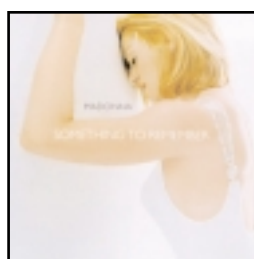




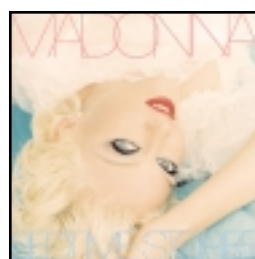
"Music" (2000; Maverick)



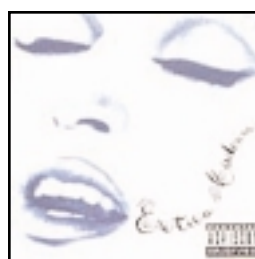
"Ray of Light" (1998; Maverick)



"Something to Remember" (1995; Maverick)



"Bedtime Stories" (1994; Maverick)



"Erotica" (1992; Maverick)



"The Immaculate Collection" (1990; Sire)



"I'm Breathless" (1990; Sire)



"Like a Prayer" (1989; Sire)



"You Can Dance" (1987; Sire)

MADONNA

MUSIC MAVERICK

By **CHUCK MYERS**
Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services

Whether a virgin, vamp or techno wrangler, Madonna has mastered the public-image makeover.

With a keen sense of what will sell, she reinvents herself and transforms her music in ways that mystify critics and generate fan interest.

Madonna staked her claim to the public eye by challenging social norms. Her public persona has evolved over the years, from campy vixen to full-figured screen siren to platinum bombshell to leather-clad femme fatale. Crucifixes, outerwear undies and erotic fetishes punctuated her act and riled critics.

Part of Madonna's secret to success has been her ability to ride the music video train to stardom. The onetime self-professed "Boy Toy" burst onto the pop music scene with a string of successful music video hits on MTV during the 1980s. With each release, she became more emboldened to push the limits of social standards. Her portrayal of a saucy peep show dancer in the 1987 video "Open Your Heart" caused an uproar. In 1990, MTV drew the line, banning her video for "Justify My Love" because of its steamy content.

Many critics have credited Madonna with a savvy sense of marketing, noting her ability to tap into trends. Others have been less impressed. Some in the media criticized her sexually charged lyrics and racy performances, while religious groups railed against her blasphemous use of sacred symbols. One British newspaper even called her the "porn-again superstar." Feminists fumed too, complaining that her antics damaged the women's movement.

In the mid-1990s, Madonna experienced another change: motherhood. The turbo-charged diva reigned in her act and stepped away from touring to focus on being a full-time mom.

Her 1998 album "Ray of Light" marked another shift in her music taste, this time toward techno. In 2000, richly textured techno rhythms wrapped in a Western motif shot her album "Music" up the music charts.

Long ago, many detractors wrote off Madonna's staying power. But her lucky star refused to dim. Punchy tunes, solid record sales and stiff doses of hype have proved the perfect formula for keeping her at the top of the music world — and vexing the naysayers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX BROADCASTING COMPANY

LINER NOTES

Who's That Girl?

Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone was born on Aug. 16, 1958, in Bay City, Mich.

Oh Father

Madonna's father, Sylvio, was a design engineer for Chrysler/General Dynamics. Her mother, Madonna, died of breast cancer in 1963. Her father later married Joan Gustafson, a woman who had worked as the Ciccone family housekeeper.

I've Learned My Lesson Well

Madonna was an honor roll student at Adams High School in Rochester, Mich. After graduation in 1976, she attended the University of Michigan on a dance scholarship for two years.

You Can Dance

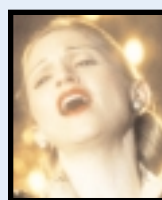
Madonna initially thought her feet, not her vocal cords, would take her to the top. After a move to New York in the late 1970s, she took dance classes and eventually earned a spot with the Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe. Although her time with the company was brief, her dance skills would become an important part of her career as a pop performer.

Into the Groove

Madonna started writing her own music and dabbling with the guitar around 1981. In late 2000, she gave a rare guitar performance of her "Don't Tell Me" on "The Late Show With David Letterman." The pop star had her guitar teacher play along side her to help steady her nerves.

Express Yourself

Madonna has enjoyed moderate success as a film actress. She earned positive reviews for her performances in the 1984 screwball farce "Desperately Seeking Susan," and scored critical points as Eva Peron in the 1996 movie adaptation of the Broadway musical "Evita." But she's had her share of flops as well. Critics dished out less than favorable reviews for her most recent effort, "The Next Best Thing," in 2000.



Madonna in the title role of 1996's "Evita."

Love Don't Live Here Anymore

Over the years, Madonna has been romantically linked to artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, rap singer Vanilla Ice, actor Warren Beatty and former basketball star Dennis Rodman. She was married to actor Sean Penn from 1985 to 1989.

Crazy For You

After months of speculation, the pop queen tied the knot with British film director Guy Ritchie in December 2000. The private ceremony was held at a Scottish castle amid tight security. The guest list reportedly included pop singer Sting and his wife Trudie Styler (who introduced the couple at a dinner party), actors Gwyneth Paltrow, Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston, rocker Jon Bon Jovi and fashion designer Donatella Versace.

Cherish

Madonna has two children. Her daughter, Lourdes, was born in 1996 during a relationship with personal trainer Carlos Leon. Her son, Rocco, was born in 2000, a few months before her marriage to Ritchie.

—Chuck Myers

MATERIAL KNOWLEDGE

Are you a Madonna fan? See how many lyric lines you can complete from some of singer's most popular hits.

1. From "Material Girl"
Some boys kiss me, some boys hug me
I think they're OK
If they don't give me proper credit

2. From "Crazy For You"
Trying hard to control my heart
I walk over to where you are

3. From "Papa Don't Preach"
Papa don't preach, I'm in trouble
deep
Papa don't preach, I've been losing sleep

4. From "Open Your Heart"
Open your heart to me, darlin'

5. From "Live To Tell"
A man can tell a
thousand lies
I've learned my lesson
well

Madonna performs during the
1998 MTV Video Music Awards.



MICHAEL KITADAKI/KRT

6. From "Express Yourself"
You know, you know, you've
got to
Make him express how he feels

7. From "Vogue"
Greta Garbo, and
Monroe
Deitrich and DiMaggio
Marlon Brando, Jimmy
Dean

8. From "You'll See"
You think that you are
strong, but you are weak
You'll see,

9. From "Ray of Light"
Faster than the speeding light she's flying
Trying to remember where it all began

10. From "Music"
Hey Mister D.J.
Put a record on

Answers: (1) I just walk away; (2) Eye to eye we need no words at all; (3) But I made up my mind, I'm keeping my baby; (4) I'll give you love if you turn the key; (5) Hope I live to tell; (6) And maybe then you'll know his love is real; (7) On the cover of a magazine; (8) It takes more strength to cry, admit defeat; (9) She's got herself a little piece of heaven; (10) I wanna dance with my baby.



"True Blue" (1986; Sire)



"Like a Virgin" (1985; Sire)



"Madonna" (1983; Sire)



"Austin Powers, The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999)



"Evita" (1996)



"With Honors" (1994)



"Who's That Girl?" (1987)



"Desperately Seeking Susan" (1985)



"Vision Quest" (1985)

* MOVIE SOUNDTRACK