



That Eric Alper



The Music Industry's Most-Loved Albums Of All Time, Part 5

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This is part five of an ongoing [series](#) where the kind folk of the music business reveal their favourite album of all time.

Ask people in the music industry the seemingly simple and straightforward question, “What is your favourite album of all time?” and you’ll find that it’s not always easy. After all, my industry peers listen to hundreds of albums a month – thousands of songs during that time. Because the question isn’t the best album of all time – the one that’s made them the most money in sales – but the one release they personally can’t live without, that one title they have two copies of in several formats, in case one breaks. It’s also about that album that for them has the best back stories and the one that has the most meaning in their lives.

Michael Simon is the CEO of The Harry Fox Agency

The Specials, The Specials



That’s an impossible question. One album. I have, at least, a top 50. But today, I vote for The Specials first US full-length release.

It was that record (and record cover) that caused me to wear vintage, narrow lapel three button suits and skinny ties to high school. And it was those suits that caused me to meet future band mates. And being the guy responsible for bookkeeping in our ska band caused me to tune in to the business side of music. And that caused me to write my college thesis on Motown Records. And delving more deeply into the music business while writing that thesis led

me to law school since a lot of industry leaders were lawyers. And my law degree sent me to an entertainment law firm. And the entertainment law firm sent me to a major label. And the major label taught me that I wanted to manage bands. And I ended up managing the major label careers of those musicians who joined me, first, in that skinny lapel-wearing ska band. And those bands taught me about songs. Though I love, and was influenced by, many other records, my career threads in the music industry can be traced back to that one Specials record. And, I’m still here. Full circle. I keep a Specials 8 x 10 that I bought in 1981 in my office at HFA, and I still listen to that record all the time.