



Hex Rugs and Rock 'n' Roll



by Rick Rubenstein

Has there ever been a more iconic pairing than rock music and floor coverings*?

Pictured on the next page is my prized handmade rug, made up of ninety hexagons each adorned with the name of a performer of the great art of Rock 'n' Roll, from worldwide megastars to obscure indie bands with convenient names. **Note: no knowledge of these artists or their music is required (or indeed helpful) for solving this puzzle.**

Almost all of the artists are part of one or more “snakes” found in the pattern of the rug. A snake is a chain of connected hexes which never branches or touches itself, and moves from hex to hex by going straight or making “soft” turns (i.e. ↘, but not ↗).

Each snake corresponds to one of the fifteen categories listed below. The number in parentheses is the length of that category’s snake (i.e., how many hexes it includes).

The categories and the pattern on the hex rug, taken together, will reveal a riddly clue and its thematically appropriate answer, as follows:

- The highlighted letters in the categories, read top to bottom, will spell out the beginning of the clue.
- Twelve artists — one in each column of the rug — are not part of any snake. For each such artist, take the Nth letter of the artists name, where N is the number of cells it is from the top. (E.g., if THE WHO were in the fourth hex from the top of its column, you would take the letter W.) These letters will spell out the end of the clue.
- Twelve artists — one in each column — are part of multiple snakes. Take the Nth letters according to the same procedure described above. This will spell out the answer to the clue.

(6) B █ _ _ _ _

(5) I _ _ L █ _ _ _ _

(7) N _ _ _ _ █

(5) E █ _ _ _ M _ _ _ _

(5) C _ _ _ _ █

(10) P █ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

(4) N _ █ A _ _ _ _ _

(11) C █ _ _ _ _

(4) B █ _ _ _ _

(11) B _ █ P _ _ _ _

(5) E _ _ █ _

(6) V █ _ _ _ _

(4) I █ _ _ _ D _ _

(4) E _ _ █ _ _

(4) P _ _ █ C _ _ _

*Yes.

