

Christina House / Los Angeles Times / TNS
Doja Cat performs at the 2022 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., on April 17, 2022.



Song of Summer

Eight tunes competing for the top spot in 2022



By **Jim Harrington**
Bay Area News Group

Summer comes with a soundtrack. It changes from person to person, as individual tastes dictate what genres, artists and, indeed, moods dominate the playlists. Yet, there are a few songs each year that transcend the normal sonic constraints — personal preferences, listening history, etc. — and just become simply inescapable. Those are the songs that truly seem to define the season, as they accompany countless pool parties, trips to the beach and vacations. And the most

memorable and omnipresent one in the batch takes the unofficial title of Song of Summer. This year's contenders are all over the map, stylistically, from melancholy pop to a party anthem to feel-good R&B and sultry hip-hop. Heck, there is even a Kate Bush classic in there just to keep us honest. Here's a look at some of the top contenders for 2022:

'As It Was,' Harry Styles
The former One Direction star is no stranger to the Song of Summer race, having offered up a truly

sensational seasonal selection with "Watermelon Sugar" in 2020. "As It Was" bares very little in common with that sunny, celebratory earlier number. It's not a party tune, but rather a kind of mediation on what it's like to reenter society in these post-pandemic times. "In this world, it's just us," Styles sings repeatedly. "You know it's not the same as it was." Despite the cold, detached vibe — or perhaps because of it — "As It Was" has struck a strong chord with the public and appears to be the tune

to beat in the Song of Summer sweepstakes.

'Big Energy,' Latto
Here's a more typical Song of the Summer contender, selling big fun with the promise of big sing-alongs at big block parties throughout the season. The song seems to get better every time you push repeat — especially if you're doing so with the volume up and the car window down — and millions will know every word of this number by the time school is back in session. As an added bonus, Tom Tom Club fans will applaud yet another use of

that wacky cool rhythm from 1981's "Genius of Love," following earlier samples by Mariah Carey ("Fantasy"), Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five ("It's Nasty") and many others. "Big Energy" is a true star turn for this Georgia rapper, who follows up her full-length debut — 2020's "Queen of da Souf" — with one of the best albums of this year, "777."

'Heat Waves,' Glass Animals
It's the song that simply won't die. "Heat Waves" originally came out in 2020, but it's still the

most popular indie-rock tune on the planet. Just consider that the track hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 in March — after spending more than a year on the charts. We get it. The silky, sultry song gets under the skin and stays there. In this fast-paced world, where last week's top TikTok can feel oh so dated, it's nice to see quality rewarded and a song like this exhibit real staying power.

'Woman,' Doja Cat
It's surprising that it's taken people as long as it has to grab hold of this top-notch

SONGS: Page B6

Remembering a grizzled sports editor's big heart



DEVLYN BROOKS
Finding Faith

This past week Minnesota lost a newspaper legend that unfortunately too few knew. Jim Carrington, a reporter and editor at the Bemidji Pioneer newspaper in Bemidji, Minnesota, for 52 years, died at 93. His legacy isn't widely known, but his effect on Minnesota's sports reporting has reverberated for decades. But Jim also had an effect on many people personally. Stories that don't ever get told. But I want to share mine. Early in my journalism career, Jim took a chance on me. I recently had to close down a newspaper I owned and needed a job ASAP. We had a young baby; I needed a paycheck. The Pioneer needed a



Contributed / Monte Draper
Jim Carrington inspects the paper at his desk in the middle of his organized clutter.

sports reporter, and the publisher asked Jim if my "warm body would suffice." And while I had no idea how to compile a box score nor how to keep a scorebook during a game, Jim said yes, launching the sports reporter period of my journalism career. To many, Jim was nothing but an irascible, out-of-touch grouch who couldn't accept the changing times of newspapers, sports

and society. And, to be fair, Jim spent a good amount of time earning that reputation. But there was another side to Jim most didn't see. I was young then, and day care was expensive. So, in a time when workplace flexibility was a novel idea, Jim accepted that often our oldest son could be seen snoozing next to my

LEGENDS: Page B6



Gretchen McKay / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette / TNS
This easy-to-make blueberry pie highlights the flavors and textures of fresh blueberries, with a crisp and nutty graham cracker crust.

This blueberry cream pie may be the tastiest ever

By **Gretchen McKay**
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Blueberry season is upon us, which means berry-studded muffins, pancakes, salads and smoothies. The plump and juicy berry — thought to have one of the highest antioxidant levels of all everyday fruits — also makes a great base for a summer pie that's both sweet and jammy, with just a touch of tang for balance. This super-easy recipe from Cook's

Country magazine pairs the sweet-sour pop of fresh blueberries with a cooked berry puree in a simple (but oh-so-good) graham cracker crust. It's topped with a cheese-cake-like, no-bake whipped topping that whisks together in a stand mixer in around 5 minutes. No bothering with dough means the whole process is no big deal, making this a perfect pie for novice bakers and cooks for

PIE: Page B6