

**CAMBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB - SONG TITLES - 25/02/2021**

GRADE	SONG TITLES	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	A Moment in Time	It's big and bold and the main point of interest and in line with the title. I like the black background which gives the illusion that the stones are "hanging" suspended. The watch face is on the thirds and I like the oblique angle of the watch.	16	
A	Circus Theme Song	What a delightfully vibrant and happy image, which is what one associates with a circus theme. I like the full frontal facial displayed, which gives me an opportunity to explore and enjoy.	18	
A	Downtown Petula Clark	Yes, I can hear this song in my head, a most enjoyable song which led me on to checking out Petula Clark, what a wonderful lady. The 'Keep Clear' sign is so well displayed, strong and bold and the setting is clear that it's downtown. To make this a stronger more balanced image, I would recommend a vignette.	15	
A	Eagle Abba	What a gorgeous image and in tune with the Abba lyrics. Beautifully sharp in all the right places. While some of the grasses in the foreground are very light, the tallest blade of grass is the most distracting and lets this image down unfortunately. It does however show the environment in which the bird is located. I would suggest burning in the top left area which is quite light.	16	
A	Froggy Went a Courtin	Well said and illustrated. The colour palette is interesting. My thoughts are that perhaps the reflection is a bit too strong and may lead to a bit of competitiveness which the eyes bouncing between the two. To bring the couple closer I would also suggest a bit of a crop on either side.	17	
A	I'm Poppy	Well now I am educated. I've never heard that song before, very strange indeed. However, the image is simple, vibrant and powerful with a strong focal point.	18	
A	Put Another Log on the Fire	Flames are mesmerising. Fire warms and is dangerous and the focus is on the white searing hot flames on the logs, which are well framed by bricks illuminating red in the background. Good exposure and difficult achieve a good balance. My only thought would be to reduce the highlights, which will give a bit more definition to the flames.	16	

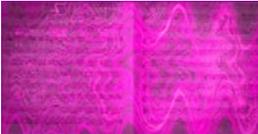
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A	Still Waiting	There is a clear focus of attention in this lovely bright and vibrant mythical image. It's easy for the eye to move around and enjoy the story, coming to finally rest on the third butterfly who is "Still Waiting".	19	
A	The Boys of Summertime	Well illustrated by the title and the visual. Alluding to fun and boys out and playing, having the best time and in full action mode and boys do love speed. It looks as though the younger boy is in the centre and the two older boys are protecting him. Good story to back up the title, well cropped, perfect exposure.	19	
A	Toast	The toast is well displayed and the perspective of height, depth, position and width in relation to each other is great. The light source is from the left and I would have taken advantage of this and give a bit of a burn on the right hand side of the image. Red is a very strong and forward colour, so the eye does tend to move past the toast and to the toaster, which is quite large in comparison. I would suggest just a bit of desaturation would sift the balance. I also don't think the clock needs to be there, adding an additional element detracts from the simplicity of the image. However, in saying all that, I do like the image and the perspective has a lot to do with that.	16	
A	Waiting on a friend	I like her body language and her angle. The storyline is good and I do like the two blokes in the background who are clearly in conversation and may be friends, which highlights her "alone" status presently. The lighting is very strong and there are quite a few strong highlights on her skin and the guys in the background and on the tree. Really tricky getting that exposure correct at that time of the day. One could argue that cropping the guys out would be better, but I think it adds another dimension to the image and the story. I would suggest a crop on either side to get in closer to the subject.	16	
A	Walk on the Ocean	She's having such a good time, what fun!! She's in red which is strong and which adds emphasis to the action shot. Great depth of field too and exposure. I would suggest being aware of backgrounds that cut into a central focal point, such as the land in the background. Just moving yourself up higher in the boat could have ensured her head was against the water as the background.	15	

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A	What's New Pussy Cat	Great image, hard to get a shot like this of a cat against the right backdrop and angle. Love the negative space and perfectly suited to this image.	19	
A	A Whiter Shade of Pale	You have thought outside the box with this image and I like the movement of the arms in contrast to the sharper facial features. I do think this image may look really great as a black and white image. I would also suggest trying out reducing the highlights and shadows and increasing the contrast which will give you better separation of darks and lights in the image. The title would still apply.	15	
B	I'm a Rock	A large solid mass which fills the space and certainly fits the song title. Well cropped and heaps of textures shadows and light to be gleaned from the rock. To include a human component brings you to a state of "in civilisation", without it's "one with nature", so you can adapt the story. Please be aware of skew horizons, so easy to overlook with a large image stealing the show. I would suggest you also try this image in monochrome – you can add dramatic effect, especially with the size and cloud components, but also like it as it is. (Marked down because of the horizon).	16	
B	Let it Flow	Who doesn't like a soft veil of water captured at a slower shutter speed. The oblique angle of the waterfall makes for a compelling image and you need to see where the eye leads you too. In this instance, it's to the vegetation caught on the side. So on that note, I would recommend flipping the image, so that the leading lines are the moss encrusted rocks, waterfall and reflections. I would also vignette the image so that the focal point (waterfall) is highlighted. It changes the entire image!	16	
B	Pictures of Lily The Who 1	What a beautiful Lily, it is lovely and sharp throughout with great detail to enjoy. A suggestion to work on the lighting which appears to be really harsh and you can see this in the bold shadows under the petals and on the tips of the leaves. To aim for just a bit more graduation of the pinks to the end of the leaves would have been good.	16	

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B	Pictures of Lily The Who 2	I like the fact that you have tried something different and it looks good with the image well-balanced. The black background brings all the elements to the fore so there are no distractions as the eye moves around the various components easily and I like the areas of separation created by the black background. It's always good to include a frame in images like this so you know the beginning and end of the image.	19	
B	Purple Haze	I do like the concept and idea behind this. I'm a fan of abstract art and this genre can keep one engaged for a long time. Not everyone's cup of tea though! I like the landscape format and the endless possibilities. There are a few considerations, the colour is very pink on my screen and apologies and ignore this if this is not the case when on your display. I would have liked to see more separation, i.e. dark and lighter areas to separate the various "strings" – I'd try increasing contrast and reducing shadows for greatest impact.	15	
B	Rainbow Connection	Great lead in lines and reinforced with the "umbrella" connection. Visually strong and a good story, hastening out of the rain and great location, well done! You could if you so wished, elongate further by cropping on both sides which creates more tension in the image.	17	
B	Singing in the Rain	Perfect timing, apt title, great exposure and the shallow depth of field makes the image pop. My thoughts are that there are a lot of leaves on the tree, which pushes the bird just about into the centre of the image and the leaves take up quite a bit of photo real estate. I would crop quite a bit off the left and a bit off the top so he is located more in the bottom left and singing into that lovely blurred background.	16	
B	Sun Arise	Photography is all about capturing the light and you have done this so well, using shadows and lighting to great effect. Only recommendation is that because we read from left to right, I would flip it (horizontal flip) and this would create far stronger leading lines.	19	

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B	Take me Out to the Ball Park	This is a novel way in which to illustrate this title. The colour palette is great which create shapes, the pitcher is really sharp and you have subtly displayed his various actions, which is great!! It adds interest and creates movement. The only improvement I would suggest is to crop on the right hand side, where you see the white house and burn or clone in that patch of white on the top left hand side.	19	
B	Take me to the River	This is a lovely scene with the river and the pathway which runs alongside. The title works with the image. There are a few areas which you should consider. Always ensure the horizon is straight (sometimes not as obvious, as in this case) and an image always works better with contrast, lighting/exposure.	12	
B	The Green Door Jim Lowe 1956	The focal point is clear and this image displays great detail and texture and you can capitalise on this further by increasing contrast, shadows and lighting.	18	
B	Three Blind Mice	You have gone the extra mile and actually baked 3 blind mice, well done, they look delicious! The story is complete too with cut off tails!	17	
B	When I'm 64	The two birds are so close together they work as one and well done for capturing them in this position. There is such potential to provide separation between the birds and the foliage, simply because they are so stark against the background. My suggestion to improve the image and to seperate them, would be to add contrast, reducing the lighting and see what this looks like as a monochrome image.	15	
B	Yesterday	The story is clear and "yesterday" can be a long time ago, as is illustrated with this image, which has become one with nature. It's another shape with textures which has melded into the background. If you wanted to really push the boundaries by getting that boat to be the standout feature, a suggestion that you could burn around the edges and experiment using something like curves or pushing contrast and decreasing brightness. This would provide separation in the image too. That all being said, nicely captured, cropped and good content.	16	

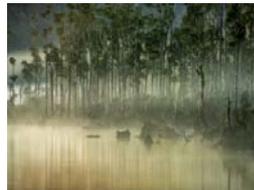
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C	A Daisy a Day	The title beautifully illustrates with this image. Lovely blurred background and your main focus is on Daisies. The buds are a welcome disruptor amongst the daisies. Well done.	17	
C	Roses are Red	The rose fills the frame, so the message is clear. Roses are full of shapes and patterns, so are interesting in their own right. A word of caution regarding the heavy white framing, it would be better to do a light and thinner one. You could improve this and increase the separation, by increasing the contrast. This will throw the background further into darkness and allow the rose to come into the foreground in all into glory, red being a very forward colour. Also watch out for your main focal point right on the edge and try and place it more onto the thirds. Have some negative space on the right is not a bad thing either. It's just experimentation and finding the right balance.	16	
C	Time	This is a well rounded story and lays out the information on the David Gilmour concert and then rests on the clock in the centre. I would have included all the text, as you would want people the content read, which is an integral part of the story.	15	
C	Waterfall Paul McCartney	What a lovely waterscape, showing movement and the point of interest where the waterfall begins. There is a shaft of light at the top of the waterfall, which is lovely and soft. The image is well exposed with good detail. Well done!	18	
	Best of the Night	What's New Pusycat - He is just perfect, I love the negative space, his gaze and his position, so well captured		

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A	a Star in Nature	This is perfection, almost!! What a thrilling and beautiful image, well framed, great out of focus background. My only gripe is that the bird's feathers seem to be over sharpened and this lets it down. If you can pull this back a bit and soften those feathers it would make all the difference.	16	
A	Amidst the Moving Sand Farewell Spitt	Another great image and I like the lightness of the image with the shadow of the seal, showing the direction of the sun. Such a simple image and I like it.	19	
A	Argonauts (Paper Nautilus)	Lovely, simple, great background, well placed with the right amount of reflection, absolutely no distractions and meticulous. Well done!	19	
A	Birds Bathing	I really enjoyed this image, what a fun image, nature at it's best. Even if it's a number of images of the birds put together, it's been well constructed. My only comment is to be aware of over sharpening and I'm not sure if this is due to the image size presented.	19	
A	Daze End Flight	This is a very peaceful, relaxing and vibrant image, very impressionistic, apart from the birds, which hold the attention.	19	
A	Impala Reflection	These are a beautiful and are a gentle buck. What a peaceful scene, but note that the buck are always on the alert for predators. I do like the image and well done on the perspective you have taken it at. For me, the reflections are too bold and that's fine as this was your obvious intention. That's what photography is all about, it's pushing those boundaries and making people think outside the box. Because the reflections are so bold, I find my eyes moving from the top to the bottom, so that is why I'd rather not have them in conflict with the original Impala.	16	

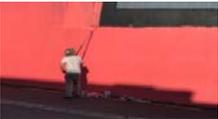
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A	Kaimanawa battle.	A show of a power play between the males. As you move into the image and over the horses, they, being the focus of attention, also form a connected shape which is strong.	16	
A	Max Minis	How impressive to see them lined up like this, derived from the Mini Minor around 60 years ago and it still resembles it's original design. Well cropped and framed.	16	
A	Morning mist Lake Wahapo.	I did enjoy this image, so great to be able to capture mist, water and nature. From my perspective, there may be a bit too much of a green cast on the image, if you pull this back a tad, you get to appreciate the a greater range of colour in the trees, like brown in the bark and the foliage a subtle green.	16	
A	On Guard	Great angle and the background adds a bit of tension to the image and supports this type of insect. I originally thought you may consider making him the key focus by cropping out a third of the pod. But, looking at this image over a period of time, I'm in agreement, he is king pin and this shows off perspective too. I really like that square format as well. Colours are kept to a minimum as well.	18	
A	Pink Oyster Mushroom	I'm not a purist that needs to have everything in focus/sharp. Having various depths of field is like a symphony, softer and louder, but it all comes together in the end in one way or another, meaning it either works or it doesn't. A few comments, the direction of the light appears to be from the left hand side and because these are lighter, they are the supporting elements to the sharper focused centre. However, be aware that the eye is going to travel to the lighter areas first and because these are not in focus, are more prominent. I would also suggest putting a light border around the image – it demarcates the image area.	16	

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A	Poppy-Pollinator	Red and yellow work extremely well together, vibrant, extrovert and strong. It's not that easy to capture this moving little stinger with such precision, so well done. It sometimes improves an image when you are able to separate objects so that the point of interest is projected forward as much as possible. A recommendation to desaturate the red a little.	16	
A	Roses	Well positioned in the frame and I like the way you have placed the roses with just the right amount of saturation and exposure. I would suggest you place a light border around the image as this will be clearer if viewed on a black background.	17	
A	Shipwreck	The good thing about HDR images is that it reveals textures in an image. In this instance it's the ship's body and grasses in the foreground, the rope and to a lesser extent the clouds. All combined along with a well positioned, cropped and a good storyline, makes a great image. Even as a black and white it would still be a strong image. The story is in the decay of this huge ship, brought to it's knees on land.	19	
A	Speedy	What a great image, just lovely displaying speed, slightly diagonally placed in the frame and supported on either side by vibrant colours.. The rider is so sharp against the blur of the background and it has the feel of power.	20	
A	To Feed Both of Us	I love the feel of this image and it is quite difficult to understand the story. The lady appears to be well dress in European clothing and is interacting with someone other than the photographer. She may in fact have sold some product. The angle of the steps compliments the image and the mother and child balance each other really well. Perfectly exposed.	20	
A	Wanaka Dawn	I do like the pinks and the purples and the illusion of soft and gentle lighting at the break of day. And of course the juxtaposed element in the image add interest to the landscape. Peaceful and serene.	17	

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B	Lake_Alexandrina_Outlet	It's odd the way one is drawn to a different colour in a scene which is mostly one colour, such as the orange "window" at the top right – just an observation. The scene is lovely with lots of reflections to enjoy and the duck's position cements the various elements. I'm really enjoying the tranquility and the simplicity of the scene. Well done.	19	
B	Roll it on	It's a big wall to paint, so I'm pleased you didn't crop in on the scene. I feel the shadow (from an opposing building) is balanced by the black and as yet unpainted area. Well spotted and captured.	19	
B	The Clock Tower	While the clock tower is a beautiful construction, I think the image should have been the distorted building next to the clock tower, that is great! The majority of the image consists of the distorted building and the lesser of The Clock Tower and the eye keeps moving between the two.	14	
C	Anthornis-melanura-male	A stunningly beautiful Anthornis-melanura with good depth of field. Take care with those bright areas in the image and over-sharpening of the feathers.	17	
C	Egmont-National-Park-early-evening	I do like the portrait orientation of the image, it's powerful and creates tension which allows the viewer to move up the mountain and back down again. Great exposure.	20	
C	Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae feeding on Fuchsia excorticata berry	Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae rests so comfortably on the branch. Lovely all round image and I would have liked a bit more tail room!	20	

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C	Misty Web	You have the makings of such a lovely image here which is essentially made up of shapes and patterns. So well done! I do also like the bokeh effect. I would suggest experimenting. Cropping on the left hand side just before the branch, apply contrast and reducing the shadow. This will make the spider's artwork (the web) pop.	17	
	Best of the night	Egmont-National-Park-early-evening To me the image feels a little old worl photography in its simplicity. It also appealed to me using a portrait orientation on a landscape image to hone in on the detail of the mountain with the trees/bush almost forming part ofthe scene		