

About the Author

Donny Brusca has performed at nearly a thousand events over fifteen years as the owner of the New York mobile DJ company, Sound Sensation.

He has a BS in mathematics and MA in computer science from Brooklyn College, and a PD in educational administration from St. John's University. He has taught high school and college level math and computers for over twenty years and is currently employed by the Believe High School Network charter management organization in Brooklyn. He lives with his wife, Camille.

Dedication

In memory of our cat, Wally.

Complete the Set

The **BPM List** comes in a variety of shapes and sizes to accommodate your needs. You can complete the set by visiting www.bpmlist.com.

The *Complete* edition contains nearly 24,000 song titles. Each of its four indices -- the Index By BPM, Index By Style, Index By Artist, and Index By Title -- are purchased separately.

The *Essentials* edition includes only the most requested songs that every DJ should possess -- about the top 10% of the titles found in the *Complete* edition. The book is indexed four ways.

The new *Tropical Latin* edition includes all the best salsas, merengues, and the rest of the Spanish language hits that are so popular in the Caribbean, Florida, and up the East Coast to my home town of New York. This edition is indexed three ways.

The *Expanded* edition includes the *Complete*, *Essentials* and *Tropical Latin* editions in downloadable PDF format, plus an Excel spreadsheet file of our full music database (without song rankings) -- about 50% more song titles than the *Complete* edition!

The author also publishes annual editions of the **DJ Music List**, handy checklists of songs from this same database, sorted by category but without BPMs, available at www.djmusiclist.com. These are perfect for finding popular songs missing from your own DJ music collection, or for distributing to DJ clients to allow them to choose their own music requests for their events.

About the Data

Songs Included

I have included only songs which are in my own personal music collection, which are popular enough to warrant inclusion, and for which I have BPM counts.

An important goal was to include only the most popular songs, so that the reader would not have to sift through piles of unrecognizable song titles. All the songs are "charted" in some way.

About 10% of the songs are designated as Top 500 or Essential titles, ranked 1 or 2, respectively.

Most of the remaining songs (about 54% of the database) appeared on the Billboard Hot 100 or Bubbling Under charts. These are ranked no lower than 6. Another 30% of the songs reached the Billboard Dance, Rock, R&B/Hip Hop, Adult Contemporary/Top 40, Country, Latin, Jazz, Christian, and/or Holiday charts.

The remaining 7% were designated as "classic hits" by recognized music authorities such as Record Research <recordresearch.com>, DigitalDreamDoor <digitaldreamdoor.com>, Mobile Beat <mobilebeat.com>, or New York's Q104.3 or WCBS-FM radio stations.

In other words, all the songs in this book warrant inclusion. There are no obscure album tracks.

BPM Counts

The tempo, in beats per minute, of a song was determined in a variety of ways. Some were originally calculated using a metronome, some through "tapping" software like WinBPM, and some through electronic devices such as Numark's Beatkeeper. BPMs for many of the newer songs came from track listings of promotional CD pools, especially Promo Only and JonesTM PrimeCuts. I've also gathered counts from a variety of books, magazines, and web sites.

Most recently, in the process of ripping my music from CD tracks to MP3, I've checked or added BPMs using MixMeister software. Although I check for discrepancies as I go, this software has proven to be remarkably accurate. For the sake of consistency, it has become my overriding method of calculating BPMs.

Printing Conventions

Spelling of Titles

Songs titles are spelled properly, when possible, to facilitate searching. For examples, "Hollaback Girl" is spelled out as "Holler Back Girl" and "C'mon N' Ride It" is spelled out as "Come On And Ride It." Leading articles and trailing punctuation marks are omitted.

By convention, I spell out numbers at the beginnings of an artist's name or song title, so 112 becomes One Twelve and appears in proper alphabetical order under O.

When parentheses in a song title represent an alternate title, both are included with a slash between. For example, "Banana Boat (Day-O)" by Harry Belafonte is listed as "Banana Boat / Day-O". However, when parentheses are used to complete a song title, as in "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" by the Rolling Stones, the words in parentheses are omitted, as "Satisfaction." The slash is also used for medleys, as in "Aquarius / Let The Sunshine In" by the Fifth Dimension.

Multiple Artists

For songs performed by (or featuring) more than one artist, the primary artist is listed first, followed by any additional artists (abbreviated for three or more) within square brackets.

Chart Years and New Versions

The song's year specifies the year in which the song peaked on the charts, with the pop charts given highest priority. Any significant difference between this and the song's release date is usually noted. Also noted are new or live versions and remixes. These notes appear in square brackets after the song titles.

Ranks

The Top 500 DJ Songs (ranked 1) are printed in bold italics and underlined. The DJ Essentials (ranked 2) are printed in bold. The remaining songs, ranked 3 to 9, are in normal type.

Music Categories

Abbreviations Used

Songs are categorized by the two-letter abbreviations shown in the "Code" column below:

Code	Description	Years	Style
AR	Alternative Rock / New Wave	1975-today	R
BA	Bachata	Any	L
CH	Christian	Any	R
CJ	Classic Jazz	1930-1959	A
CO	Country	Any	A
CR	Classic Rock	1963-1980	R
CU	Cumbia / Vallenato / Son	Any	L
DA	Dance / Disco / Club	1972-today	D
DW	Doo Wop / Vocal	1948-1999	U
EV	Event / Holiday Theme	Any	A
FR	Freestyle	1983-1996	D
HI	Historic	pre-1930	A
HP	Hit Parade / Big Band	1930-1959	A
IT	Italian	Any	A
JZ	Jazz / Modern Jazz	1960-today	A
LD	Latin Dance	Any	L
LP	Latin Pop / Latin Rock	Any	L
LT	Light / Adult Contemporary	1960-today	A
ME	Merengue	Any	L
MX	Mexican / Nortena / Ranchera	Any	L
NV	Novelty / Comedy	Any	R
OL	Oldies / Rock & Roll	1954-1987	R
OS	Old School / Party/Booty Rap	1980-1999	U
PA	Participation Dance	Any	D
PO	Pop / Teen	1995-today	R
RB	Classic R&B / Soul / Motown	1950-1999	U
RE	Reggae / Dancehall / Ska	Any	U
RK	Rock / Mainstream / Modern	1981-today	R
RT	Reggaeton / Latin Hip Hop	Any	L
SA	Salsa / Tropical	Any	L
SO	Soca / Calypso / Steel Band	Any	U
SW	New Swing	1973-today	R
UR	Urban / Rap / Hip-Hop / R&B	2000-today	U
XM	Christmas / Hannukah	Any	A

These music Categories are then grouped into five major Styles (D, R, U, A, or L). These Styles represent the five sections of the Index By Style or five columns of the Index By BPM editions:

- (D) Dance/Disco:** DA, FR, PA
- (R) Rock/Pop:** AR, CH, CR, NV, OL, PO, RK, SW
- (U) Urban/R&B:** DW, OS, RB, RE, SO, UR
- (A) AC/Country:** CJ, CO, EV, HI, HP, IT, JZ, LT, XM
- (L) Latin:** BA, CU, LD, LP, ME, MX, RT, SA

Styles Timeline

Although songs are primarily categorized by type (for example, AR for Alternative Rock versus CR or RK for more classic or mainstream Rock), the chart year may also factor in. For example, the Classic Rock (CR) category includes only those songs which peaked between 1963 and 1980, and then gives way to the Rock category (RK), which begins in 1981. A breakdown of category years, for those categories which have year restrictions, is shown in the table on the previous page as well as in the timeline graph below.

