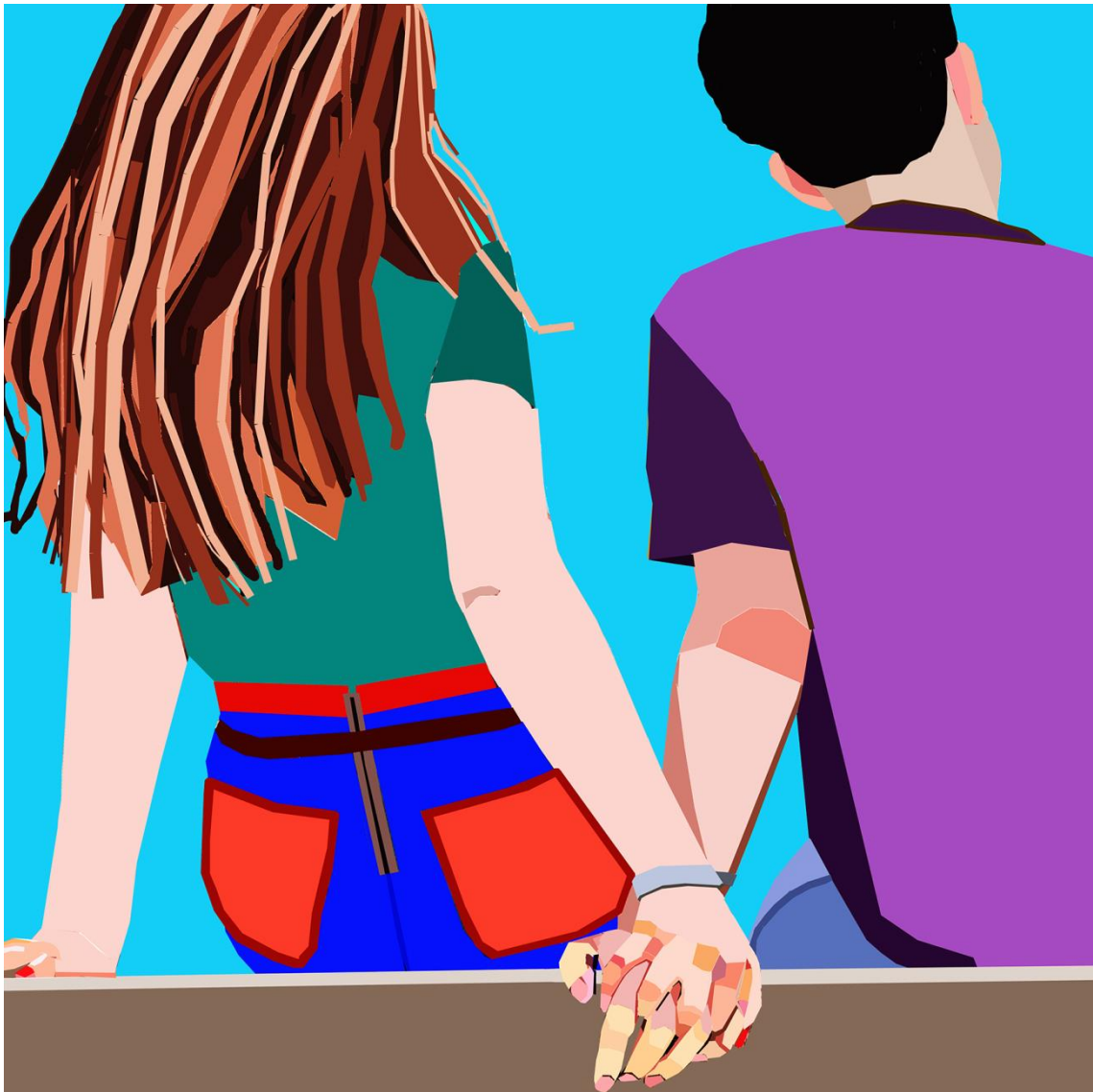


SENTIMENT AND SONG

by
Jan Levy



Introduction

Music and visual art are closely connected and one of the artist's aim is to 'play' with and draw attention to this relationship.

There are 9 images here and each represents a different song. The idea is for the viewer to work out what song each picture represents. The artist has chosen both current and older songs.

One of the aims is to express different sentiments through image and to allow the viewer to 'work out' the connection of song and image.

I list below a brief synopsis of each picture.

"I wanna hold your hand" – The Beatles - 1963

The Beatles were an English rock band that formed in Liverpool in 1960. With members John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, they became widely regarded as the greatest and most influential act of the rock era. Rooted in skiffle, beat and 1950s rock and roll, the Beatles later experimented with several genres, ranging from pop ballads and Indian music to psychedelic and hard rock, often incorporating classical elements in innovative ways. In the early 1960s, their enormous popularity first emerged as "Beatlemania", but as the group's music grew in sophistication, led by primary songwriters Lennon and McCartney, they came to be perceived as an embodiment of the ideals shared by the era's sociocultural revolutions.

The Beatles built their reputation playing clubs in Liverpool and Hamburg over a three-year period from 1960. Manager Brian Epstein moulded them into a professional act and producer George Martin enhanced their musical potential. They gained popularity in the United Kingdom after their first hit, "Love Me Do", in late 1962. They acquired the nickname "the Fab Four" as Beatlemania grew in Britain over the following year, and by early 1964 they had become international stars, leading the "British Invasion" of the United States pop market. From 1965 onwards, the Beatles produced what many consider their finest material, including the innovative and widely influential albums *Rubber Soul* (1965), *Revolver* (1966), *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967), *The Beatles* (commonly known as the White Album, 1968) and *Abbey Road* (1969). After their break-up in 1970, they each enjoyed successful musical careers. Lennon was shot and killed in December 1980, and Harrison died of lung cancer in November 2001. McCartney and Starr, the surviving members, remain musically active.

According to the RIAA, the Beatles are the best-selling music artists in the United States, with 178 million certified units. They have had more number-one albums on the British charts and sold more singles in the UK than any other act. In 2008, the group topped *Billboard* magazine's list of the all-time most successful "Hot 100" artists; as of 2015, they hold the record for most number-one hits on the Hot 100

chart with twenty. They have received ten Grammy Awards, an Academy Award for Best Original Score and fifteen Ivor Novello Awards. Collectively included in *Time* magazine's compilation of the twentieth century's 100 most influential people, they are the best-selling band in history, with estimated sales of over 600 million records worldwide.

"I wanna hold your hand" – this iconic classic love song was recorded in October 1963 by the Beatles. It was written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

With advance orders exceeding one million copies in the United Kingdom, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" would have gone straight to the top of the British record charts on its day of release (29 November 1963) had it not been blocked by the group's first million seller "She Loves You", their previous UK single, which was having a resurgence of popularity following intense media coverage of the group. Taking two weeks to dislodge its predecessor, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" stayed at number one for five weeks and remained in the UK top fifty for twenty-one weeks in total

It was also the group's first American number one, entering the Billboard Hot 100 chart on 18 January 1964 at number forty-five and starting the British invasion of the American music industry. By 1 February it held the number-one spot, and stayed there for seven weeks before being replaced by "She Loves You", a reverse scenario of what had occurred in Britain. It remained on the US charts for a total of fifteen weeks. "I Want to Hold Your Hand" became the Beatles' best-selling single worldwide. In 2013, Billboard Magazine named it the 44th biggest hit of "all-time" on the Billboard Hot 100 charts.

"Happy" – Pharrell Williams

Pharrell Williams (born April 5, 1973), also known simply as **Pharrell**, is an American singer-songwriter, rapper, record producer, and fashion designer. Williams and Chad Hugo make up the record production duo the Neptunes, producing soul, hip hop and R&B music. He is also the lead vocalist and drummer of rock, funk, and hip hop band N.E.R.D, which he formed with Hugo and childhood friend Shay Haley. He released his first single "Frontin'" in 2003 and followed up with his debut solo album *In My Mind* in 2006.^[1] His second album, *Girl*, was released on March 3, 2014.

As part of the Neptunes, Williams has produced numerous hit singles for various recording artists. Williams has earned eleven Grammy Awards including two with the Neptunes. He currently owns a media venture that encompasses entertainment, music, fashion, and art called i am OTHER, a multi-media creative collective and record label that serves as an umbrella for all of Pharrell Williams' endeavors, including Billionaire Boys Club and Ice Cream apparel, Billionaire Girls Club, textile company Bionic Yarn and a dedicated YouTube channel launched in 2012. The channel was launched on May 12, 2012 as part of YouTube's \$100 million original channel initiative.

"Happy" is a song written, produced, and performed by Pharrell Williams from the *Despicable Me 2* soundtrack album. It also served as the lead single from Williams' second studio album, *Girl* (2014). It was first released on November 21, 2013, alongside a long-form music video. The song was reissued on December 16, 2013,

by Back Lot Music under exclusive licence to Columbia Records, a division of Sony Music.

"Happy" is a mid tempo soul song on which Williams' falsetto voice has been compared to Curtis Mayfield by critics. The song has been highly successful, peaking at number one in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and 19 other countries. It is the best-selling song of 2014 in the United States with 6.45 million copies sold for the year, as well as in the United Kingdom with 1.5 million copies sold for the year. It reached number one in the UK on a record three separate occasions, and became the most downloaded song of all time in the UK in September 2014. As of July 2014, the song has sold 12 million copies world wide, becoming one of the best-selling singles of all time. It was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song. It has been on the UK top 75 chart for 65 consecutive weeks as of w/e February 28, 2015. A live rendition of the song won the Grammy Award for Best Pop Solo Performance at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards.

The music video for the song was nominated for Best Male Video and Video of the Year at the 2014 MTV Video Music Awards. It also won the Grammy Award for Best Music Video at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards. The song was *Billboard's* number-one single for 2014.

"Cold Shoulder" – Adele

Adele Laurie Blue Adkins, MBE (born 5 May 1988) is a British singer and songwriter. Adele was offered a recording contract from XL Recordings after a friend posted her demo on Myspace in 2006. In 2007 she received the Brit Awards "Critics' Choice" award and won the BBC Sound of 2008. Her debut album, *19*, was also released in 2008 to commercial and critical success. It certified four times platinum in the UK, and double platinum in the U.S. Her career in the U.S. was boosted by a *Saturday Night Live* appearance in late 2008. At the 51st Annual Grammy Awards, Adele received the awards for Best New Artist and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.

Adele released her second studio album, *21*, in early 2011. The album was well received critically and surpassed the success of her debut, earning the singer numerous awards in 2012, including a record-tying six Grammy Awards^[9] including Album of the Year; two Brit Awards; and three American Music Awards. The album has been certified 16 times platinum in the UK, and in the U.S. it has held the top position longer than any album since 1985, and is certified Diamond. The album has sold 30 million copies worldwide. She has sold an estimated 40 million albums and 50 million singles worldwide.

The success of *21* earned Adele numerous mentions in the *Guinness World Records*. She is the first female in the history of the *Billboard* Hot 100 to have three simultaneous top 10 singles as a lead artist, and the first female artist to simultaneously have two albums in the top five of the *Billboard* 200 and two singles in the top five of the *Billboard* Hot 100. *21* is the longest running number one album by a female solo artist in the history of the UK and U.S. Album Charts. In 2011 and 2012, *Billboard* named Adele Artist of the Year. In 2012, she was listed at number five on VH1's 100 Greatest Women in Music, and the American magazine *Time*

named her one of the most influential people in the world. In 2013, she received an Academy Award, a Grammy Award as well as a Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song for her song "Skyfall", written for the James Bond film of the same name.

"**Cold Shoulder**" is the third single from soul singer Adele released from her debut album *19*. It was released digitally in Ireland on 30 March 2008 and in the UK on 31 March 2008. This is the only song on the album to be produced by Mark Ronson. Ex-Jamiroquai bassist Stuart Zender plays on the song who is also part of Mark Ronson's touring band. Adele performed the song on *Friday Night with Jools Holland* on 8 February 2008 and on Saturday Night Live during the 18 October 2008 show. A remix by Basement Jaxx has also been receiving airplay and is digitally available.

"You and I" – One Direction

One Direction (commonly abbreviated as **1D**) are an English-Irish pop boy band based in London, comprising Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Liam Payne, Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson. They signed with Simon Cowell's record label Syco Records after forming and finishing third in the seventh series of the British televised singing competition *The X Factor* in 2010. Propelled to international success by social media, One Direction's four albums, *Up All Night* (2011), *Take Me Home* (2012), *Midnight Memories* (2013) and *Four* (2014) broke records, topped charts in most major markets, and generated hit singles including "What Makes You Beautiful", "Live While We're Young", "Story of My Life" and "Steal My Girl".

Their achievements include four Brit Awards, four MTV Video Music Awards, eleven MTV Europe Music Awards, and nineteen Teen Choice Awards out of nineteen nominations, among many others. According to Nick Gatfield, the chairman and chief executive of Sony Music Entertainment UK, One Direction represented a \$50 million business empire by June 2012. They were proclaimed 2012's "Top New Artist" by *Billboard*. According to the *Sunday Times Rich List*, by April 2013, they had an estimated personal combined wealth of £25 million (\$41.2m) making them the second-wealthiest musicians in the UK under 30 years of age. In 2014, *Forbes* listed them the second-highest earning celebrities under 30, with the group earning an estimated \$75 million from June 2013 to June 2014.

After the release of *Four*, One Direction became the first band in the U.S. *Billboard* 200 history to have their first four albums debut at number one. Their third album, *Midnight Memories*, was the biggest-selling album worldwide of 2013 despite being released in later November.^[6] In 2014, *Billboard* named One Direction the top artist of the year.

"**You & I**" song released by One Direction, taken from their third studio album *Midnight Memories* (2013). It was written by Julian Bunetta, John Ryan and Jamie Scott, with production being handled by Bunetta and Ryan. "You & I" was released as the album's fourth and final single, first impacting US contemporary hit radio on 15 April 2014 by Columbia Records and later being released in Europe on 23 May 2014. An EP containing a remix created by band member Liam Payne was also released.

"You & I" is a soft rock ballad. It received generally favorable reviews from music critics, who named it a "cinematic", "elegant" and more "grown-up" ballad. Commercially, the song managed to reach the top forty in most countries, while it reached the top twenty in the UK and top ten in Ireland. A music video for the song caused controversy due to the 'freeze' on screen being similar to the music video from Australian band Clubfeet.

"Where is the Love" – Black Eyed Peas

The Black Eyed Peas is an American hip hop group, consisting of rappers will.i.am, apl.de.ap, Taboo, and singer Fergie. Originally an alternative hip hop group, they subsequently added R&B, pop and EDM/dance influences. Although the group was founded in Los Angeles in 1995, it was not until the release of their third album *Elephunk* in 2003 that they achieved high record sales. Since that time, the group has sold an estimated 76 million records (35 million albums and 41 million singles), making them one of the world's best-selling groups of all time. According to Nielsen SoundScan, the Black Eyed Peas were the second-best-selling artist/group of all time for downloaded tracks, with over 42 million sales as of the end of 2011.

Their first major hit was the 2003 single "Where Is the Love?" from *Elephunk*, which topped the charts in 13 countries, including the United Kingdom, where it spent seven weeks at number one and went on to become Britain's biggest selling single of 2003. Another European hit single from the album was "Shut Up". Their fourth album, *Monkey Business*, was an even bigger worldwide success, certified 4x Platinum in the U.S., and spawning four singles, "Don't Phunk with My Heart", "Don't Lie", "My Humps" and "Pump It". In 2009, the group became one of only 11 artists to have simultaneously held the No. 1 and No. 2 spots on the *Billboard* Hot 100, with their singles "Boom Boom Pow" and "I Gotta Feeling", which topped the chart for an unprecedented 26 consecutive weeks. This album *The E.N.D.* later produced a third Hot 100 number-one placement with "Imma Be", making the group one of few to ever place three number one singles on the chart from the same album, before being followed with "Rock That Body" and "Meet Me Halfway", which peaked in the Top 10 of the Hot 100. "I Gotta Feeling" became the first single to sell more than one million downloads in the United Kingdom.

The Black Eyed Peas were ranked 12th on *Billboard's* Decade-End Chart Artist of the Decade, and 7th in the Hot 100 Artists of the Decade. At the 52nd Grammy Awards ceremony, held in January 2010, they won three awards out of six nominations. In November 2010, they released the album *The Beginning*. In February 2011, the group performed at the Super Bowl XLV halftime show. The album's first two singles, "The Time (Dirty Bit)" and "Just Can't Get Enough", became international hits and topped the charts in many countries. The single "Don't Stop the Party" became an international hit too.

"Where Is the Love" recorded by the American hip hop group The Black Eyed Peas. It was released in June 2003 as the lead single from their third album, *Elephunk*. It is the band's first record to feature Fergie. The song features uncredited vocals from Justin Timberlake.

It peaked at number eight on the *Billboard* Hot 100, and topped the charts in Australia and the United Kingdom. It became the biggest-selling single of 2003 in the latter country. The band received two nominations, Record of the Year and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration, for "Where Is the Love?" at the 46th Grammy Awards.

"Where Is the Love?" debuted at number nine on the Hot 100 in early July 2003 and spent 12 weeks inside the top 10, though the song only peaked at number eight. This at the time was the longest time a song had ever spent in the top 10 without peaking above number 5. The reason for this was fluctuating airplay and singles sales. It ended up only spending 26 weeks on the chart, quickly declining on the Hot 100 after it left the top 10 in December of 2003.

"You're Beautiful" - James Blunt

James Hillier Blount (born 22 February 1974), better known by his stage name James Blunt, is an English singer-songwriter. He had signed with EMI before securing a recording contract with Atlantic Records and Custard Records.

Blunt rose to prominence in 2004 with the release of his debut studio album *Back to Bedlam*, before achieving worldwide fame with the singles "You're Beautiful" and "Goodbye My Lover". The album sold over 11 million copies worldwide, topping the UK Albums Chart and peaking at number two in the US. Blunt's second album, *All the Lost Souls*, which was released in 2007, topped the charts in over 20 countries and produced the hit single "1973". His third album, *Some Kind of Trouble*, was released in 2010, after its lead single *Stay the Night*. A deluxe edition was released the following year, titled *Some Kind of Trouble: Revisited*. In 2013, he released his fourth album, *Moon Landing*, which was preceded by the lead single "Bonfire Heart", which peaked at number four in the UK Singles Chart following promotion on *The One Show* and *The Graham Norton Show*, as well as receiving extensive radio airplay.

Blunt has sold over 20 million albums and 17 million singles worldwide, with his debut album, *Back to Bedlam*, being listed as the best selling album of the 2000s in the UK.¹ He has received several awards and nominations, having won two Brit Awards, two MTV Video Music Awards, two Ivor Novello Awards as well as receiving five Grammy Award nominations.

Blunt was an officer in the Life Guards, a cavalry regiment of the British Army, and served under NATO in Kosovo during the conflict in 1999. While posted to Kosovo, Blunt was introduced to the work of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF or "Doctors Without Borders"). Since then, Blunt has been an active supporter of MSF by holding meet-and-greet auctions at many of his concerts, and filming the documentary *Return to Kosovo*, in which he visited the people and places he had encountered while stationed there. Blunt is a patron of Help for Heroes, a charity aiming to raise money to provide better facilities for wounded British soldiers.

"**You're Beautiful**" is a song co-written by British singer James Blunt, Sacha Skarbek, and Amanda Ghost for Blunt's debut album, *Back to Bedlam* (2004). It was released as the third single from the album in 2005.

In the United Kingdom and Australia the song reached number one and number two respectively. When released as the debut single from *Back to Bedlam* in Canada and the United States, it reached number one on both charts and received widespread airplay. In 2006, the song won an Ivor Novello Award for airplay. The song has sold 625,000 copies in the United Kingdom as stated by the Official Charts Company, and by October 2012 over 3 million in the United States. It remains Blunt's biggest hit single in the United States to date, and his only one to reach the Top 40 of the *Billboard* Hot 100. In 2012, a new version of the single was issued in Japan. The Q;indivi+ Remix, featuring Japanese performer Keri, was issued on 28 March 2012.

"The Climb" – Miley Cyrus

Miley Ray Cyrus (born **Destiny Hope Cyrus**; November 23, 1992) is an American singer, songwriter, and actress. Her father is country singer Billy Ray Cyrus. She held minor roles in the television series *Doc* and the film *Big Fish* in her childhood. In 2006, Cyrus rose to prominence as a teen idol after being cast in the Disney Channel television series *Hannah Montana*, in which she portrayed the starring character Miley Stewart. After signing a recording contract with Hollywood Records in 2007, Cyrus released her debut studio album *Meet Miley Cyrus*. It was certified quadruple-platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for exceeding four million shipments, and produced the hit single "See You Again".

In 2008, Cyrus released her second album *Breakout*, which featured the successful track "7 Things", and launched her film career as the voice actress in the animated film *Bolt*. In 2009, Cyrus starred in the feature film *Hannah Montana: The Movie*; its soundtrack produced the hit single "The Climb". Cyrus developed a maturing image with the EP *The Time of Our Lives* (2009), which featured the successful track "Party in the U.S.A.". The transition continued with her third album *Can't Be Tamed* (2010); the title track would become another top ten for Cyrus, however, it made little commercial impact and became the lowest-selling record of her career. Later that year, Cyrus starred in the coming-of-age film *The Last Song*. During its production, she was involved in an on-again, off-again relationship with her co-star Liam Hemsworth; the couple ultimately separated after ending their year-long engagement in 2013.

Cyrus focused on her acting career with several television and film appearances throughout 2011 and 2012. Cyrus later signed a recording contract with RCA Records, and generated controversy by cultivating a sexually explicit public image while promoting her fourth studio album *Bangerz* (2013). Its singles "We Can't Stop" and "Wrecking Ball" were promoted with controversial music videos; the latter became her first number-one hit on the U.S. *Billboard* Hot 100.

Cyrus has had five non-consecutive number-one albums on the U.S. *Billboard* 200, two of which are soundtracks credited to her titular character Hannah Montana, and has earned numerous awards and nominations. In 2010, Cyrus ranked number thirteen on *Forbes'* Celebrity 100, and was named the "Most Charted Teenager" in

the 2011 *Guinness World Records* with twenty-nine *Billboard* Hot 100 entries as of November 2009. In 2013, she was declared "Artist of the Year" by MTV.

"The Climb" is a song performed by American singer Miley Cyrus, for the 2009 film *Hannah Montana: The Movie*. The song was written by Jessi Alexander and Jon Mabe, and produced by John Shanks. It was released on March 12, 2009, as the lead single of the film's soundtrack by Walt Disney Records. The song is a power ballad with lyrics that describe life as a difficult but rewarding journey. It is styled as a country pop ballad, and was Cyrus' first solo song to be released to country radio. The instrumentation includes piano, guitar and violins.

"The Climb" was generally well received by critics and was nominated for the Best Song Written for a Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Media at the 52nd Grammy Awards. However, the song was withdrawn from consideration by Walt Disney Records because it had not been written specifically for a movie as the category's eligibility rules required. The song achieved worldwide success and became a top ten hit on charts in Australia, Canada, Norway and the United States. In the United States, the song peaked at number four on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and became the eighth best selling digital single of 2009. Five months after its release, the single was certified triple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Since, it has been recognized as one of the best-selling singles in the United States.

The song's accompanying music video was directed by Matthew Rolston, and depicts scenes of Cyrus climbing a mountain or singing, intercut with clips of *Hannah Montana: The Movie*. Cyrus promoted the song with several live performances. The first, at the Kids Inaugural: "We Are the Future" event on January 19, 2009, was the first time the song had ever been publicly heard. Cyrus also performed the song as the closing number of her Wonder World Tour. The song was also performed during the Gypsy Heart Tour. "The Climb" has been covered by several artists and was the most popular choice of song among auditioners for the ninth season of the American singing contest, *American Idol*, with Hollie Cavanagh performing it in the top 6 of the eleventh season. Simon Cowell, creator of the British television talent show *The X Factor*, chose "The Climb" to be the debut single of the winner of the competition's sixth series. Winner Joe McElderry's cover, released on December 14, 2009 by Syco Music, was produced by Quiz & Larossi and topped the Irish Singles Chart and the UK Singles Chart.

"When you wish upon a star"

"When You Wish Upon a Star" is a song written by Leigh Harline and Ned Washington for Walt Disney's 1940 adaptation of *Pinocchio*. The original version was sung by Cliff Edwards in the character of Jiminy Cricket, and is heard over the opening credits and in the final scene of the film. The song has since become the representative song of The Walt Disney Company. The recording by Cliff Edwards and Chorus was released by Victor Records as catalogue number 261546 and 26477A (in USA) and by EMI on the His Master's Voice Label as catalogue number BD 821.

Edwards recorded another version in 1940 for an American Decca Records "cover version" of the score of *Pinocchio*, conducted by Victor Young and featuring soprano Julietta Novis and The King's Men. It was first released on a 4-record 78-RPM album set, and years later as one side of an LP, backed by selections from *The Wizard of Oz*. A recording with Christian Rub (with Mister Geppetto's voice), Cliff Edwards and Chorus was released by Victor Records as catalogue number 26479B (in USA) and by EMI on the His Master's Voice label as catalogue number BD 823. It won the 1940 Academy Award for Best Original Song. It was also the first Disney song to win an Oscar.

The American Film Institute ranked "When You Wish Upon a Star" seventh in their 100 Greatest Songs in Film History, the highest ranked Disney animated film song, and also one of only four Disney animated film songs to appear on the list, the others being "Someday My Prince Will Come" from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* ranked at #19, "Beauty and the Beast" from *Beauty and the Beast* ranked at #62, and "Hakuna Matata" from *The Lion King*, ranked at #99.

"The Animals – "The House of the Rising Sun"

The Animals were a British band of the 1960s, formed in Newcastle upon Tyne during the early part of the decade. The band moved to London upon finding fame in 1964. The Animals were known for their gritty, bluesy sound and deep-voiced frontman Eric Burdon, as exemplified by their signature song and transatlantic No.1 hit single, "The House of the Rising Sun", as well as by hits such as "We Gotta Get out of This Place", "It's My Life", "I'm Crying" and "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood". The band balanced tough, rock-edged pop singles against rhythm and blues-oriented album material. They were known in the US as part of the British Invasion.

The Animals underwent numerous personnel changes in the mid-1960s and suffered from poor business management. Under the name **Eric Burdon and the Animals**, the much-changed act moved to California and achieved commercial success as a psychedelic and hard rock band with hits like "San Franciscan Nights", "When I Was Young" and "Sky Pilot", before disbanding at the end of the decade. Altogether, the group had ten Top Twenty hits in both the UK Singles Chart and the US *Billboard* Hot 100.

The original lineup had brief comebacks in 1975 and 1983. There have been several partial regroupings of the original era members since then under various names. The Animals were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

The House of the Rising Sun is a traditional folk song, sometimes called "**Rising Sun Blues**". It tells of a life gone wrong in New Orleans. The most successful commercial version, recorded in 1964 by the English rock group The Animals, was a number one hit in the United Kingdom, the United States, Sweden, Finland, Canada and Australia.

An interview with Eric Burdon revealed that he first heard the song in a club in Newcastle, England, where it was sung by the Northumbrian folk singer Johnny Handle. The Animals were on tour with Chuck Berry and chose it because they wanted something distinctive to sing. This interview refutes assertions that the

inspiration for their arrangement came from Bob Dylan. The band enjoyed a huge hit with the song, much to Dylan's chagrin when his version was referred to as a cover. The irony of this was not lost on Dave Van Ronk, who said the whole issue was a "tempest in a teapot," and that Dylan stopped playing the song after The Animals' hit because fans accused Dylan of plagiarism. Dylan has said he first heard The Animals' version on his car radio and "jumped out of his car seat" because he liked it so much.

Dave Marsh described The Animals' take on "The House of the Rising Sun" as "...the first folk-rock hit," sounding "...as if they'd connected the ancient tune to a live wire." Writer Ralph McLean of the BBC agreed that, "It was arguably the first folk rock tune," calling it "a revolutionary single" after which "the face of modern music was changed forever. Van Ronk claims that this version was based on his arrangement of the song.

The Animals' version transposes the narrative of the song from the point of view of a woman led into a life of degradation, to that of a man, whose father was now a gambler and drunkard, as opposed to the sweetheart in earlier versions.

The Animals had begun featuring their arrangement of "House of the Rising Sun" during a joint concert tour with Chuck Berry, using it as their closing number to differentiate themselves from acts that always closed with straight rockers. It got a tremendous reaction from the audience, convincing initially reluctant producer Mickie Most that it had hit potential and between tour stops the group went to a small recording studio on Kingsway in London to capture it.

Recorded in just one take on 18 May 1964, it starts with a now-famous electric guitar A minor chord arpeggio by . The performance takes off with Burdon's lead vocal, which has been variously described as howling, and soulful. Finally, Alan Price's pulsating organ part (played on a Vox Continental) completes the sound. Burdon later said, "We were looking for a song that would grab people's attention."

"House of the Rising Sun" was a trans-Atlantic hit: after having reached the top of the UK pop singles chart in July 1964, it topped the U.S. pop singles chart two months later in September, when it became the first British Invasion number one unconnected with The Beatles; it was the group's breakthrough hit in both countries and became their signature song.¹ The song was also a hit in a number of other countries, but was less successful in Ireland, where it only reached #10 and dropped off the charts one week later. Ireland had the showband scene, and rhythm and blues was not particularly popular.

The Animals' rendering of the song is recognized as one of the classics of British pop music. Writer Lester Bangs labeled it "a brilliant rearrangement" and "a new standard rendition of an old standard composition."¹⁷ It ranked number 122 on *Rolling Stone* magazine's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time list. It is also one of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll. The RIAA placed it as number 240 on their Songs of the Century list. In 1999 it received a Grammy Hall of Fame Award. It has long since become a staple of oldies and classic rock radio formats. A 2005 Channel Five poll ranked it as Britain's fourth-favourite number one song.

As recorded, "House of the Rising Sun" ran four and a half minutes, regarded as far too long for a pop single at the time. Producer Most, who otherwise minimized his role, said that on this occasion – "Everything was in the right place ... It only took 15 minutes to make so I can't take much credit for the production"– nonetheless was now a believer and declared it as a single at its full length, saying "We're in a microgroove world now, we will release it."