



Super Bowl Battle of the Bands: New England vs Seattle

Description



Photo: Borgqueen, va Wikipedia Commons

Getting into the Super Bowl spirit this weekend? Though European screening times are distinctly anti-social, weâ??re looking forward to getting stuck in to some football and the biggest advertising bonanza on the American calendar â?? check in on Monday to see what we made of this yearâ??s crop of spots! Now, thereâ??s no Super Bowl without super tunesâ?|

Whether itâ??s great advertising sync, the halftime performance â?? and whatever Katy Perry has up her Jeremy Scott-tailored sleeves â?? or just pre-game pump-up playlists, music is totally integral to the viewing experience. So we got a little competitive: we chose five artists from each region and checked how they [measured up](#) against each other in terms of social media popularity across Facebook, Twitter,

Soundcloud and Last FM.

Though we promise the footballs are untouched, we have shifted the goalposts a little bit: given Seattle's immediate advantage, we widened the Patriot catchment area a little bit beyond the Greater Boston area, to comprise all of New England and its considerable offerings. In terms of regional loyalties we also cast a wide net: if the artist or majority of members were born in the region, or if the band formed there, we were happy to include them.

New England's Talent

tUnE-yArDs

[*Current ranking:*](#) 1524th

Current Facebook likes: 137,416

Edge: Sheer offbeat, inventive indie catchiness.

Passion Pit

Current ranking: 1405th

Current Facebook likes: 1,397,779

Edge: Sunniness to light up the toughest pre-game warm-up.

Moby

Current Ranking: 1369th

Current Facebook likes: 2,520,489

Edge: Sheer ubiquity and foot-tapping playability, not to mention sync power: 1999's *Play* became the first album to have every track licensed, and shot to number one from the US to Australia.

MGMT

Current ranking: 1290th

Current Facebook likes: 4,294,073

Edge: a psychedelic twinge that might just confuse the competition.

New England's MVP

Aerosmith

Current ranking: 227th

Current Facebook likes: 16,571,661

Edge: A cornerstone of all-out, leather-trousered American rock. Plus they've appeared on Tom Brady's own pre-game playlist at least once.

New England like total: 24,921,418

Seattle's talent

Perfume Genius

Current Ranking: 1476th

Current Facebook likes: 65,928

Edge: Uncompromising individualism. And damned if â??Queenâ?? doesn't make a hell of an entrance song, though somehow we don't quite see it on the field.

Band of Horses

Current Ranking: 1220th

Current Facebook likes: 1,290,076

Edge: Calm-before-the-storm indie peace.

Ray Charles

Current Ranking: 745th

Current Facebook likes: 3,814,585

Edge: If The Genius doesn't get your toes tapping, it might be time to check for concussion.

Foo Fighters

Current Ranking: 208th

Current Facebook likes: 11,980,213

Edge: Head-banging teenage fun. Plus, the only band currently in the Billboard Hot 200, with not one but two placings (for their Sonic Highways soundtrack and Greatest Hits album).

Seattle's MVP

Nirvana

Current Ranking: 205

Current Facebook likes: 29,601,599

Edge: You knew it, we knew it. There's no standing in the way of sheer grunge power, still an omnipresent counterculture cornerstone even after becoming part of the cultural fabric itself. Plus there's still those grimy riffs.

Seattle like total: 46,752,401

The final score: **Seattle** by a country mile, but New England put up a fair fight despite the battering. Want more music, and the occasional geographic surprise? Try our Superbowl Playlist below to hear further tunes from these artists and more. Listeners in the U.S., Australia and New Zealand can also try Pandora's two [Super Bowl radio stations](#), where the battle continues.