The Moon in Song

Our moon has long been celebrated in song.
Dr. Steven Williams made this list for moon.nasa.gov, starting with his personal favorites. See the whole list and share your own favorites at moon.nasa.gov/songs.

Dr. Steve's Top 10 Classic Songs About The Moon

MOONLIGHT SONATA 1801
Ludwig van Beethoven
Not to be confused with "Moonlight Sinatra," Piano Sonata No. 14 is Beethoven's most popular piano composition.

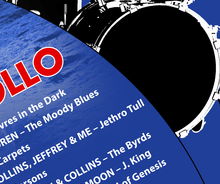
CLAIR DE LUNE 1905
Claude Debussy
French for "moonlight," this is the third and most famous movement of Debussy's Suite bergamasque.

MOON RIVER 1961
Audrey Hepburn
Composed by Henry Mancini with lyrics by Johnny Mercer, Audrey's performance in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" won it an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

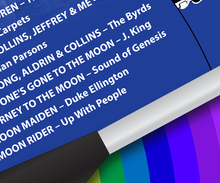
BLUE MOON OF KENTUCKY 1946
Bill Monroe and The Blue Grass Boys
Bill's famous bluegrass waltz has been covered by Elvis, Ray Charles, Patsy Cline and many others.

(ON) MOONLIGHT BAY 1912
Billy Murray and The American Quartet
Often sung as a barbershop quartet, this song of lost love also was a favorite of Porky Pig and other Looney Tunes characters.

FLY ME TO THE MOON 1954
Frank Sinatra
Sinatra's famous 1964 version beamed back to Earth from the Apollo 10 crew in lunar orbit.

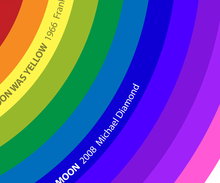


BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON 1909
Lillian Lorraine
This New York City Tin Pan Alley song was later covered by Doris Day and The Three Stooges.

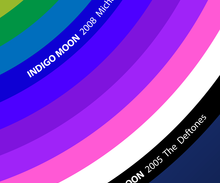


BAD MOON RISING 1969
Creedence Clearwater Revival
Dan Fogerty's rock 'n' roll classic is one of Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

OH MISTER MOON
Traditional Campfire Song
Many variations, with requests of "won't you shine down on me" ranging from love to possum hunting.



UNDER A RAGING MOON 1985
Roger Daltry
Daltrey's solo album contains an all-star tribute to The Who drummer Keith Moon, who died in 1979.



10 SONGS ABOUT PROJECT APOLLO

APOLLO 11 – Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark
TO OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN – The Moody Blues
SATURN V – Inspiral Carpets
FOR MICHAEL COLLINS, JEFFREY & ME – Jethro Tull
APOLLO – Alan Parsons
ARMSTRONG, ALDRIN & COLLINS – The Byrds
EVERYONE'S GONE TO THE MOON – J. King
JOURNEY TO THE MOON – Sound of Genesis
MOON MAIDEN – Duke Ellington
MOON RIDER – Up With People

COLORFUL MOON SONGS

RED MOON 2008 The Walkmen
ORANGE MOON 2000 Erykah Badu
YELLOW MOON 1975 The Grateful Dead
CHARTREUSE MOON 2006 Scarlet Slipping
GREEN MOON 2011 Sunsphere
BLUE MOON 1934 Rodgers and Hart
INDIGO MOON 1995 Heather Myles
UNDER THE PURPLE MOON 1972 Rita Clarke
UNDER A VIOLET MOON 1999 Blackmore's Night
KIKO AND THE LAVENDER MOON 1992 Los Lobos
PINK MOON 1972 Nick Drake
WHITE MOON 2005 The White Stripes
BLACK MOON 1992 ELP
BLACK MOON DAY 1998 Dakota Moon
THE MOON WAS YELLOW 1966 Frank Sinatra
INDIGO MOON 2008 Michael Diamond
BLACK MOON 2005 The Deftones

GEOGRAPHICAL MOON SONGS