

JUKEBOX JURY



SONG OF THE SUMMER EDITION

WHAT'S THE "ONE DANCE" OF 2017? EW ASKED A FEW PROS TO SIZE UP THE COMPETITION. *By Nolan Feeney*

THE CON TENDERS

THE EXPERT PANEL

Kyle
FEAT. LIL YACHTY
"iSpy"

Drake
"Passionfruit"

Sam Hunt
"Body Like a Back Road"

DNCE
FEAT. NICKI MINAJ
"Kissing Strangers"

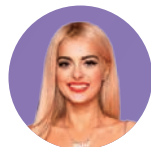
DJ Khaled
FEAT. JUSTIN BIEBER, QUAVO, CHANGE THE RAPPER & LIL WAYNE
"I'm the One"

Calvin Harris
FEAT. FRANK OCEAN & MIGOS
"Slide"

Kygo & Selena Gomez
"It Ain't Me"

Julia Michaels
"Issues"

Future
"Mask Off"



Bebe Rexha

The pop star just dropped her new single "The Way I Are (Dance With Somebody)," featuring Lil Wayne.

I had Kyle come out at my show in L.A. His vibe is so fresh. I love this record; it's so easy. I can't help singing it. What makes a great summer song is something that's not so heavy and is on the happier side—major chords, simple and chill.

As much as I want to get tired of Drake, I can't. Everything he puts out is fire. I can't wait to hear what he comes up with next. There are very few artists that excite you like that, and he's one of those artists for me. The guys are taking over right now. I'm like, "Girls, come on, we gotta step it up!"

I'm not a country girl at all, but I've played this song a couple of times, and I can actually sing the hook back to you—it's pretty catchy! And I think Sam Hunt is really hot. [Laughs]



This song doesn't speak to me on a lyrical or melodic level. It has that old Maroon 5 vibe, for the younger generations that weren't around for *Songs About Jane*, which was incredible. It's really cool for Joe Jonas to be a part of that, and I love Nicki, but it's like a C version of "Cake by the Ocean."

REXHA: VENTURELLI/GETTY IMAGES; KHALID: ASTRID STAWIARZ/GETTY IMAGES; PERFUME GENIUS: ASHLEY BELVEAU/GETTY IMAGES; LIL YACHTY: ROGER KISBY/GETTY IMAGES; DRAKE: ERIKA GOLDBRIND/GETTY IMAGES; HUNT: TIMOTHY HIATT/GETTY IMAGES; MINAJ: JULIEN HERMANN/GETTY IMAGES; DJ KHALED: MICHAEL BEZJIAN/GETTY IMAGES; HARRIS: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES; GOMEZ: DON ARNOLD/WIREIMAGE; MICHAELS: JULIA MICHAELS/GETTY IMAGES; FUTURE: PRINCE WILLIAMS/WIREIMAGE

This is the new "Lady Marmalade," but the guy version. It's probably going to be the song of the summer. Sometimes artists will put a million people on one song and it falls flat, but this song is a monster. You can be a guy or a girl and sing along to it; it's a universal record. I'm obsessed.



This song feels like cruising down the coastline. If you had a convertible, you'd take the top down, grab an iced coffee, and blast the song with someone you really like.

The production is not crazy-innovative or different like some of the others, but I think what makes the song really special is Selena. It's not something you'd expect her to do, and she killed it. Her vocals are beautiful.

An incredible record. One thing I love about this song is that it's very conversational. It's not trying to be gimmicky, it's just very honest and real. It came out around the same time as Noah Cyrus' "Make Me (Cry)." They're these really simplistic-sounding records that are very unique and very refreshing.



All the girls wanted to play flute when I was trying out for high school marching band, and now you have all these rappers using it and making it sound gangster! I don't die for lyrics with drugs in them, but if it's honest and real, I support it.



Khalid

The singer behind the top 20 hit "Location" kicks off a tour in July to support his debut album, *American Teen*.

I love the pro-positivity movement [Kyle and Lil Yachty] have going on: Look at what's around you! Don't focus on the negative vibes! That's something I really gravitate toward. They're also friends of mine, so that helps me enjoy it.

It reminds me of being in a big tube in an aquarium and there's water around me. The way he flows on it is very smooth and fluid, and Drake's melodies are always awesome.



This song reminds me of when I lived in northern New York. It was all lifted trucks, [off-roading], fishing, all that stuff. This song really brought me a sense of nostalgia for my high school experience. Once you find a [connection] to the music, it makes it more enjoyable.

They make such wonderful toe-tappers. If you're in school, you can't help but tap your desk or bob your head. I've always been a Nicki Minaj fan, and she really adds the sprinkle of fairy dust and makes it magical. She lifts almost everything she hops on.

With all these heavy hitters, it was meant to be a No. 1. It feels like summer, and when you think of summer, you have to smile.



It's a smash. What Calvin's doing right now is amazing: all these groovy, melodic tracks. Even though it's so funk-driven, you can hear the artist's vibe. When we got together for [Harris' "Rollin," also featuring Future] he was like, "I'm not here to tell you what to do, do what you love." He's super nice.

I'm a big fan of tropical house, and Kygo dominates that. Selena has a very beautiful voice as well. I like the [chopped-up vocals] because that's something I wish I could do with my voice. I've tried to do it before and it never comes out cool for me. Maybe one day!

What I love about this song is the message is so real: "I got issues, you got them too!" We all have our personality traits that make us. It's about finding the person who can put up with your bulls---.



Literally last night I was with a couple of my friends and the song came on the radio. We were riding down the street bumping the song and singing all the words. And the #MaskOffChallenge that happened on Twitter? I've participated in [the memes]. It's definitely the song of the summer.



Perfume Genius

The experimental indie-pop artist recently released his fourth LP, *No Shape*, and is on tour now.

I like that it started out with a skit about gratitude! It's feel-good. If you listen to it enough, the lyrics are kind of f---ing weird. It's goofy and surreal. Also, he didn't rhyme anything with "Oprah," which I think is classy. You shouldn't try to rhyme with "Oprah."



[Drake has] a lot of albums and songs; it's kind of relentless. They all kind of blend together. But I can never really be mad at Drake. He just seems like he would smell really good. I would appreciate a hug from him. It's just a feeling I have. I don't fight Drake.

I really did not care for this. I like country, but I don't know how much I like popular country. It's like he thought of this [concept] and wrote a list: Speed limits! Maps! That's basic. It's cheap. I also don't like when men sing about women and try to come across as sensitive when it's just the same s--- in a different way.

Whoever wrote it has talent. I can feel the writing, not the performance, which is the ultimate shady thing you can say about it. But I do like the idea of kissing a bunch of people and trying to "find someone I trust." I feel like I did that! Maybe I'll do an ultra-preentious serious cover.



I like that it went to a '90s world-music place—Enigma, Deep Forest. That's what all those bands were, that weird affected vocal that's cut up and sounds almost like chanting. It has that fantasy element.



I hear it everywhere: in the car, at Target. It's omnipresent. I like that it's just strings and vocals. That's audacious. People crave that kind of thing, like Adele having a No. 1 single with just her and the piano. All the songs [Michaels] wrote I really like. "Hands to Myself" [by Selena Gomez]? I wish we were talking about that one!

I was really into the flute. You can't understand anything Future says, so you have to pick something you recognize. Is he saying "Percocet"? This is one of my favorites on this list.