Hey guys, you guys enjoy listening to music right? I know here in Korea most popular foreign music is usually pop, and the closest the music gets to being rock is as close as Bak Gun Hae will get to being president again. So I assume a lot of you guys like pop. But if guys want to try branching outside of pop, why not try rock music? Especially in the world of American rock, I think Weezer is a unique and interesting place to start.

Weezer is an American Rock band formed in 1992 by Rivers Cuomo. They currently have 10 official album, 2 abandoned albums, and 1 Christmas album to date. Their debut album the Blue Album had hit songs and music videos such as Buddy Holly; In fact, Buddy Holly was so popular, it was included in the install CD for Windows 95 by default. Nowadays, we don’t get

Eventually, the Blue Album managed to sell over 3 million copies.

The success of their first album inspired Cuomo to write another album.

However their second album, Pinkerton, panned by critics during the time of its release. Although in recent years it has become a cult classic, considered to be one the best albums of the 1990s. However, the initial slamming of Pinkerton caused the main guitarist, Rivers Cuomo to fall into mild insanity. He was absolutely shocked about his most intimate feeling in the album being crushed.

This was easily justified, a listen to some of the songs on the album will tell you why.

A great example is “Across the sea”.

You can feel the amount of pure emotion Rivers pumped into “Across the sea”. A couple weeks before writing the song, Rivers received a letter from a girl in Japan. Rivers was going through severe depression in his college years and he stated later on "When I got the letter, I fell in love with her. It was such a great letter. I was very lonely at the time, but at the same time I was very depressed that I would never meet her. Even if I did see her, she was probably some fourteen-year-old girl, who didn't speak English."

The lyrics reference this letter, as some of the questions the girl asked actually appear in the song, suh as

You wanted to know all about me and my hobbies, my favorite food and my birthday.

Rivers has looked back on this album and said “It’s like getting really drunk at a party and spilling your guts in front of everyone and feeling incredibly great and cathartic about it, and then waking up the next morning and realizing what a complete fool you made of yourself”.

“I got very sad... I became very unsure of my instincts.”

He sold all of his furniture except for a bowl and spoon, painted his walls black and spent a lot of time with his pet gecko. He went into a multi-year hiatus

Luckily, things began looking bright for the band again when he wrote “The encyclopedia of rock”, a notebook systematically analyzing popular bands such Green Day and Oasis. This enabled a comeback for the band with a more pop-centric sound.

However, in to many Weezer fans, these days mark an almost dark-days for the band, filled with questionable releases such as “Can’t Stop Partying” and “Where’s my sex.” The terribleness peaked at the albums Raditude and Make Believe

Personally, to me, it wasn’t too bad. My favorite Weezer song, “Pork and Beans” out during this time. Pork and Beans was a smashing success.

Pork and Beans is a song all about being yourself. Rivers wrote “Pork and Beans” after his label’s executives told him to record more commercial material. Rivers was angry afterwards and decided to write that conveyed a “statement of defiance”. The entire song is a throwback to era of the Blue Album and Pinkerton era. Pitchfork Media writer Marc Hogan described it best, "a catchy, self-referential rocker, with the buzzsaw guitars and big choruses of Weezer's glory days, and that familiar, self-assured lameness."

It’s hard to understate how well received this song was. It even managed to win a Grammy for best music video. It’s one of only 17 songs to every sit at billboard number 1 for 10 weeks

After the release of the Hurley, the Pop oriented era of Weezer ended. Weezer went into a music making hiatus until 2014.

Throughout 2014 they released the Album everything will be Alright in the End, an album worth mentioning because it marked full the return of Weezer’s old style and success. It was their best-reviewed album since Pinkerton.

The streak of good songs continue to this day, with the release of the “White Album” in 2016 and a confirmed black album coming soon.

My personal favorite from the white album is “California Kids”, actually filmed on a beach in California. The song’s lyrical describe the reliability of children from California, stating they will “show you the sunshine” and “throw you a lifeline”, while as the music video is mostly about Rivers going on a drug fueled trip in California. While the lyrics and the video itself didn’t make much sense to me, I just absolutely love the guitar and drumbeat in this song.

Weezer’s history spans many years. Their style changed multiple times over the years. That is one aspect I really love about Weezer. You can pick a song from one of their eras and you can tell exactly what part of their history the song came from, albeit maybe the bad eras. Their songs have so much emotion and backstory behind them, it makes listening to them all the more interesting. I hope you guys listen to Weezer one day too.