

Top Ten All-Time Arizona Musicians

10. [Bill Spooner](#) (most famously of [The Tubes](#)) - Bill was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ where he honed his musical skills on guitar. In 1970, Bill moved to San Francisco where he met up with the remaining members of what soon become The Tubes. The Tubes had some small hits in the 70's including "White Punks on Dope" but really hit big with their 1982 hit "Talk To You Later" followed up by "She's A Beauty". The band disbanded in 1989. Bill has recorded solo albums and currently has several other projects going on in the Bay Area.

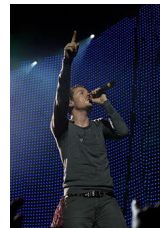


9. [Meat Puppets](#) – The Meat Puppets were formed in Phoenix in 1980 starting out as a punk band but soon becoming darlings of the college radio and burgeoning alternative music scene of the mid to late 80's. The song "Backwater" released in 1992 was their only hit. The Meat Puppets disbanded in 1996, reunited, and then disbanded again in 2002.

8. [Jimmy Eat World](#) – Formed in Mesa, AZ in 1993 by childhood friends Jim Adkins (guitar/vocals) and drummer Zach Lind. They quickly become an indie scene favorite building a large local following. Their 2001 release "The Middle" became their biggest hit reaching #5 on the Billboard Charts

7. [Mr. Mister](#) – Founded by Richard Page and Steve George in Phoenix, AZ in 1982, the original name of the band was The Pages, which recorded one minor hit, "I Do Believe in You" before changing their name to Mr. Mister. Mr. Mister probably best represented the polished, sometimes over produced sound of the mid 1980's. They had several hits during that period, most notable "Broken Wing".

6. [Chester Bennington](#) - Lead singer for [Linkin Park](#), Chester was born in Phoenix, AZ in 1976 and cites Depeche Mode and Stone Temple Pilots as early musical influences. Having sold over 50 million records world wide and winning 2 Grammy Awards in the process Linkin Park is recognized as one of the top groups of the Nu Metal genre that has sprung up since the turn of the millennium.



5. [Jordin Sparks](#)- Born in Phoenix, AZ and raised in Glendale, Jordin became the youngest winner of American Idol, capturing the title at the end of the 7th season of Fox's monster hit program. Daughter of former New York Giants Phillip Sparks, Jordin has appeared on several shows since Idol and sung the National Anthem at Super Bowl XLII in her hometown of Glendale, AZ, which was coincidentally won by her dad's former team, the New York Giants.

4. Gin Blossoms – Formed in 1987 in Tempe, AZ gleaned their name from of photo of W.C. Fields with a caption that read, “W.C. Fields with gin blossoms”. Influenced by Tom Petty and the Byrds the Gin Blossoms were part of the mid-90’s frat house rock scene which included Hootie and the Blow Fish, Blues Traveler, and the Spin Doctors. Their biggest hits were “Hey Jealousy” and “Found Out About You.” The band disbanded in 1997 due to internal bickering brought about by lead guitarist Doug Hopkin’s issues with alcoholism.

3. Duane Eddy – Creator of the “twangy guitar” sound of the late 50’s and early 60’s Eddy influenced numerous guitarists the world over including Paul McCartney, Jeff Lynne, George Harrison, Bruce Springsteen and John Fogerty. Eddy was born in Corning, New York in 1938 and then moved to Arizona with his family in 1951. There he met local disc jockey Lee Hazzeewood who would be come longtime partner, co-writer, and producer. Duane Eddy’s most famous contribution to rock ‘n roll was his theme song to the popular 60’s television program “Peter Gunn”. In 1986 the Art of Noise re-mixed and re-recorded the song launching it back into the Top 10 and revitalizing Eddy’s career.

2. [Alice Cooper](#) – The God father of “goul rock or shock rock” Alice Cooper was born Vincent Furnier in 1948 in Detroit, Michigan. After several childhood illnesses Vincent, er uh, Alice and his family moved to Phoenix, AZ. After honing his skills as frontman and singer for his high school band The Spiders, Vincent and the band changed their name to Alice Cooper. Much speculation surrounded the origins of the band’s name but Vincent claims that it just came to him out of thin air. Regardless, Alice Cooper has become one of the most influential artists in rock history, if not musically, visually. Alice Cooper and mates went on to record several classic rock staples such as “18”, “School’s Out” and “No More Mr. Nice Guy”. But his influence been felt in today’s artists such as Marilyn Manson, Rob Zombie, and Slipknot. Alice Cooper still tours and hosts an evening music program on one of the local radio stations here in Phoenix.



1. [Linda Ronstadt](#) – Born in Tuscon, AZ in 1946 Linda Ronstadt has recorded 30 albums and appeared on over 100 others 10 of which have reached the Top 10. She has recorded several hit singles (too many to list here) including her #1 hit “You’re No Good” in 1974. Linda has spanned several different musical genres including Rock, Country, and Tejano. Her relationship with then California Governor Jerry Brown kept Linda in the spotlight throughout much of the 70’s. Linda Ronstadt is one of the most successful female recording artists of all-time and the pride and joy of Tucson, Arizona.