

PART I - #THETWEN2IE5 - HMs (Arron)

OCTOBER (posted)

1. REMA, 'Calm Down' (2022)
2. JENNIE, 'Like Jennie' (2025)
3. MAARJA NUUT & RUUM, 'Kuud Kuulama' (NOEP remix) (2021)
4. TATE MCRAE, 'Sports Car' (2025)
5. JOSHUA IDEHEN, 'Mum Does The Washing' (2024)

NOVEMBER (extra)

By artists duplicated in main list (who also released my 5 favourite albums of the 2020s)

6. AMAARAE, 'S.M.O.' (2025)
I obviously want to get behind her most likely qualifier, as Fountain Baby appears doomed unfortunately.
7. AMAARAE, 'Co-Star' (2023)
That said, here's my favourite of the songs that did score points. I cannot be a "horrible" Libra and betray her.
8. BEYONCÉ, 'Bodyguard' (2024)
As with that album below, too easy to go mad on Renaissance. This contrast more than earns the third pick.
9. MEGAN THEE STALLION ft BEYONCÉ, 'Savage' (remix) (2020)
Megan's vote fell off a cliff in Month 2 sadly - this is my contribution to sa(l)vaging some of the wreckage.
10. CHARLI XCX, 'Forever' (2020)
Best non-Brat; has some points already. Not keen to indulge myself any further with Brat; it'll be fine.
No third pick for JOCKSTRAP. It would have been 'Concrete Over Water', but 0 points!. And see below
No third pick for ROSALIA - hard enough getting one Spanish-language song in. See you again in Part IV...

By artists appearing once in main list (in descending order from highest ranked)

11. NIA ARCHIVES, 'Baiana' (2022)
Banger I agonised over for the 50 before limiting my duplicates in a sensible way. Obvious consolation of 5 points.
12. CONFIDENCE MAN & JADE, 'Gossip' (2025)
One of my songs of the summer; a dream collaboration in which angelic Jade steals the line of the year.
13. KENDRICK LAMAR, The Heart Part 5 (2022)
14. KENDRICK LAMAR, 'Euphoria' (2024)
First is a "protest vote" - this had two 12s and a 10 before 1st October, then wasn't posted ONCE in 50 days.
Second is because he really shouldn't end up with only 'Not Like Us' in the 20s section of Part V.
15. LITTLE SIMZ ft OBONGJAYAR, 'Point And Kill' (2021)
'Point and Kill' into 'Fear No Man' may be the best bit of album sequencing of the 20s. Glad we woke up on P&K.
16. DOECHII, 'Denial Is A River' (2024)
Slightly resent it taking all the points instead of 'Nissan', but undeniably clever, meta and brilliantly executed.
17. OLIVIA RODRIGO, 'Good 4 U' (2021)
Derivative of music I didn't love at the time, but y'know: "LIKE A DAMN SOCIOPATH!" A true pop star.
18. DUA LIPA, 'Physical' (2020)
Never not picking two from Future Nostalgia: my joint favourite will pop up in #TheTenx5, so here's the bronze.
19. RAYE, 'Genesis.' (2024)
Not many record-breaking Brit Awards winners take a left turn as ambitious and dramatic as this.
20. DOJA CAT ft SZA, 'Kiss Me More' (2021)
As sexy as 'Say So' and Doja really needs the points. SZA doing 'KMM' solo on the Grand National Tour sealed it.
21. LISA ft DOJA CAT & RAYE, 'Born Again' (2025)
Might as well combine two of the above with K-pop and an outside chance of a 2025 breakout in Part IV.
22. PINKPANTHERESS, 'Illegal' including remixes (2025)
23. PINKPANTHERESS, 'Stateside' including remixes (2025)
My album/project of the year deserves a double, especially with Part IV in mind. The exact approach that launched my pop Indian summer, emulated by someone born only about a year before the release of 'Freak Like Me'.
24. SOFIA KOURTESIS, 'Si Te Portas Bonito' (2023)
I gave the edge to 'La Perla' for sentimental reasons - both deserve every point they can muster.
25. WET LEG, 'Angelica' (2022)
*Probably my favourite Wet Leg *song*, if not quite living up to the *moment* I actually picked. Still worth 5.*
26. SELF ESTEEM, 'I Do This All The Time' (2021)
A '6 Music Dad' I know (and saw her live in Bristol with) said it inspires his daughters and moves him profoundly.

Songs with at least 5 picks including HMs which I want to boost (alphabetical by artist)

27. AESPA, 'Supernova' (2024)

Added to my playlist quite late, but a strong favourite among the rich pickings of K-pop.

28. BURIAL, 'Dark Gethsemane' (2021)

Enough of us remembered this from the 2021 PPP for it to be a (surprise?) contender - happy to help.

29. CORINNE BAILEY RAE, 'New York Transit Queen' (2023)

An album that stands as one of the decade's great surprise packages, and easy to support the "big one" from it.

30. DANGER MOUSE & BLACK THOUGHT ft MF DOOM, 'Belize' (2022)

Always likely to pick the one doing best out of this and 'Aquamarine'

31. HIKARU UTADA, 'Somewhere Near Marseilles' (2022)

Dropped reluctantly from the 50 on length, but always getting 5 points. Delighted by its showing.

32. LET'S EAT GRANDMA, 'Happy New Year' (2022)

Preferred 'Levitation' at the outset, but this is scoring much better. They will be back in #TheTenx5 (and how).

33. MAGDALENA BAY, 'Chaeri' (2021)

34. MAGDALENA BAY, 'Cry For Me' (2024)

Probably the best act I left out of the main list, so they had to have a double, and I just went for maximum impact.

35. PHELMUNCASI, 'I Don't Feel My Legs' (2022)

Another milestone in my embracing of various African music genres during 2022.

36. RUN THE JEWELS ft PHARRELL WILLIAMS & ZACK DE LA ROCHA, 'Ju\$t' (2020)

Nearly took one of my last two slots. Vital part of the 2020 PPP and the artistic response to Black Lives Matter.

37. SUDAN ARCHIVES, 'Selfish Soul' (2022)

My next gig! Didn't want it to win the 2022 PPP because it went up against my No.2, but come on... brilliant.

38. SZA, 'Kill Bill' (2022)

Judgement call - kept SZA in reserve and decided to get behind the ones doing best rather than split her vote.

39. TYLA, 'Water' (2023)

Replaced 'Concrete Over...' today! Damned if I let a South African crossover hit get, er, holed below the water line.

40. THE WEEKND, 'Blinding Lights' (2020)

Impossible to argue against, not that I was inclined to try. 5 points was a rare concession to "doesn't need my help".

41. YOUNG FATHERS, 'I Saw' (2022)

Discovered them late with Heavy Heavy; reserved a slot for the one doing best.

Other 2025 boosts (including Jonathan and Dave - alphabetical by artist)

42. ADDISON RAE, 'Headphones On' (2025)

Gosh I was so ready to be cynical, then all those hooks on her debut album beat me into submission.

43. CMAT, 'Euro-Country' (2025)

44. CMAT, 'The Jamie Oliver Patrol Station' (2025)

Was going to be just the fascinatingly quirky, unique perspective of 'Jamie Oliver' before HMs sent that flying high, so I'll give the title track a slightly better chance for Part IV as well.

45. NELLY FURTADO, 'Corazon' (DJ Arana remix 2025, or ft Bomba Estereo in 2024)

From Dave's list. Won't qualify, but I'll take a punt on him/Frank/LokpoLokpo and PPP25 making it stick for Part IV.

46. ZUCHU, 'Amanda' (2025)

From Jonathan's list. Thrilled to see so many others choose the same one, even though Jonathan only ranked it #40.

Self-indulgent underpicked songs I cannot omit (alphabetical by artist)

47. LAURA MVULA, 'Got Me' (2021)

The Popjustice £20 prize winner with fewest picks. Well, I still love you Laura.

48. MAPARA A JAZZ ft NTOSH HAZI & COLANO, 'John Vuli Gate' (2020)

Thought this would do better with 'Chale' voters, of which there were many, gratifyingly.

Self-indulgent unpicked songs I cannot omit (rightly kept to a minimum: alphabetical by artist)

49. PABI COOPER, FOCALISTIC & CH'CCO, 'Banyana Ke Bafana' (2022)

Narrowly lost out to 'Abo Mvelo' as the representative of my amapiano discovery summer.

50. SHYGIRL, 'Firefly' (2022)

Favourite from debut of woefully underpicked artist, a still-irresistible 00s throwback with hyperpoppy grace notes.