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which features some of the bands best-known songs: “Good Times Roll,” “My Best Friend’s Girl” and of course, “Just What I Needed.”

“The Fame,” Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga changed the face of modern pop music with 2008’s “The Fame,” an experimental art-pop record masquerading as dance music. Hits such as “Just Dance,” “Poker Face” and the exceptionally weird “LoveGame” pack surprising bite and insight, and Gaga herself proved to be a singular vocal and songwriting talent.

EXHIBIT B: NO. 1 IS NOT THE ONE

“Queen,” Queen

Before Queen asked if this was real life or just fantasy, it released this 1973 debut album filled with Zeppelin-esque hard rock. While derivative, the album pointed to what was to come with Brian May’s distinctive guitar tones and Freddie Mercury’s operatic vocals.

“We’re Going Dancing Tonight,” Larry and His Flask

Here’s an example right in our backyard.



Larry and His Flask is known today for its energetic mix of roots, folk and punk rock, but started life in the early-to-mid-2000s as a more typical punk unit. Good luck finding 2006’s out-of-print “We’re Going Dancing Tonight”; a few songs are floating around YouTube. They’re plenty loud and plenty

a reputation as thrash-groove metallers extraordinaire, the band started out as a generic glam outfit. This 1983 debut, while showcasing some decent guitar work by Dimenbag Darrell, is pretty embarrassing. (If you’re really interested, you can find it on YouTube.)

Larry and His Flask perform in downtown Bend.

Brian McElhiney / The Bulletin file photo

fun, but not the LAHF we know and love.

“Metal Magic,” Pantera

Likewise, Pantera’s first four albums are hard to find on streaming services, and for good reason.

“With Sympathy,” Ministry

Known for pioneering industrial metal in the late ’80s, Chicago’s Ministry started out as a synth-pop band on 1983’s “With Sympathy,” which sounds almost like a long lost New Order record. This one isn’t so much embarrassing as it is weird, especially compared with the dark, unsettling riffs and lyrics of later Ministry tracks.

“Bob Dylan,” Bob Dylan

Some fans will cry blasphemy at any criticism toward any Bob Dylan release. But the folk-rock luminary’s 1962 debut is nothing if not embryonic, packed full of traditional songs and old blues covers from Blind Lemon Jefferson and Bukka White. And his two original offerings, including the Woody Guthrie tribute “Song to Woody,” didn’t exactly set the world on fire.

Bonus: “Attila,” Attila

AKA Billy Joel’s organ-drums metal duo from 1970, a year before his proper solo debut, “Cold Spring Harbor.” Yes, it’s as weird as that sounds.

■ Got a tip, a live stream concert, a new album or single or any other local music news to share? Drop me a line at brian.mcelhiney@gmail.com.



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