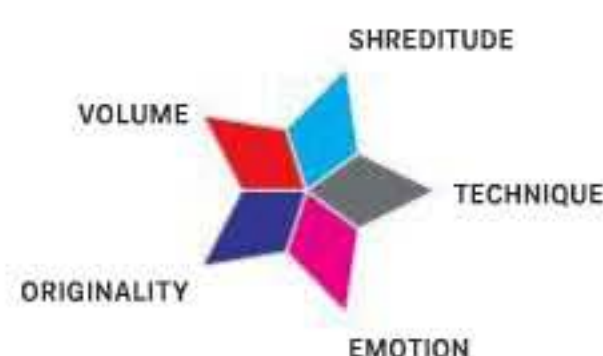


INTERSTELLAR OVERDRIVE

No two guitarists are alike. That's why we've customized a star for each player in our infographic. Musicians were scored from 1-10 (1 being good, 10 being godlike) using five criteria: shreditude, volume, emotion, originality, and technique. The length of each point in the star corresponds to the player's score in each criteria. The stars are also colored according to scores, e.g., score best for volume, get a red star. If a player scored equally well among multiple attributes, we assigned a color based on the one that we felt was key. Now start stargazing! By David Marchese; Infographic by Catalogtree



Marissa Paternoster (Screaming Females)

Sound: Basement punk
Showstopper: "High"
String theory: "If you play just to show off, it's not gonna be good."

Marnie Stern

Sound: Maximalist prog pop
Showstopper: "Transformer"
String theory: "I don't care if soloing is regurgitated. It's important it's alive."

Paul Saulnier (PS I Love You)

Sound: Squawking riff rock
Showstopper: "Facelove"
String theory: "I'm getting comfortable with self-indulgence."

Dustin Wong

Sound: Real-time loops that reach epic crescendos
Showstopper: His cameo on Titus Andronicus's "The Battle of Hampton Roads"
String theory: "Eddie Van Halen-style solos can be emotionally genuine."

Colin Marston (Behold... The Arctopus)

Sound: Avant-metal
Showstopper: "Alcoholocaust"
String theory: "Real shredding is fast and intense, but it's flexible."

Emmett Miller (Diarrhea Planet)

Sound: Juiced power pop
Showstopper: "Cigarettes"
String theory: "You can shred in tasteful amounts."

Randy Randall (No Age)

Sound: Trippy noise-punk
Showstopper: "Chem Trails"
String theory: "Solos have bad connotations, but they also have a function."

Jake Orrall (JEFF the Brotherhood)

Sound: Heshier metal
Showstopper: "Hey Friend"
String theory: "It feels amazing when you're ripping a solo."

Anna Calvi

Sound: Noirish cabaret
Showstopper: "Love Won't Be Leaving"
String theory: "It's about creating beautiful music, not moving your fingers fast."

Ty Segall

Sound: Scuzzy lo-fi garage
Showstopper: "Tongues"
String theory: "People say soloing is arrogant. Well, it's awesome because it's arrogant."

Dave W. (White Hills)

Sound: Power kraut
Showstopper: "You Dream You See"
String theory: "The guitar is not an extension of my dick. It's my Jesus."

Kevin Parker (Tame Impala)

Sound: Bleary-eyed psych
Showstopper: "Alter Ego"
String theory: "You can do technical shit and still have soul."

Annie Clark (St. Vincent)

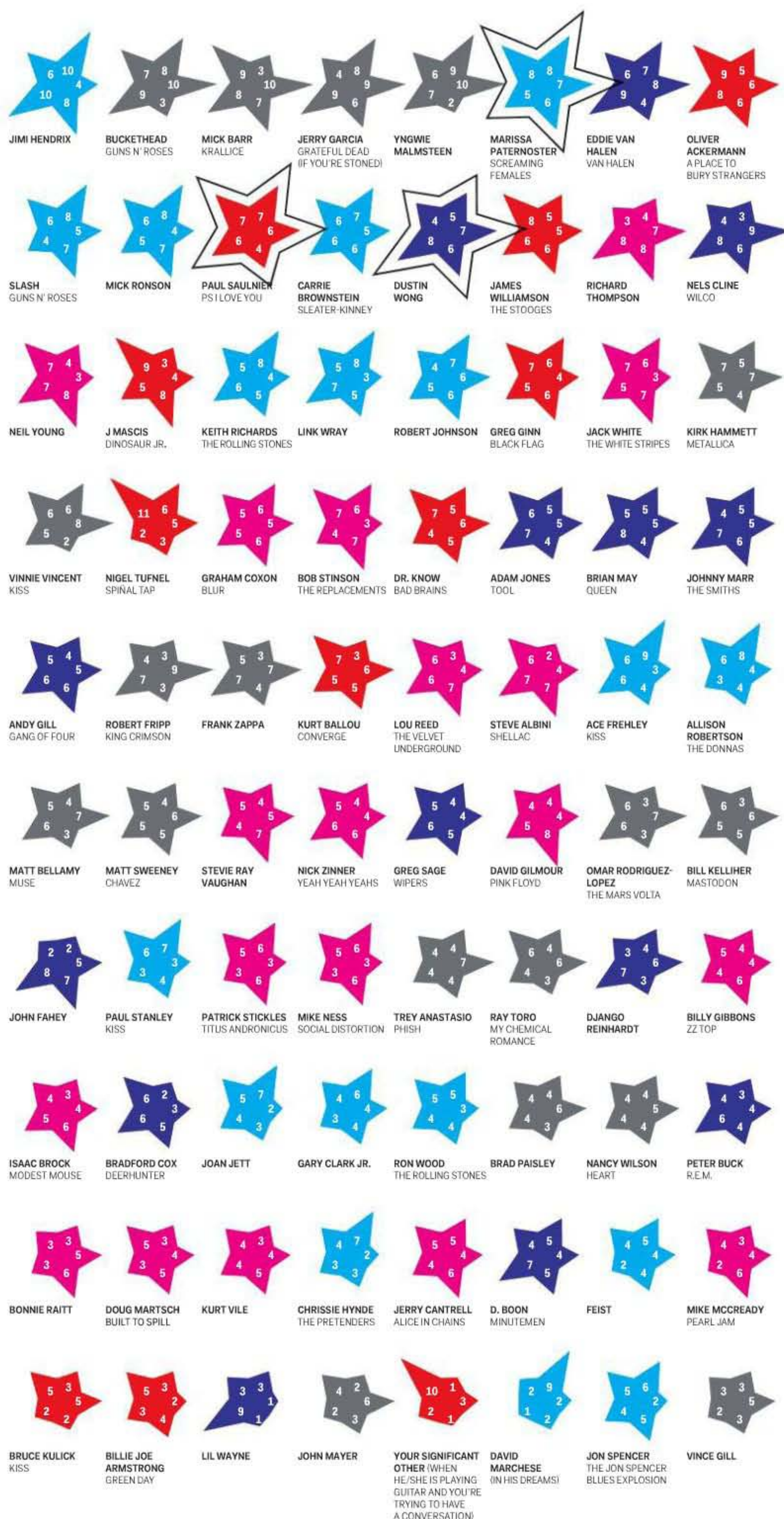
Sound: Complex art pop
Showstopper: "Your Lips Are Red"
String theory: "The guitar hero is a malleable thing. You're not boxed in."

Avi Zahner-Isenberg (Avi Buffalo)

Sound: Slacker epics
Showstopper: "Remember Last Time"
String theory: "Avoid Allman Brothers scales. Do something creative."

Ruban Nielson (Unknown Mortal Orchestra)

Sound: Spacey soul funk
Showstopper: "Little Blu House"
String theory: "The most exciting things to do are the ones we're not supposed to."



From rock legends and fictional six-stringers to retail wannabes
and the Devil—with callouts to and riffs from today's hottest players—
our highly subjective classification of the guitar-hero galaxy

