The Future Wasn't Meant To Be

Alice Coltrane | "Journey In Satchidananda" (1971)

• A fusion of spiritual jazz and Indian classical music, inspired by Coltrane's deep devotion to Eastern mysticism.

• The album was influenced by Swami Satchidananda, a guru* who emphasized inner peace and divine consciousness.

Vangelis | "To the Unknown Man" (1977)

• Vangelis, known for his cinematic and cosmic compositions, captures the vastness of the unknown.

• The track reflects themes of human exploration, mystery, and existential longing

Kitaro | "Theme From Silk Road" (1980)

• A mesmerizing blend of Japanese electronic music and traditional Asian influence

• Written for the documentary Silk Road, the piece evokes the mysticism and cultural richness of ancient trade routes.

• Soft synth pads, gentle melodies, and flowing rhythms create a peaceful yet adventurous mood.

Enya | "Caribbean Blue" (1991)

• A dreamy, ethereal New Age pop song featuring Enya's signature layered vocals and lush instrumentation.

• Inspired by romanticism, mythology, and nature, it transports listeners into a surreal, celestial landscape.

• Lyrics reference Greek mythology reinforcing its mystical atmosphere.

Enigma | "Return To Innocence" (1994)

• A fusion of Gregorian chant, tribal elements, and electronic beats, reflecting Enigma's signature sound.

• The song's message focuses on purity, childhood nostalgia, and spiritual rebirth.

• The famous indigenous chant (from Taiwan's Amis people) adds a primal, universal

connection to the song's theme of returning to an authentic, untainted self.

Rocket Mail

In the 1930s and '50s, some inventors imagined firing letters and parcels by rocket to speed up delivery. It never caught on because it was wildly **impractical and dangerous**—rockets exploded, were expensive, and had limited payload capacity. While it's unlikely we'll ever use rockets for ordinary mail, the concept lives on in modern **space cargo delivery** ideas (like SpaceX thinking about Earth-to-Earth transport for urgent supplies).

Flying Car

A symbol of "the future" for decades, the flying car faced issues of **safety, cost, noise, and regulation.** Who would manage traffic in the sky? How would ordinary people learn to "fly" safely? Recently, prototypes for electric "air taxis" suggest that limited flying vehicles could still arrive—maybe as shared services rather than personal cars.

Maglev

Maglev (magnetic levitation) trains are fast, smooth, and efficient, but they're **too expensive to build**—tracks require huge infrastructure costs and government investment. They've succeeded in a few places (like Shanghai), and with new focus on green transit, they might become more popular if costs drop and climate goals demand cleaner high-speed travel.

Zeppelin

Before airplanes dominated, zeppelins were luxury airships. But disasters like the **Hindenburg** (1937) and the speed of planes made them obsolete. They're unlikely to return for mass travel, but some companies explore airships for **cargo transport and eco-tourism**, where slower, scenic flights could be a feature, not a bug.

Suspension Railway

Hanging railways, like Germany's historic Wuppertal Schwebebahn, were futuristic in design but too **complex and expensive** to expand widely. They might see niche use in **dense urban areas** where ground space is limited, especially with modern materials and automation.

Ground-Effect Vehicle

Also called "ekranoplans," these are hybrid plane-boat crafts that skim just above water using lift from "ground effect." They were tested by the Soviets, but were **unstable, hard to steer, and limited to flat water.** With better control systems and lightweight materials, they might return for **military or cargo use**.

Supersonic Transport
The Concorde showed that supersonic passenger planes were possible—but **too loud, too expensive, and too fuel-hungry.** New companies like Boom Supersonic hope to fix those issues, so quieter, greener supersonic flights could return for wealthy travelers or long-distance business travel.

Nuclear Propulsion
Nuclear-powered ships exist, but plans for **nuclear planes or cars** never happened—radiation risks and public fear made it unthinkable. In the future, nuclear propulsion might find a role in **spacecraft** for long missions, where safety concerns are different.

Hyperloop
Elon Musk's vision of ultra-fast pods in vacuum tubes excited people, but costs, engineering challenges, and skepticism slowed progress. Some scaled-down versions might appear for freight or short, high-traffic routes, but the grand promise of a global Hyperloop is far off.

Hydrogen Vehicle
Hydrogen cars were promoted as the clean alternative to gas, but **high costs, lack of fueling infrastructure, and competition from electric cars** stalled adoption. Still, hydrogen may have a future in **buses, trucks, or aviation**, where batteries are less practical.

Mecha
Giant piloted robots dominate anime and sci-fi, but real versions are **impractical, dangerous, and hugely expensive.** Smaller, semi-autonomous construction or military robots might slowly bring elements of "mecha" into reality—but not the skyscraper-sized heroes we see in fiction.

Metaverse
The vision of a fully immersive digital world has been hyped for years, but today's "metaverse" flopped because of **clunky hardware, lack of compelling uses, and over-marketing.** However, as VR, AR, and social spaces improve, a form of metaverse could emerge—just quieter, more practical, and less tied to hype.

Scorpions | "Wind of Change" (1990)
This power ballad became an anthem for the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union. With its whistled melody and hopeful lyrics, it captured a feeling

that global tensions might truly be easing. It reflected the belief that the 1990s could bring a lasting era of peace—a belief central to the "end of history" mindset.

Jesus Jones | "Right Here, Right Now" (1991)
 This upbeat alt-rock song marvels at living through history in real time—the fall of communism, the dawn of new freedoms, and the world opening up. It celebrated the sense that the present moment was extraordinary and that the future would be even better, echoing the decade's almost naïve optimism.

Michael Jackson | "Heal the World" (1991)
 Jackson's song and charity project promoted the idea that compassion and awareness could "heal the world" for children everywhere. It turned 1990s global optimism into a humanitarian message, suggesting that art and music could inspire real-world change and a better century ahead.

Michael Crawford | "Counting Up to Twenty" (1995)
 This lesser-known recording from *The Disney Album* was a cheerful, almost childlike song celebrating milestones and looking ahead. Its playful tone reflects mid-'90s confidence that the next generation was growing up in a safer, brighter world.

Will Smith | "Will 2K" (1999)
 As Y2K approached, Will Smith's party anthem framed the millennium as a reason to celebrate, not fear. Rather than dwelling on doomsday predictions, it embraced the excitement of a new century—turning the turn of the millennium into a global party.