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Subject: Male vocalists-- New Thread

Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 03:07:39 GMT

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After just hearing a talk show about what being manly is which is not worth discussing (the author pointed to Rumsfeld as one of his good examples) the subject of male vocalists deserves as much attention as we've devoted to women. As contemporary performers, I know few of the Buster Poindexter variety of lounge singers that are about today. But I do have some favorite male vocalists each for different reasons. The best vocalist in Popular Music is Ray Benson of Asleep At The Wheel. I don't mean Country and Western popular music, I mean all popular music regardless of category. This is not to compare singers for their pyrotechnic ability, how loud or how long or even how high or how low they can sing. The best means quality of sound, resonance, delivery hey, what else is there? In concert Benson always says (and I can't do this with type on the screen) that what he does is Western music or "(little small voice 'country') and WESTERN music," shouting it out. The Ray Benson sound is not forced in any way. And the fact that I like Western Swing and swing music in general may have something to do with it. Especially good is Ray Benson on "House of Blue Lights" which I think was originally done by the Mills Brothers. Randy Travers, George Strait and the rest of the nasal crowd doing Country music are too embarrassing to listen to. So Ray Benson is the Popular Music vocalist with which to compare others. In jazz, there's a lot more to choose from. Like Georgie Fame among others.

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