# Pop artists start to reconcile their long-standing rivalries



Recent developments have shown a trend of reconciliation among some of pop music's most notable rivalries, as artists are putting their long-standing grievances aside, whether motivated by nostalgia or the financial incentives of touring. This week, Madonna made headlines when she confronted Elton John backstage at the Saturday Night Live studios after hearing of his upcoming performance. Their past jibes have included various unkind remarks from John about Madonna; however, during their meeting, she expressed forgiveness and hinted at a potential collaboration.

Amid this trend of mending fences, the British rock band Oasis is preparing for a reunion tour after years of public exchanges and jests between brothers Noel and Liam Gallagher. In a similar vein, musical icons Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel reconciled last year, during which Garfunkel admitted he had "been a fool" for previously criticising Simon.

Other notable rivalries may also be on the brink of reconciliation. Fleetwood Mac members Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks have had a tumultuous relationship, with their high-profile romance both igniting the band's success and contributing to its eventual dissolution. Buckingham departed from the band in 2018, alleging that Nicks had him ousted after being offended by his expression during her acceptance speech at an award ceremony. Nicks reflected, “He wasn’t very nice to anybody,” suggesting that their mutual animosity has reached a tipping point, prompting Mick Fleetwood to express a desire for healing between the two. Buckingham has also hinted at the importance of closure in their relationship, saying, “It would be very appropriate to close on a more circular note.”

Meanwhile, the hip-hop feud between 50 Cent and Ja Rule is another ongoing rivalry that exemplifies a complex relationship. The two have been engaged in a back-and-forth since the late 1990s, beginning with a confrontation involving stolen jewellery. Despite moments of potential truce, such as a shared flight in 2013, their exchanges have remained contentious, with 50 Cent continuing to make pointed comments about Ja Rule, including a recent incident where he gleefully highlighted Ja's entry denial to the UK.

The rift between Morrissey and Johnny Marr, once the cornerstone of the influential band The Smiths, has seen a significant decline. Morrissey has publicly expressed frustration at Marr’s frequent mentions of him in interviews, claiming it feels akin to having a personal psychiatrist. This animosity intensified in 2024 when Morrissey alleged that Marr obstructed negotiations for a Smiths reunion tour, which Marr firmly denied.

In the realm of pop, artists Maria Carey and Jennifer Lopez engage in a more subtle, yet palpable rivalry. Their interactions have been defined by notable passive-aggressiveness, characterised by Carey’s dismissive remarks about Lopez and both artists maintaining a façade of mutual indifference toward one another.

The tumultuous history between Pink Floyd members David Gilmour and Roger Waters stretches back to 1985, when Waters departed the band, labelling it a "spent force." Their relationship has fluctuated over the years, with occasional reunions for charity performances, yet personal disputes have re-emerged, particularly as Waters has faced allegations from Gilmour’s wife regarding antisemitism and other serious accusations. Gilmour made it clear in a recent Guardian reader query that he would “absolutely not” consider collaborating with Waters in the future.

Lastly, Bob Dylan and Don McLean have experienced their own long-standing tensions, stemming partly from interpretations of McLean’s iconic song "American Pie." Though McLean has attempted to smooth over any misunderstandings regarding the song’s lyrics, Dylan’s sardonic response demonstrated the complexities inherent in their relationship, suggesting that both artists remain guarded rather than extending an olive branch.

As some of the most prominent figures in music navigate their complex relationships, the music industry observes how these reconciliations may reshape the dynamics within pop culture. The recent trend hints at a broader willingness among disaffected musicians to reconcile their differences, a shift that may speak to the realities of both aging and the lucrative opportunities presented by collaborative tours.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://people.com> - Provides details about Madonna and Elton John's feud and their reconciliation. It also mentions the possibility of a new collaboration between the two artists.
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7. <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/apr/08/pop-stars-relationship-madonna-elton-john-maria-j-lo-david-gilmour-roger-waters> - Please view link - unable to able to access data