

# TIME

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## The Top 10 Songs of 2017

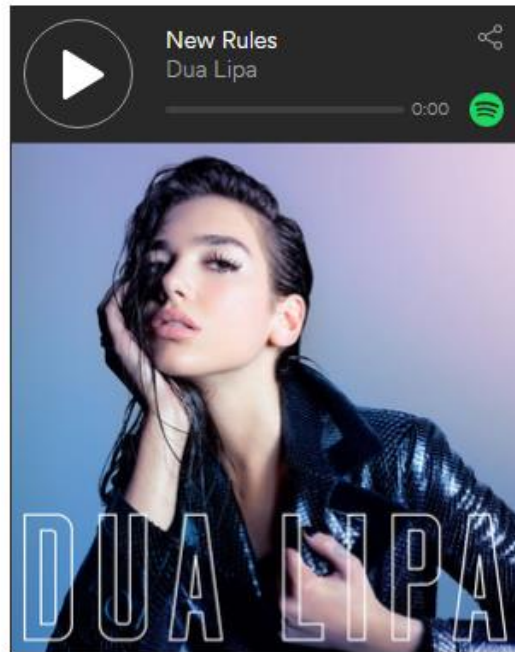


By **Raisa Bruner** 12:49 PM EST

In a sea of songs, it can be hard to pick the ones that float to the top. They're the sounds that stay stuck in your head for days at a time; the ones you wake up singing and save to your Spotify reflexively. They might be the ones that rise to the top of the charts, or the ones inspiring think pieces and late-night conversations. But no matter what, they reflect our cultural moment.

Consider this year's crop of top songs, like the brash, brazen "**Bodak Yellow**," a ferocious kiss-off to doubters and detractors, or the effortless danceable "**Despacito**," an irresistible melting pot of styles. More explicit social commentary has a place here, in the form of thoughtful hip-hop from the likes of JAY-Z and Frank Ocean. And there are a few surprises—like an unassuming Oldies-style hit from **a low-key rock outfit**, and a song that speaks to a feminist moment in the form of purest pop gold from a **bold voice on the rise**.

## 1. Dua Lipa, “New Rules”



No year has needed new rules as desperately as 2017 did, and Kosovo-bred, London-raised **Dua Lipa** enumerated them in a viral hit that’s as catchy as it is empowering. “One, don’t pick up the phone, you know he’s only calling cause he’s drunk and alone,” she sings, smoky-voiced over a skronky hook. It’s a song about how not to behave after a breakup, sure—but it’s also an anthem for self-care in a moment when so many of us felt unmoored. Buoyed to popularity by a music video featuring the year’s most effortlessly cool choreography, “New Rules” works so well because it’s both stylish and layered: As an escapist fantasy of girl-power, it’s a triumph, but as a rallying cry to buck the status quo, it’s even better.