

Radio 2's Sounds of the 80s Ultimate 80s Album Vote for National Album Day

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September on BBC RADIO 2

The iconic albums of the 80s are being celebrated for this year's National Album Day on Saturday 10th October, plus there's a Sounds of the 80s audience vote to discover the Ultimate 80s Album, which launches at midday today.

Jeff Smith, Head of Music, Radio 2 said: *"With the arrival of the CD, the album took on a new lease of life in the 80s and helped it become such an iconic decade for music and artists. It's an era much-loved by Radio 2's listeners, some of whom will recall memories of living through it, and some who can look back on it thanks to music they are hearing now on films, TV and inspiring new music from some of the contemporary artists we also play on the station. From Sounds of the 80s with Gary Davies on Friday night, continuing from 8am to midnight on National Album Day it's going to be nonstop 80s delights across Radio 2 and BBC Sounds."*

Sounds of the 80s with Gary Davies wants to find out which 80s album Radio 2 listeners love above all the rest! Stadium rockers, pop megastars, New Romantics, synth-pop pioneers, indie gods, hip hop heroes and beyond...the 80s had it all! A shortlist of the top 50 of the most celebrated albums of the decade have been selected for the audience to vote for.

Gary Davies said, *"There are so many brilliant albums to choose from across many genres of music but that's what made the 80s so special. It's going to be difficult to choose just one from this list and I can't wait to see how our Radio 2 listeners vote and play the countdown."*

The Top 50 have been selected by a Radio 2 panel of music experts and is based on the best-selling albums of the decade, alongside those that have endured to this day, as well as some slow-burners that are now considered classics of the era. Now it's up to listener to vote for their ULTIMATE 80s album at www.bbc.co.uk/radio2. Voting is open from 12pm on Friday 11th September until 12pm on Wednesday 30th September. The results will be revealed by Gary Davies in a Sounds Of The 80s Ultimate 80s Albums countdown special, from 8pm on Friday 9th October on Radio 2.

On National Album Day itself, Radio 2 will be playing 80s album tracks throughout the day, 8am to midnight, from Dermot O'Leary through to The Craig Charles House Party (Saturday 10th October). Expect tracks from albums including Tina Turner's Private Dancer, The Cure's Pictures of You, Prince's 1999, Irene Cara's Fame Soundtrack, Wham!'s Fantastic!, Queen's The Game, Alison Moyet's Alf, Kate Bush's Hounds of Love and many more. Pick of the Pops with Paul Gambaccini will bring countdown the charts from 1983 and 1987 (Saturday, 1-3pm) and The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker will feature all 80s tracks (Saturday, 8-9pm).

BBC Sounds is the Official Broadcast Partner to National Album Day and all programmes will be available on BBC Sounds for 30 days after transmission.

This is the third National Album Day, organised and supported by the music industry, and this year takes the 1980s as its inspiration, with the music and artist community coming together for a series of events and activities in the lead up to Saturday 10th October that will celebrate the UK's love for the album and the craft that goes into making this culturally significant body of work.