

Queen I (1973)



Album by Queen
Review by Austin Drinkwalter

About the band

Queen released their first proper album in 1973, simply titled Queen. This album would be the beginning of one of the greatest rock bands of all time. The band formed after the two founding members, Sir Brian May and Roger Taylor's previous band Smile fell apart, the lead singer and bassist had left due to them feeling the band was going nowhere. The two didnt let this stop them, they found replacements and continued forming the new band, Queen.

The Members



Freddie Mercury

Joining the band in 1970 after the previous lead singer left, Freddie Mercury (later changed to Mercury) was his replacement. Having a three whole octave vocal range which is near double the average Mercury has some very impressive songs. He is also the writer of debatably the greatest rock song of all time, Bohemian Rhapsody.

Sir Dr Brian May

One of the two founding members of Queen, May is the only Guitarist he plays both rhythm and lead on the records while only very rarely does Freddie Mercury pick up a guitar to support on rhythm while live. May learned guitar quite young being self taught him and his father, Harold May built his guitar from scratch using old wood and electronics the "Red Special" is a one of a kind. May is responsible for some of the most recognisable solos of all time with songs such as Bohemian Rhapsody or Don't Stop Me Now. May ended up leaving university to pursue music only to return in 2006 to finish his PHD in astrophysics. He was awarded the most excellent Order of the British Empire in 2005 and He was knighted by King Charles III in 2023. May is in my opinion one of if not the Best Guitarist of all time.



Roger Taylor

The other founding member of Queen, Roger Taylor was the drummer in smile with Sir Brian May. When Smile fell apart Taylor stayed with May while the two of them rebuilt the band. Taylor was not a background member of the band like many other drummers, he wrote several songs including, A Kind of Magic, Radio Ga Ga, Breakthru, and several others. Along with playing some pretty iconic drum solos, such as the one in Keep Yourself Alive

John Deacon

Deacon joined Queen in 1971, playing bass he wrote of if not the most recognizable bass line in existence, another one bites the dust. Along with several other songs from many different albums. Leaving his schooling as an electrical engineer to join the band, Deacon had built one of Brian May's many guitar amps from an old radio he found on the side of the road



The Album

Released in 1973 Queen was the first proper album done by the four. It features hits such as, Keep Yourself Alive and Doing Alright written by Brian May and both featured in the movie, Bohemian Rhapsody released in 2018. There are 10 songs on the album. My friend Zachary and I will be reviewing the songs on a 1-100 scale independently, then I will average out our scores, 100 being the greatest, and 1 being the worst.

The Songs

Keep Yourself Alive

The album starts off extremely strong with this one written by Brian May, this song is my personal favourite on the album, and it's one of my top 5 Queen songs. This song was featured in the movie Bohemian Rhapsody. We gave it a 9.1/10.

[▶ Queen - Keep Yourself Alive \(Official Video\)](#)

"Very good guitar."

Doing Alright

The second song was also written by Brian May. In my opinion this song is a bit weaker than the opener though i still really like it, i would give it an 8.9/10

[▶ Queen - Doing All Right \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

"Guitar is even more awesome, paced well."

Great King Rat

Great King Rat is on the longer side, just under 6 minutes. It is the first song on the album written by Freddy Mercury. The guitar is super strong in this one making it one of my personal favourites on the album, i would give it an 8/10

[▶ Queen - Great King Rat \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

My Fairy King

Written by Freddie Mercury this is the 4th song on the album. I am not a big fan of My Fairy King, it certainly is not a bad song but i don't think it is quite as good as its predecessors. I would give it a 8/10

[▶ Queen - My Fairy King \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

Liar

Liar was written by Freddy Mercury. This is another super strong song on the album the guitar is super recognisable. it is the longest song on the album at 6 and a half minutes i would give Liar an 8.9/10

[▶ Queen - Liar \(Official Video\)](#)

"Drums and guitar are awesome."

The Night Comes to Dawn

Written by Brian May, this song is quite good but it is something that I have to be in the mood for. It is a song I would skip on my playlist once and a while. 7/10

[▶ Queen - The Night Comes Down \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

Modern Times Rock n' Roll

Roger Taylor's first song on the album is really strong, this shows that he is not to be overlooked as a songwriter. I was pleasantly surprised when I heard this for the first time. 8.4/10

▶ Queen - Modern Times Rock n Roll (Official Lyric Video)

"Fast paced, unique Roger Taylor lyrics."

Son and Daughter

Back to Brian May this is another good one it doesn't stand out a whole lot however i still like this one quite a bit. 7.5/10

▶ Queen - Son and Daughter (Official Lyric Video)

Jesus

Written by Brian May, I was surprised to hear this one for the first time, I didn't expect much from it. But it isn't bad. It isn't my favourite song, and I'm not religious so I have no idea if the song is accurate but it was pretty good. 6.5/10

▶ Queen - Jesus (Official Lyric Video)

Seven Seas of Rhye

The album ends off on a high note with Seven Seas of Rhye; it's just a short instrumental with no credited writer. 6.9/10

▶ Queen - Seven Seas Of Rhye (Official Video)

In conclusion, I feel this album is extremely underrated, some people say Queen really started with 'Sheer Heart Attack', they were wrong. Queen was made with this album.

Sources

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Freddie-Mercury#:~:text=He%20also%20became%20friends%20with,Deacon%20joined%20the%20following%20year>

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