

André Hazes	NL 7
<i>D: -- CH: -- A: -- NL: # 7 (32634 p.)</i>	

male pop/Schlager singer born on 30. June 1951 in Amsterdam/Netherlands and died on 23. September 2004 of a cardiac arrest in a hospital in Woerden/Netherlands; one of the most successful Dutch-language artists ever and often called national 'levenslied' king which is a cross between Schlager and Volksmusik

discovered by Johnny Kraaykamp Sr. and TV debut in 1958 but without success; became known as the Singing Bartender over the next two decades; first chart single with self-written "Eenzame kerst" ["Lonely Christmas"] in 1976 led to debut album "Zo is het leven" ["That's Life"] in 1977; had his own TV variety show 'Een avond met André Hazes' in 1985; "Wij houden van Oranje" ["We Love The Dutch Team"] in 1988 written and recorded for the Soccer European Championship which was won by the Dutch team was the first of many soccer-related songs recorded throughout his career; "Jij bent het leven voor mij" in 1997 electronically put together in the studio with his deceased predecessor as national levenslied king Willy Alberti; subject of successful 1999 documentary 'Zij gelooft in mij' ['She Believes In Me'] named after a former album track which brought him prominently back into the spotlight; short-time local politician in 2002 in Amsterdam; a memorial concert was held on 27. September 2004 at the Amsterdam ArenA; on 23. September 2005 a bronze-coloured statue was unveiled in Amsterdam and his ashes were shot into the sky; recorded albums in many different styles throughout his career ranging from blues to rock and Italian canzone to Dutch levenslied

Gerard Joling	NL 8
<i>D: #1484 (1856 p.) CH: -- A: -- NL: # 8 (32058 p.)</i>	

male pop singer/TV host born as Gerard Jan Joling on 29. April 1960 in Alkmaar/Netherlands; one of the most successful artists in the Netherlands in the '80s and '00s

worked as a child foto model; unsuccessfully recorded songs with various local groups in early '80s, a.o. "Friday Night Party" with Kids 'n Cats in 1980 and "Windsurfers Do It Standing Up" with Summer in 1981; participated in TV's 'Soundmixshow' in 1985 performing Don McLean's "Crying" and finished third; got his own wax figure in Madame Tussaud's in Amsterdam in 1987; represented the Netherlands in 1988 Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) with "Shangri-La" finishing ninth; published autobiography 'Het wordt nooit wat met die jongen' ['It's Hopeless With This Guy'] in 1988; appeared in movie 'Flodder 2' (1992); recorded his first Dutch-Language single, TV show theme "Liefde op het eerste gezicht" ["Love At First Sight"], in the local boom started by Marco Borsato's "Dromen zijn bedrog"; published second autobiography 'Boerenkool en Kaviaar' in 1994; put his emphasis more on his TV work during the '90s; "Zing met me mee" (1995) theme song to his own TV show and later main part of the "Live At The ArenA" medley single in 2004; participated in 'Holiday On Ice' show in 1997; released cover album "Only The Strong Songs Survive" in 2001; "At Your Service" in 2002 dedicated to assassinated Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn; guest appearances with Gordon for a hit medley at René Froger's May 2004 Amsterdam ArenA shows resulted in yearly complete live shows as a trio (Toppers In Concert) from 2005 until 2008 as well as various single and album releases; subject of reality TV series 'Only Joling' in spring/summer 2004; made cameo appearance in movie 'Ellis In Glamourland' (2004); leading up to the inaugural concert dates was TV reality show 'Over de top' with the same-titled theme song (2005); had TV show 'Gordon & Joling over de vloer' in October/November 2005 together with fellow singer Gordon with show's theme song "Als je alles hebt gehad" being a cover of "When The Rain Begins To Fall"; had a 17-year-gap in #1 hits between 1989 and 2007 but following that had an astonishing second wind hit streak of more than a dozen consecutive top 10 hits; posthumous studio-created duet "Blijf bij mij" with André Hazes, originally recorded in 1979 by its Italian writer Pupo as "Forse" and first recorded and released as a single by Hazes in 1988 as "Blijf maar hier", made record-setting four separate trips to #1 during its dozen weeks on top and inspired the album "Samen met Dré" which consisted entirely of such duet creations; had another studio-created #1 hit with the late Rita Hovink on her 1977 hit "Laat me alleen"; "Het is nog niet voorbij" cover of Peter, Sue & Marc's "Io senza te" from 1981; "Ik kan niet wachten" and "Het geheim" taken from soundtrack to Sinterklaas movie 'Sinterklaas en het geheim van het grote boek' (2008); due to contract discrepancies in November 2008 was replaced in De Toppers by Jeroen van der Boom but returned in 2010 making it a quartet; hosted various TV casting shows like 'So You Wanna Be A Popstar' (2 seasons; both in 2007), 'Holland's Got Talent' (2 seasons; 2008-2009), 'Popstars' (2 seasons; 2008-2010), and 'Move Like Michael Jackson' (spring 2010)