



1970s a time of reflection

The 1970s music scene to me is haunted by ghost images of Led Zeppelin, Peter Frampton and Boston drifting through my thoughts. Looking back it seems like a time when guitars dominated the airwaves. Whether it's Jimmy Paige doing Stairway to Heaven on that iconic Gibson double neck or with the starburst Les Paul he always had slung down low, or Peter Frampton with his black, triple humbucker and using that voice box on "Do you feel like we do." Or Tom Shultz and that way-out new sound to his guitar. The era in my mind is defined by the Gods of guitar.

Yet, look at the top album sales of the decade, where's Led Zeppelin and Peter Frampton? That list seems to suggest Gibson probably sold more acoustics than electrics in the 70s. See here the top 10 album sales of the decade:

1	<u>Bridge Over Troubled Water</u>	<u>Simon and Garfunkel</u>	<u>CBS</u>	1970
2	<u>Greatest Hits</u>	<u>ABBA</u>	<u>Epic</u>	1976
3	<u>Tubular Bells</u>	Oldfield, Mike	<u>Virgin</u>	1973
4	<u>Simon and Garfunkel's Greatest Hits</u>		CBS	1972
5	<u>Saturday Night Fever</u>	Original Soundtrack	<u>RSO</u>	1977
6	<u>Singles: 1969–1979</u>	Carpenters, The	<u>A&M</u>	1974
7	<u>Arrival</u>	ABBA	Epic	1976
8	<u>Dark Side of the Moon</u>	<u>Pink Floyd</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	1973
9	<u>Grease</u>	Original Soundtrack	RSO	1978
10	<u>40 Greatest Hits</u>	Presley, Elvis	<u>Arcade</u>	1974

The list, well not exactly a resounding chorus for my opinion it was an era dominated by power rock guitarists, or rock in general? Keeping in mind, that opening the decade we lost Jim Morrison, ending The Doors. Gone was Janis Joplin. And of course the demise of Jimi Hendrix. Maybe it's no wonder, looking back over the Top 50 album sales in the 1970s, we understand why it seems like a time of folk, and soft rock, some rhythm and blues and quite a few greatest hits albums from 1950s holdovers like Perry Como.

In spite of all that, as a testament to the power of personal memories, the 1970s for me was dominated by the Guitar Gods, with lots of hair, booming sound and I still love to hear them wail!

"Liner Notes" Gallery Commentary

This Peter Frampton song book spent more time hanging around my room than any school book when I was in high school. A copy of the photo of him on the "Comes Alive" it's one of the more iconic images I

think from the 70s. ■ All these Steve Miller albums entered my collection at different times, but they all got more than their share of playing time. That Fly Like an Eagle cover captures the spirit of Steve Miller, I think, I wish I could have seen the band but I never recall getting the chance. The Joker album, love that cover, loved that mask and loved hearing those songs so often on the radio, still do. ■ I could fill these pages with commentary on these Jackson Browne album covers, especially that image from Running on Empty, what a classic. The Pretender, I see him there and always wondered what his upbringing was like, growing up in a house with a father who played music. And that '53 Chevy on Late for the Sky, even though the '55 Coup was supposedly the one to have, that '53 really has a special look. For Every Man, what a piece of work. He must have been very pleased with his career's progress when that was accomplished. ■ I never really had much of an Eagles collection, so this is pretty much, along with the Doobies Greatest Hits, sustained me for quite a few years. I recall many afternoon drives into the country with this 8-track about the only thing to play. ■ Jethro Tull, what can you say about that band? These Albums represent some of the best the period had to offer, real rock and roll. Aqualung, what an interesting collection, Thick as a Brick got lots of radio play. ■ This Stones contribution, Sticky Fingers, was so cool, the cover so radical and different with that real working zipper! And the notice that the album was intended to be played LOUD. How awesome was that. ■ I spent a lot of time withal of these albums, especially Alive She Cried. Soft Parade had some strange stuff on it, Morrison Hotel I absolutely loved and The Doors, debut album, I pretty much put in that top category of initial contributions, with The Jimi Hendrix Experience. ■ And there he is, one of my all-time favorite singer song writers, Neil Young. I read the other day that some of Harvest and After the Gold Rush were recorded in Nashville, during a time when outsiders like himself and Bob Dylan were hanging out there looking to make some good music. That Live as Massey is a must have, you just hang on every bar with him doing his thing and that photo of him is just classic. Always surrounded by acoustic guitars, you gotta love that. ■ That's a photo of the E Street Band, I can't name them all or where that photo was taken, but I love the look on their faces, a very serious rock band, for sure. And kind of the smallest guy there, Bruce, the driving force behind it all. ■ The Zeppelin collection of albums are quite the spectacle: the old man with the sticks, the second album and that odd "photo shopped" treatment, Houses of the Holy, I mean what's that supposed to be, The Song Remains the Same and Physical Graphitic, two of the most recognizable covers you will find in rock and roll history. And Zeppelin 3, with that crazy wheel I always loved playing with, but was always careful not to not treat roughly, I never wanted to break it! ■ That AC/DC cover, how memorable is that, with Angus front stage demonstrating the art of rock and roll on the SG (how about it Jack Black?) and back there Malcom on the Gretch, you just gotta love everything about that image. I saw the band and loved every single minute of the performance! ■ That Jackson Browne songbook I never learned much from, but I love that guitar he's playing, kind of reminds me of some of the old bombers Curt Cobain was seen with occasionally. ■ That ELO cover, Out of the Blue, you have to figure gave way to the classic Boston spaceship we saw so much of in the late '70s and 80s? ■ Yes, such an iconic band. It seems like lightyears since I have played those records, Time in a Word, The Yes Album, they certainly earned their place in my forever collection. ■ That Lynyrd Skynyrd Second Helping I always liked, especially for the hair different hair styles. If you were into long hair at the time, you certainly could bring that into the salon and tell your stylist exactly what you were going for ... ■ Another Doors album, an early one and another photo of a very serious band. A three piece band and whoa, what a lot of sound coming from those guys. Another good look in to the styles of the day... ■ You can imagine the guys traveling around and stumbling across a real place called the Morrison Hotel and just going with the idea to make that a cover. Another serious rock

ELO Greatest Hits album cover, wow. Kind of reminds me of that David Lee Roth "Beautiful Girls" video with all women, just lined up for your viewing pleasure. Check out those flare leg jeans, in the California desert I guess. I into black and white photography at the time. Just thought this was so cool. ■ Seems kind of odd to include the enters in this collection, this is a single from my small 45 collection. This photo of Karen and her brother to me red the spirit of the time and I still love to hear their music.