be referenced in various musical contexts. The album also plays a vital role in preserving their legacy in a music industry that often favors fleeting trends over lasting artistry.

Crowded House's Cultural and Musical Impact

Enduring Popularity and Critical Acclaim

Crowded House's influence extends beyond their hit singles. They've been praised for their songwriting craftsmanship, melodic sense, and ability to connect with listeners on a personal level. Their music has been covered, sampled, and referenced by numerous artists across genres, attesting to their broad impact.

Critics have lauded their albums for their craftsmanship and emotional depth, with many considering *Woodface* and *Temple of Low Men* as modern classics. Their longevity is a testament to their ability to adapt and remain relevant.

Influence on Other Artists

Many contemporary musicians cite Crowded House as a key influence:

- Indie and alternative bands often draw inspiration from their melodic sensibilities.
- Songwriters appreciate Neil Finn's lyrical honesty and craftsmanship.
- Producers value their warm, layered production style.

Their influence is evident in the works of bands like The Smashing Pumpkins, Coldplay, and Radiohead, who have acknowledged the band's contribution to their musical development.

The Band's Continued Relevance and Future Prospects

Reunion and Recent Activities

Crowded House reunited in 2010 after a hiatus, releasing *Intriguer* and touring extensively. Their renewed activity demonstrated their enduring appeal and commitment to their craft. Neil Finn, in particular, continues to produce solo work and collaborate with various artists, keeping the spirit of Crowded House alive.

Ongoing Legacy

The band's influence persists, and their music remains relevant through streaming platforms, live performances, and curated compilations like *The Very Very Best of Crowded House*. Their songs continue to resonate with new generations, cementing their place in the pantheon of great pop/rock bands.

Conclusion: Why Crowded House Continues to Enchant

Crowded House: The Very Very Best of Crowded House encapsulates a band that has mastered the art of melodic storytelling. Their music's universal themes, memorable melodies, and emotional honesty continue to touch listeners worldwide. As a band that seamlessly blends craftsmanship with heartfelt expression, Crowded House remains a vital part of the musical landscape.

Whether you're discovering their music for the first time or revisiting old favorites, this compilation offers a comprehensive and accessible look into a band whose songs have stood the test of time. Their legacy is one of enduring artistry, proof that genuine songwriting can have a lasting impact on generations of music lovers.

In essence, Crowded House's journey from humble beginnings to international stardom, and their ability to craft timeless songs, make *The Very Very Best of Crowded House* not just a collection but a celebration of musical excellence. Their influence continues to inspire, reminding us of the power of melody, lyricism, and authentic emotion in creating enduring art.

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