

# Evaluation of a Greyson Chance Song Relative Popularity Poll

I regard the first two years of Greyson Chance's career as stellar because it is rare indeed in the history of music for anyone of his age to have created so voluminous, excellent, and mature a body of songs as he did in so short a time.

Meredith Pender, the founder of the Greyson Chance fansite 'Til The Night', in September 2012 polled registered users on which songs from the first two years of his career (ending in that September) they wanted to rank among his 'top ten'. She polled them at this time because in October the release of an EP with five songs was going to herald his second album. One of these five (*Sunshine & City Lights*) had been released in August already and was therefore available for being ranked.

By 30 September, 121 postings had been submitted; but only a total of 109 count, because five did not contain a ranking and seven are translations of other rankings from Spanish:

<http://www.tilthenight.com/forum/showthread.php?1496-CONTEST-Win-Greyson-s-Complete-Discography-Deadline-September-30-2012>

Not only the sixteen songs recorded on CD, but also those extant only on video, were available for ranking. On account of recognizable differences, however, I decided to form two groups in evaluating the poll:

- 1) Thirteen respondents had ranked only CD songs, which I interpreted as indicating that they were not aware of the existence of the others. As this group was too small to stand on its own; I added the twenty-six respondents that had included only *Sunshine & City Lights* apart from CD songs – presumably late-comers aware of no or almost no non-CD songs that antedated August.
- 2) I created the second group for those seventy respondents that had included more than one non-CD song or, if only one, then not *Sunshine & City Lights*. Within this group, respondents differed widely as to how much of Chance's oeuvre they were familiar with. Some even ranked *100 Years*, which is not even included in the fansite's list (possibly by design, because it antedates the beginning of Chance's career; but it was posted to YouTube only later).

Many respondents complained about the difficulty of choosing ten songs and then ranking them to boot – it is conceivable that some found this difficulty too big a hurdle.

In evaluating the poll, I awarded ten points for every first place, nine for every second place, and so forth. This results in *Waiting Outside The Lines* coming first in the first group and *Hold On 'Til The Night* coming first in the second group and overall. Victory depends on the method of ranking used; had I evaluated the results as in an Olympic medal count, making a gold medal outweigh all silver medals combined, *Waiting Outside The Lines* would have finished first before *Purple Sky* and *Home Is In Your Eyes*, and *Hold On 'Til The Night* would have come in fourth. Thus, the final count should not be taken too seriously, although it does convey some information about how popular and how well-known individual songs are.

In the final analysis, cover versions did recognizably worse than songs from his own stable, although some of the former surpass the originals, and the cover of *My Way* even surpasses the entire record of previous interpretations, which is a rare feat. I was disappointed by the very sad performance in the poll of the cover of Alicia Keys' *Empire State of Mind*; to all those who are not

aware of it I recommend the video recorded at Joe's Pub, New York, in November 2010:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= GaGIQUlj5k^](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaGIQUlj5k^)

*Rocking Around The Christmas Tree* was not chosen by any respondent:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4EBJXetKrE>

## **Tables:**

What follows consists of three tables, one for each group as described, and the third table for the combined result.

### **Explanation of the columns:**

1st column: Indicates the place the song was awarded in the overall result.

2nd column: Indicates how frequently the song was awarded a place in the top ten.

3rd column: Indicates how many points the song reaches, calculated according to the method described above.

4th column: Title of the song.

5th to 14th columns: Indicate how many times the song was awarded the placement in question within the top ten; in other words, the distribution of votes among the ten places awarded.

### **Group 1** (CD songs only + Sunshine & City Lights): 39 respondents

Pl.	Votes	Pts.	Title Relative frequency:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1	32	224	Waiting Outside The Lines	6	5	5	5	4	1	2	1	1	2
2	36	212	Hold On 'Til The Night	2	8	4	4	3	2	2	4	5	2
3	33	196	Purple Sky	4	2	3	3	6	7	1	4	3	–
4	35	183	Take A Look At Me Now	2	4	3	5	4	2	3	4	2	6
5	28	176	Home Is In Your Eyes	6	4	1	3	2	1	3	6	2	–
6	26	136	Sunshine & City Lights	3	1	4	4	2	1	2	1	1	7
6	26	136	Unfriend You	2	2	3	2	1	6	2	3	2	3
8	21	133	Summer Train	2	5	3	–	2	2	4	1	1	1
9	25	112	Light Up The Dark	–	4	2	1	–	1	7	3	4	3
10	22	103	Slipping Away	1	1	3	1	4	2	1	–	6	3
11	18	102	Running Away	5	–	–	1	1	3	3	2	3	–
12	17	98	Heart Like Stone	1	2	3	–	2	4	1	2	2	–
13	18	86	Cheyenne	2	–	2	2	–	1	5	2	1	3
14	15	67	Stranded	–	–	1	4	1	–	3	3	1	2
15	11	62	Fire	–	1	1	1	4	2	–	1	–	1
16	13	60	Paparazzi	3	–	–	1	1	1	–	1	3	3
17	14	59	Little London Girl	–	–	1	2	2	3	–	1	2	3

**Group 2 (all songs): 70 respondents**

Pl.	Votes	Pts.	Title Relative frequency:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1	59	381	Hold On 'Til The Night	8	8	9	5	11	3	5	4	3	3
2	57	354	Waiting Outside The Lines	9	12	5	2	4	6	3	7	6	3
3	52	342	Purple Sky	10	8	2	9	7	3	5	1	4	3
4	41	286	Home Is In Your Eyes	7	8	5	7	1	3	6	3	–	1
5	47	274	Sunshine & City Lights	6	2	6	7	6	5	4	4	3	4
6	41	230	Take A Look At Me Now	5	4	4	5	1	7	5	1	4	5
7	35	204	Running Away	5	4	2	4	2	6	1	6	5	–
8	38	197	Summer Train	4	5	4	–	3	4	5	3	3	7
9	27	161	Light Up The Dark	5	1	3	2	3	5	3	2	–	3
10	27	153	Unfriend You	2	2	7	1	4	2	–	2	5	2
11	30	127	Paparazzi	3	1	3	1	1	2	5	1	5	8
12	27	117	Pumped Up Kicks	1	1	1	4	2	–	5	7	3	3
13	22	110	Slipping Away	1	–	1	4	5	1	3	4	2	1
14	22	98	Little London Girl	–	1	3	1	2	3	4	2	3	3
15	20	96	Cheyenne	1	1	3	2	–	2	3	3	3	2
16	17	89	Heart Like Stone	1	1	1	3	1	2	4	2	1	1
17	19	83	Broken Hearts	1	1	–	2	3	2	1	3	3	3
18	16	80	Fire	–	1	2	3	2	–	1	5	1	1
19	18	68	Stars	–	1	–	2	–	3	4	1	4	3
20	18	67	Stranded	–	–	1	–	3	4	–	4	3	3

Places 21 to 31 are identical with those of the Combined Table on the next side.

**Combined Table:** 109 respondents

Pl.	Votes	Pts.	Title Relative frequency:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1	95	593	Hold On 'Til The Night	10	16	13	9	14	5	7	8	8	5
2	89	578	Waiting Outside The Lines	15	17	10	7	8	7	5	8	7	5
3	85	538	Purple Sky	14	10	5	12	13	10	6	5	7	3
4	71	462	Home Is In Your Eyes	13	12	6	10	3	4	9	11	2	1
5	76	413	Take A Look At Me Now	7	8	7	10	5	9	8	5	6	11
6	73	410	Sunshine & City Lights	9	3	10	11	8	6	6	5	4	11
7	59	330	Summer Train	6	10	7	–	5	6	9	4	4	8
8	53	306	Running Away	10	4	2	5	3	9	4	8	8	–
9	53	289	Unfriend You	4	4	10	3	5	8	2	5	7	5
10	52	273	Light Up The Dark	5	5	5	3	3	6	10	5	4	6
11	44	213	Slipping Away	2	1	4	5	9	3	4	4	8	4
12	43	187	Paparazzi	6	1	3	2	2	3	5	2	8	11
12	34	187	Heart Like Stone	2	3	4	3	3	6	5	4	3	1
14	38	182	Cheyenne	3	1	5	4	–	3	8	5	4	5
15	36	157	Little London Girl	–	1	4	3	4	6	4	3	5	6
16	27	142	Fire	–	2	3	4	6	2	1	6	1	2
17	33	134	Stranded	–	–	2	4	4	4	3	7	4	5
18	27	117	Pumped Up Kicks	1	1	1	4	2	–	5	7	3	3
19	19	83	Broken Hearts	1	1	–	2	3	2	1	3	3	3
20	18	68	Stars	–	1	–	2	–	3	4	1	4	3
21	9	57	Rolling In The Deep	–	1	2	–	4	1	–	1	–	–
21	12	57	Within The Lights	–	1	2	1	1	1	2	–	2	2
23	8	51	The Edge Of Glory	1	3	1	–	–	–	–	1	1	1
24	9	45	You And I	–	1	–	1	2	2	1	–	1	1
25	9	34	Past	–	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	1	4
26	4	28	100 Years	–	1	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	–
27	7	23	Hard To Handle	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	3	2
28	4	17	My Way	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	1	1
29	3	11	I Wanna Be Where You A	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	–
30	1	7	Empire State of Mind	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
31	0	0	Rocking Around The Christmas Tree	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–