



Those Voices in My Head

New Old Stuff by Peter Ray

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What are These Voices?

Backstory

“Those Voices in My Head” is an outlier for my musical catalog. After writing and recording almost 150 songs, I felt I had accomplished everything I wanted to do with music. In particular, the last two Mannish Boy albums seemed to summarize nicely who I was and what I wanted to say in my 60s. I was also beginning to get a little cynical about all the music being created with these new generative AI tools. It made it too easy for too many people to make too much mediocre music. And there were of course all sorts of unresolved copyright and chain of ownership issues.

But there was something that gnawed at me. In all these years of sitting at my laptop and creating music, there were a number of songs I never “got right”. Most of these were songs I wrote when I was younger and I based them on the types of music I listened to at the time – especially bands like Led Zeppelin and Heart that are considered “classic rock” now. Those songs as I heard them in my head had Golden Rock Gods like Robert Plant and Ann Wilson belting them out with earth shaking vocals I could never emulate. So, the songs always felt incomplete to me – tinny and one dimensional.

So, I decided to give the latest generation of AI tools a chance to rescue this island of misfit songs, primarily an app called **Suno**. And, as a guy who spent his life playing with the latest tech, both as a professional and as an enthusiast, I was blown away by the results. With the right style prompts and the right section titles and modifiers in my lyric sheets, I could get Suno to create in minutes and hours what had taken me weeks and months to accomplish before. And more amazingly, they sounded so much like the songs I heard in my head.

I started with “I Went to See the President”, which was one of the first songs I wrote when I was 15 and was my heartfelt response to a speech I saw by then President Jimmy Carter. I’ve arranged and recorded 3 different versions of that song over the years, and none of them captured the emotion I felt when I first wrote it (awed, sad, and angry). But after an hour and many iterations with this tool, I landed on the version I always wanted to record – and it was just so damn good...finally.

...And it just went on from there - until I had over 60 of those songs reimagined using Suno. I felt a combination of shame and joy in this process. The shame came from using a tool I had so many misgivings about. But the joy came from the quality of results. After two months of solid work, I had the songs where I wanted them to be, and put the brakes on any further Suno reimagining. I needed to drop the mic on this experience, or else I would crawl down a rabbit hole and redo all 150 songs. And that would not be right, because so many of them are the best I could do at the time, and my limited vocals work for those songs. I wrote them, and I should represent them to the world – end of story.

I call the project “Those Voices in My Head”, and because it has so many songs, I divided it into five volumes, each representing a different side of my personality. The title of each volume is an intentionally archaic term describing the theme that unites the songs on it:

Stripling	<i>Young Guy</i>	The earliest songs I wrote starting at the age of 15
Harlequin	<i>Funny Guy</i>	My snarky and humorous songs, many of which were written in the 80s when I lived in Austin and attended the University of Texas

Sage	<i>Smart Guy</i>	My deeper, more thoughtful, and more introspective songs
Swain	<i>Lover Boy</i>	The love songs I've written, some based on the poems I wrote for my girlfriends when I was an acne-scarred teenager. For many of these I use the voice of the Celtic Goddess to sing them, but it's really me (don't tell anyone)...
Fabulist	<i>Storyteller</i>	The songs I wrote which contain fantastic stories, most of which are based on some kernel of truth

These songs span almost 50 years. The earliest ones were written when I was a teenager back in my bedroom with my used steel string guitar and my notebook. I had no recording equipment, so my notebooks were the only way I was able to reconstruct these songs when I discovered them. Fortunately, I was an avid diarist, and wrote many detailed notes about what I wanted these songs to sound like. Finally, with the help of Suno, I am able to create versions of these songs that match what I aspired to so many years ago. These songs for the most part are serious, wordy, earnest, and very emotional – at least to me they are.

I also took this opportunity to take some of the very florid love poetry and songs I wrote back then that I never had the courage to share with the public before. Using Suno I was able to create versions of them I am willing to share with the public now. Because, well, that's who I was – and that's who I am. These songs include “You, and Only You”, “The Farewell”, “The Enchanted Sunrise”, and “Pinioned By Laws I Don't Understand”. I could never credibly sing these, but the voices I found through Suno were able to pull them off. Get a bottle of wine, light a candle or two, and get your hankies out for these...



The other songs vary widely in style and tone, and some are things I wrote in the last year or two. In many cases, I felt I could improve upon my original arrangement and recording, and I could do this by creating different characters to sing and present them. The album cover has the current me gazing into a mirror to see all the characters I created to deliver these songs – the ragged **Country Outlaw**, the bellowing **Hard Rock God**, the playful and funky **Soul Man**, the sassy **Tex-Mex Queen**, and the wise and ethereal **Celtic Goddess**. They represent some of the many “voices in my head” that led to the creation of these songs. I think of what Walt Whitman wrote in “Song of Myself”, something I read religiously when I was young:

*Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself,
(I am large, I contain multitudes.)*

I want to thank the Suno app for allowing me to realize the dream of finishing these songs. But please, don't let me keep going...

- Peter Ray, August 18, 2026

Lyrics - Those Voices in My Head

[Intro]

Those voices in my head
Had to get them out
Taking up too much room
Time to get 'em off the couch

[Verse]

Wasn't just one voice
Ended up being five
Lived with them for months
They took me for a ride
Cowboy, Rocker, Soul Man, Celtic Goddess, and Texas Queen
Got them to sing my songs
Got them to create some scenes
Ended up with 5 volumes
And so many damn songs
So much freakin' music
You can listen from dusk 'til dawn

[Bridge]

There's five versions of me
I created to help you see
Stripling (young guy)
Harlequin (funny guy)
Sage (smart guy)
Swain (lover boy)
Fabulist (storyteller)

[Verse]

Now that its over
Want to share it with the world
Wanted to take all of you
On a musical tilt-a-whirl
Hope you enjoy it
Hope you swipe lefty not right
Hope you listen to these tunes
When you drive at night

[Coda]

Those voices in my head
Had to get them out
Taking up too much room
Time to get 'em off the couch

[Fade]

Volume 1 - Stripling



Berchtesgaden

1978/June 2026

Written when I was 15 during a weeklong class trip to the Alps while the family was stationed in Germany. I think this is the first song I ever wrote.

[Verse 1 - low energy]

I'm sitting at the edge of the world
On the threshold of heaven's eye
The wind is woven from strands of fury
Ivory clouds dance in the sky

[Chorus - high energy]

And I'm looking down at the valley
Through the misty light veils

And it makes me want to sail

Makes we want to sail

[Verse 2 - low energy]

The flames of the sparkling sunset
Sink beyond the summit's splendor
And upon it's skin of rock and snow
A clash of rams without surrender

[Chorus - high energy]

And I'm looking down at the village
By the emerald lake shore

And it makes me want to soar

Makes me want to soar

[Instrumental - distorted alpine horn]

[Verse 3 - low energy]

A storm of madness stalks my world
The sky cracks and the thunder screams
But lying in the arms of my lover
I'm enfolded by the warmth of dreams

[Chorus - High energy]

And I'm looking down at the people
With the eyes of my soul

There's just so much to behold

So much to behold

[Coda - low energy - soft whisper]

I'm sitting at the edge of the world

On the threshold of heaven's eye

The wind is woven from strands of fury

Ivory clouds dance in the sky

Destiny

1978/2026

Another song I wrote as a teenager in Germany in the 70s. It was actually the “theme song” for a short lived band I front with a friend, Jim, aka “The Beast”. Heavily influenced by groups like Led Zeppelin, we were terrible. I think we did one live show...

[Verse]

Draped in darkness an ancient king sits all alone
His castle is crumbling and so is his throne
Abandoned by the people he once called his own
He's hiding inside himself and turning to stone

[Chorus]

Into the shadows you can hide
Or you can stand and face your fears inside
Into the shadows you can flee
Or you can stand and face your destiny

[Verse]

So he mounted his horse and galloped into the sun
His kingdom is dead, it's time to find another one
Over the horizon there are battles to be won
Dragons to slay and warriors to overcome

[Chorus]

Into the shadows you can hide
Or you can stand and face your fears inside
Into the shadows you can flee
Or you can stand and face your destiny

[Verse]

Armed with a shield of courage and a sword of hate
He faced a gladiator whose might was great
They clashed upon a field trembling beneath their weight
He who is conquered shall find death as his fate

[Chorus]

Into the shadows you can hide
Or you can stand and face your fears inside
Into the shadows you can flee
Or you can stand and face your destiny

[Bridge (spoken)]

A skull sparkles grimly in the blue mist
Skeletal fingers are wrapped in a fist
Insects crawl slowly upon parched lips
He who is conquered must face the abyss

[Instrumental Break]

[Final Chorus]

Into the shadows you can hide

Or you can stand and face your fears inside

Into the shadows you can flee

Or you can stand and face your destiny

Havoc in My Blood

1978/June 2026

[Chorus]

There's havoc in my blood
And venom in my veins
A world for me to conquer
And souls for me for me to claim
I live a truth that was ancient
Long before the dawn of man
It's better to live one day as a lion
Then forever as a lamb

[Verse]

In a chariot of flame
Hurtling down the path
Vanquishing the quarry
Too weak to flee my wrath

The tempest of my spirit
The Gods cannot contain
The child they once created
Now has no need to pray

[Chorus]

[Verse]

The hordes cower and tremble
At the fury of my storm
And as the flags unfurl
A new monarch is born

My scepter is the thunder
And my crown is the sky
The heavens kneel before me
Stars weep and the winds cry

[Coda]

There's havoc in my blood
And venom in my veins
A world for me to conquer
And souls for me for me to claim

I am the truth that was ancient
Long before the dawn of man
It's better to roar one day as a lion
Then to be slaughtered as a lamb

I Went to See the President

1978/June 2026

Written after I saw Jimmy Carter speak in Frankfurt, Germany.

[Verse]

I went to see the President just the other day
I wanted to hear what he had to say
There were thousands of angry people in the streets
There was tension in the air when he began to speak

Off in the distance, there was a mighty roar
The people were chanting, "We don't want you no more!
Our country is in shambles, there's nothing you can do.
Why don't you go home – we've had enough of you!"

[instrumental break]

[Verse]

He said, "Don't crucify me, I'm only a man.
My job is mighty hard, but I'm doing what I can.
Since I was elected, I feel a lifetime older.
I wake up in the morning with the world on my shoulders.

No one has any money, the prices are too high.
It's getting too expensive to just get by
But there's a war to fight with the taxes you pay
And our enemies are getting stronger every day.

I'm a religious man, because you have to pray.
You need a beacon when your sky is grey
I look into the crowd and all that I see
Is a restless mob of people turn their backs on me

[Verse]

But even if all looks hopeless our spirit cannot die.
We're still a great country and we've got our pride.
We have to stay strong, or the world will live in fear.
Thanks for listening - I hope you vote for me next year!"

And the next thing you know he's gone without a trace
The last thing we saw was the grin on his face.
He left just in time because the rocks began to fly
But they couldn't reach his plane way up in the sky.
Well this song is over, that's all I have to say,
Except that he better be glad that he got away.

[Coda]

I chose to run for President just the other day

I wanted to rule the country in my own special way

Deep in my heart there is a mighty roar

You idiots in Washington, I don't need you any more

Miracles

1979/July2026

A "love the Lord" song I wrote in 1979 when I played my guitar at a Christian group for teens in College Station called Young Life. I don't think I believed any of this at the time, but it was a great way to meet girls.

[Verse - quiet and reverent - guitar and violin]

Sing a hymn to the sunrise

The glorious flowering of the sky

The cathedral clouds, the dancing winds

As earth awakens and day begins

[Verse - energy builds]

The sun reaches out across the land

To embrace the soul of every man

[Pre-Chorus]

And yet you say to me

That a sunrise is nothing to adore

[Chorus - chiming guitar+flute]

And you say that you don't believe in the Lord

You'd rather live with your scepters and swords

In a world where hate is its own reward

And the beauty of life is never adored

[Interlude]

[Verse - quiet and reverent - guitar and violin]

Sing a hymn to the eagle

The glorious freedom of its flight

The powerful wings, the golden eyes

The skyward monarch soaring so high

Over the mountains and into the west

The horizons are so measureless

[Pre-chorus]

And yet you say to me

That an eagle is nothing to adore

[Chorus - chiming guitar+flute]

And you say that you don't believe in the Lord

You'd rather live with your scepters and swords

In a world where hate is its own reward

And the beauty of life is never adored

[Instrumental Break]

[Coda - confident and defiant - voices added each stanza]

Sing a hymn to the Savior
The glorious forgiver of our sins

Sing a hymn to the Savior
The majestic torch that burns within

Sing a hymn to the Savior
The bountiful light that never dims

Come on and rejoice in the Lord
His kingdom is without scepters and swords

A world where love is its own reward
A world where love is its own reward

Requiem for a Fly

1976/June 2026

I adapted these lyrics from a poem written by my father, Thomas Joseph Ray

[Intro]

(spoken)

And a child rose from the crowd and said,

"Speak to us of spiders and their prey"

And he said...

[Verse 1]

Sparkling dewdrops shimmering in the thread

Caressed by the sun and the silver web

There dwells a spider of stark majesty

Whose kiss of death so beckons me

[Interlude]

[Verse 2]

Gossamer wings dancing in the morning cold

Reaching up to the spired stars so bold

My flight ever heralds the new born day

Whither shall I go or shall I stay?

[Instrumental break - guitar solo]

[Verse 3]

(Building intensity)

Liberated from the earth's velvet bed

Only to be trapped by the spider's web

O grateful monarch, do hark my plea

I beg of you to set me free

[Coda]

(heavy guitar riff)

To soar once more through celestial skies

My freedom to cherish before I die...

To soar once more through celestial skies

My freedom to cherish before I die...

[Whispered]

My freedom to cherish before I die...

[Whispered]

My freedom to cherish before I die...

The Dream Merchant with the Magic Mushrooms

1980/July 2026

Another poem I wrote in my high school Creative Writing class.

[Intro]

I grew sad and sullen
On a night deep and dark
I decided to stroll
Through the neighborhood park

I sat on a hill
And pondered my will
Until all grew still

[Interlude]

Except for the sound
Of feet hitting ground
And then I turned 'round

To see him

Dressed in tattered rags
Beneath eyes were bags
Hair growing like mad

I saw him

[Verse]

He sat down beside me
Not a sound was uttered
Except for a distant car
Which occasionally sputtered

"I can see in your face
The sadness and despair
I have a panacea
That will transport you from there"

Feeling adventurous inside
With his plans I complied
And we walked through the night
His eyes beaming with light

Soon we reached a shack
Clad in shadows black
And we strolled inside
His smile growing wide

[Pre-chorus]

He then closed the door
And opened a drawer
To reveal the mushrooms magic
To cure my life so tragic

I took one bite, then another
My spirit was soon smothered

[Chorus high energy]

I was beguiled
Saw visions wild
A tiger mild
An ant self-styled

And I never left the room
Except on the broom
Of those magic mushrooms!
For hours and hours
Trapped by the powerIn that fantasy bower

[Bridge spoken]

And during it all
I heard the mad calls
And the evil thralls
Of the Dream Merchant's delirious laughter

And then I knew what he was after

[Instrumental break]

[Coda sad]

Days later I awoke
'Neath a flickering fuse

No longer on a trip
Feeling a little bruised

Now Totally naked -
No wallet and no shoes

And no sign of that merchant
Or his magic mushrooms

The Minstrel

1979/June 2026

This was a song I wrote in the spring of 1979 after we moved from Germany to Texas. It expresses the joy and the solace I found in playing music at a time of many adjustments.

[Verses]

I'm a minstrel on a voyage
On a never-ending flight
Weaving the magic of song
From the golden threads of life

Laughing at the wrath of tempests
Singing in the gales so strong
Dancing in the midsts of talons
I am sheltered by my song

The cities and the pavement
Speeding cars and soaring planes
Are but the noisy backdrop
For my sweet refrains

Others may see danger
I flow right through the haze
With quick tempos and bright keys
As my hymn to life plays

The siren eyes of my lover
His sweet voice calling me home
As long as there is music
I will never be alone

[Coda]

I'm a minstrel on a voyage (repeat)

The Runes of Childhood

1978/July 2026

An anti-war poem I wrote when I was living in Germany.

[Verse]

Carnage frayed the air
The clash of steel spilled blood
One army withered
Beneath the other's flood

One leader was stunned
The other was laughing
Behind walls of men
He'd been amassing

During a whisper
Between shouts of the war
The armies gathered
On their separate shores

Below ivory clouds
Sculpted by breathing skies
One leader faced a
Shriveled ocean of eyes

The ruins of a man
The flames of youth had dimmed
Warm tears sank into
The hearts open to him

All was soundless, then a
Chilled voice rose from the room
A truth flowed through it
Words emerged from the womb

[Chorus]

It's a game that we play
With rules that are crumbling lies

We have lived like children
And as children we will die

[Verse]

Across a scarred land
Upon its once green rim
The other stood above
The men that worshiped him

His words slashed and clawed
Their way into icy hearts
His eyes blazed like fire
Scaring sheep was his art

"Tomorrow we shall
Drown a flag in its gore
Many will perish
Such is the cost of war

You ask me for reasons?
There is just only one
It's time for us men
To slay our wayward sons"

[Chorus]
It's a game they play
With rules that are crumbling lies
They have lived like children
And as children they will die

[Bridge]
At the edge of morn
The dew of final breath
Sunrise soldiers fell
In the dawn of their death

[Instrumental]

[Verse]
Memories faded
Of the bloody slaughter
Thoughts turned to seeing wives
And raping their daughters

The leader roared what all
Felt within their bones
"It's time for us men
To start our journey home!"

They traveled until
Before a wall they stood
Inscribed with: MAN IS NO LONGER
IN HIS CHILDHOOD

And the leader screams...

[Coda]

It's a game we've played

With rules that are crumbling lies

We have lived like children

And as children we shall die

The Velvet Midnight

1978/June 2026

[Verse]

In the forest of doom
Is where my lady dwells
In the velvet midnight
Lit by the fires of hell

*Waiting for me to enter her world
She sits alone with her heart unfurled
Forevermore, forevermore...*

[Bridge]

As starships dance with rainbows
In the sojourn of the sky
As lands beyond the window
Are painted with the sunrise
She awakens from a dream
The light singing in her eyes

My vessel has just landed
And I stand upon the shore
Sheltered by her embrace
And the fruits of rapture
And as I sleep she sails away
Her smile fading in the morn

[Verse]

In the forest of doom
Is where my sorrow dwells
In the velvet midnight
Lit by the fires of hell

*Waiting for her to return to my world
I sit alone with my heart unfurled
Forevermore, forevermore...*

A Wish and a Dream (How I Lost My Class Ring)

Spring 1981/2026

Written during my senior year of high school, this tells a highly dramatized version of how I lost my class ring during a night at Somerville Lake after the prom.

[Intro (spoken)]

I still remember that prom night like it was yesterday...even though it was almost 50 years ago...

[Verse]

Got off early from my shift
At Mamas on Texas Avenue
Headed home and took a shower
Put on my rented tux and shoes

Hopped on my Honda 360
Revved it loud to wake the night
Stopped to pick up my prom date
Her perfume smelled so right

Rolled on to the school gym
Everybody slow dancing 'til it hurt
I asked her if she wanted to go to the lake
To watch the stars and lay in the dirt

[Chorus]

She said...
Stop baby cause you're taking me too far
This is too real and all my life's been a wish and a dream
I've never liked the way things are
I've always liked them better the way that they seem
Like a wish and a dream

[Verse]

We sang The Stroke over and over
Slicing through the cool night air
She held me tightly as we headed west
The wind rustling through our hair

We got to the water's edge
Parked the bike and sat on a dune
Drank warm MD and got so crazy
Two coyotes under a full moon

I said the night was fading quickly
We're just ships passing with full sails
Let's make this moment last forever

Soon we'll both be someone else

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

The sun rose slowly in the morning
I wiped the dirt off my faded tux
Listened to her gentle breathing
Those ruby red lips covered in dust

I looked down at my finger
Where I put my new class ring
Pulled it off and studied it closely
Two paychecks that didn't mean a thing

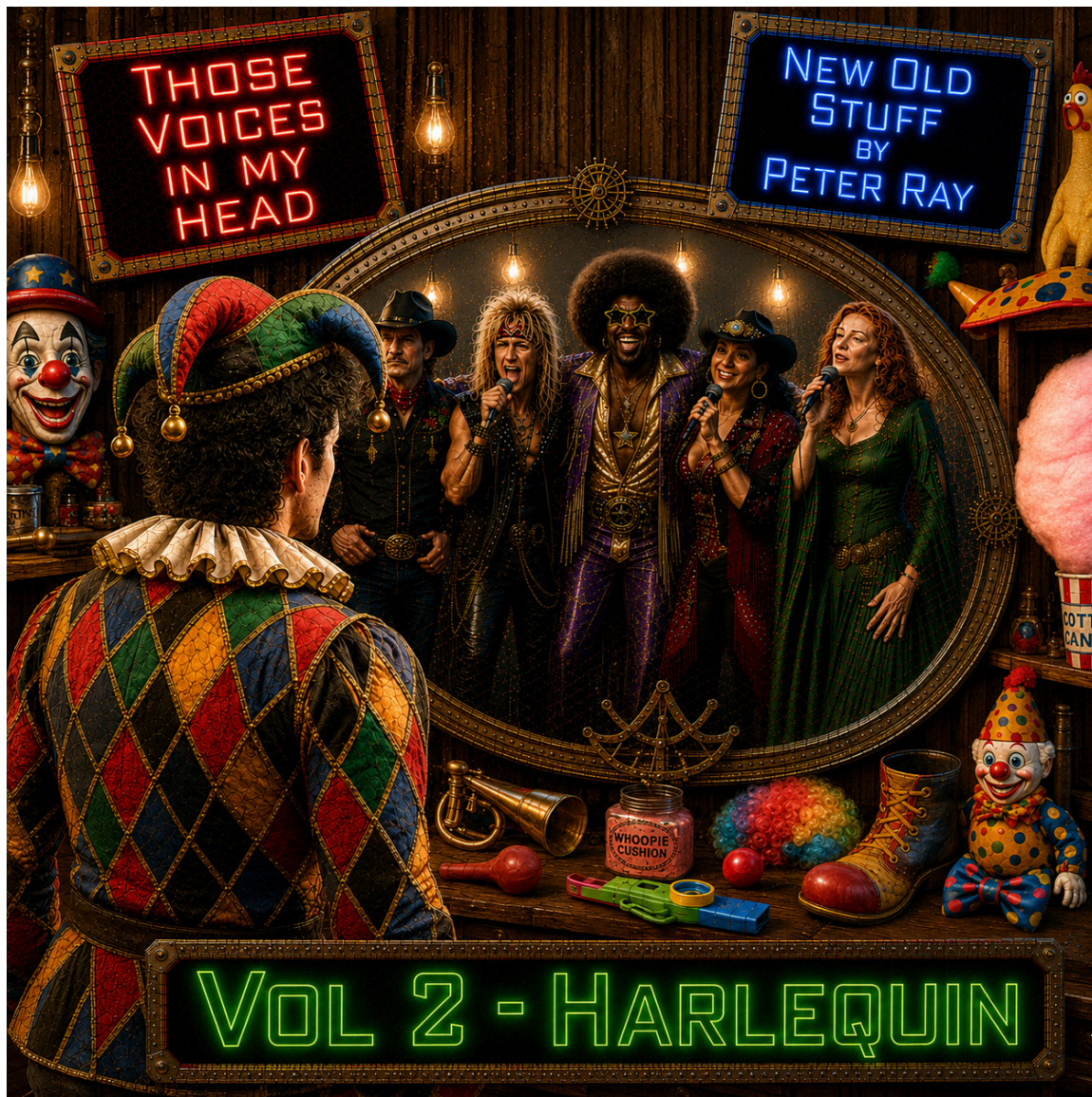
Then I put my arm around her
Caressed that skin so smooth, so pale
Tossed that ring into the distance
So damn ready to be someone else

[Final Chorus and Fade]

She said...
Stop baby cause you're taking me too far
This is too real and all my life's been a wish and a dream
I've never liked the way things are
I've always liked them better the way that they seem
Like a wish and a dream

Like a wish and a dream

Volume 2 - Harlequin



Bubbles (That Girl on Fire)

June 2026

A new song written about my wife.

[Verse]

Debbie.

Bubbles.

Sixty-three.

Still trouble.

iPad.

Romance.

One more chapter.

One more chance.

Wine glass.

Kick back.

Caryn Crump.

Laugh track.

Page turn.

Late night.

Reading love.

Till daylight.

[Hook]

Sultemeier.

Rhymes with wire.

Never gets tired.

That girl on fire.

Sultemeier.

Rhymes with wire.

Don't call me a liar.

That girl on fire.

[Verse]

Soap queen.

Small biz.

Making bubbles.

That's her gig.

Lavender.

Citrus.

Packing boxes.

Never quits.

Flute player.
Sweet notes.
Back in the day?
Tube tops.

Working hard.
Moving fast.
Getting things done.
Built to last.

[Hook]
Sultemeier.
Rhymes with wire.
Never gets tired.
That girl on fire.

Sultemeier.
Rhymes with wire.
Don't call me a liar.
That girl on fire.

[Verse]
Mustang.
No gas.
Silent wheels.
Moving fast.

EV.
Zoom by.
Leave the stoplight.
Wondering why.

Foot down.
Big grin.
Watch Bubbles.
Take the win.

Home again.
Wine pour.
Romance book.
Wanting more.

[Final Hook]
Sultemeier.
Rhymes with wire.
Never gets tired.
That girl on fire.

Bubbles.

Bubbles.

Living higher.

Don't call me a liar.

That girl on fire.

Butter Boy

1983/June 2026

Another song inspired by the early 80s Austin punk scene and possibly some of the stuff Frank Zappa was doing at the time.

[Intro - Spoken]

He's such a funny guy
Always on the run
Like a heat seeking missile
Fired from a gun

[Pre-Chorus]

He's long and lean and thin
With a cheshire cat grin
Always hunting trim
You know it must be him -
It's Bill the Butter Boy

[Chorus]

B-B-B-butter Boy, B-B-B-butter Boy
Not the Margarine Boy, the Butter Boy

[Verse]

Bill once met a girl
At a poolside bash
Said he liked her mind
But really craved her ass

But she slipped away
He woke up alone
Then he tried to call her
On the telephone

But never a response
So Bill he knows no joy
Women just won't hold
Onto a Butter Boy (They're just too damn slippery...)

[Pre-Chorus]

He's long and lean and thin
With a cheshire cat grin
Always hunting trim
You know it must be him -
It's Bill the Butter Boy

[Chorus]

B-B-B-butter Boy, B-B-B-butter Boy

Not the Margarine Boy, the Butter Boy

[Instrumental - trombone solo]

[Bridge]

That Bill is a bad mother...

(Shut your mouth!)

But I'm talking about the Butter Boy

You know what they say ladies -

Everything goes better with butter

[Pre-Chorus]

He's such a funny guy

Always on the run

Like a heat seeking missile

Fired from a gun

You know it must be him -

It's Bill the Butter Boy

[Chorus]

B-B-B-butter Boy, B-B-B-butter Boy

Not the Margarine Boy, the Butter Boy

Camión Diablo (The Devil Truck)

April 2023/2026

Sadly, this song is all based on mostly true stories. I traded in the Devil Truck in the spring of 2026, so I'm sure it's haunting someone else now.

[Intro (spoken)]

*This is the story of a fully loaded Ford F-150 I bought for my 60th birthday
A truck that became possessed by the devil
And I swear on both the old and new testaments that every other word is true...*

[Verse]

I took my new truck to San Antone
To meet Felipe for lunch
I was driving down 281
When I heard a little crunch

I was enjoying all the features
That I really didn't need
Like a rear bed view camera
And air-conditioned seats

Two kids playing Fast and Furious
Were racing across the lanes
One of them hit me from the right
Then took off like a rocket flame

I waited 2 hours for the cop
And when he finally came
I told him I'd only had the truck for a week
And he said, "That's quite a shame"

[Spoken]

No, officer, it was Camión Diablo...the Devil Truck...

[Chorus]

The year that I turned 60
I went just a little mad
Felt age creeping up on me
And it made me a little sad
So I bought I truck I didn't need
With money I didn't have

Well, we all make mistakes
And this wasn't my first
But of all the mistakes I've made
This one has been the worst
Because you see my friends

The truck I bought was cursed
(The truck I bought was cursed)

[Bridge (spoken)]

The Lord looked down on me and he said, Son, you can have a trophy truck or a trophy wife...but you can't have both

[Instrumental break]

[Verse]

A month later I'm driving the Hill Country
Late on a Saturday night
Lighting flashing all around me
Something didn't feel right

I heard the sound of gunshots
Everything turned white
Hail started pounding my new truck
And everything else in sight

The windshield cracked, the sunroof shattered
Baseballs bounced off the hood
Rain poured through the hole in the roof
I knew that wasn't good

When the hail finally stopped
And I was able to get home
I surveyed the cracked and broken glass
And the dents in all the chrome

Yes, once again, it was Camión Diablo...the Devil Truck...

[Chorus]

The year that I turned 60
I went just a little mad
Felt age creeping up on me
And it made me a little sad
So I bought I truck I didn't need
With money I didn't have

Well, we all make mistakes
And this wasn't my first
But of all the mistakes I've made
This one has been the worst
Because you see my friends
The truck I bought was cursed
(The truck I bought was cursed)

Bridge (spoken)]

Yeah, I thought this truck was gonna' be a chick magnet...not a hail magnet...

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

A year later I took the truck
To get some deer corn and some hay
The sky was calm when I left the house
But it didn't stay that way

I felt a shift in pressure
Then I saw that funnel drop
It tossed a goat across the road
And turned a lamb into mutton chops

I floored it through the pasture
Looking for a place to hide
The hail crashed down like boulders
As I sat in that cab and cried

I crossed a stream, the wheels spun out
The truck sank down into the flood
And when the storm died down, there I sat
Ass deep in Hill Country mud

[Bridge(spoken)]

It took two tractors to rescue Camión Diablo, The Devil Truck...

[Chorus]

The year that I turned 60
I went just a little mad
Felt age creeping up on me
And it made me a little sad
So I bought I truck I didn't need
With money I didn't have

Well, we all make mistakes
And this wasn't my first
But of all the mistakes I've made
This one has been the worst
Because you see my friends
The truck I bought was cursed
(The truck I bought was cursed)

[Outro (spoken)]

No mister insurance adjuster, I don't need a body shop...I need a Curandera...because this truck is cursed! (fade with evil laughter)

Crazy Mixed Up World

November 1983/2023/June 20206

I wrote this song when I was in college and living in a student co-op. We all watched the ABC movie "The Day After" and were so traumatized by the visions of a post nuclear war world.

[Chorus - Robotic, distant voice]

Sometimes I don't know what's wrong
Sometimes I feel so out of touch
Ever since they dropped the bomb
Things have changed so much

[Verse]

My dog's got three legs and five tails
My cat she likes to bark
And I tend to demolish buildings
Every time I fart

Yes, it's a crazy mixed up world
Ever since they split the atom
I sometimes think about my gonads
And what it was like when I had 'em

[Chorus]

Sometimes I don't know what's wrong
Sometimes I feel so out of touch
Ever since they dropped the bomb
Things have changed so much

[Verse]

But the worst thing about it all
Is I can't go out at night and bowl
My favorite lanes are now inhabited
By mutant trolls

And there's no more McDonalds left
No place to get a Big Mac
Now I eat glow in the dark roaches
When I get a munchies attack

[Instrumental Break]

[Coda]

And I don't understand why they did it
Whey they had a nuclear war
If they could see the way things are now
They wouldn't want to do it anymore
You know I can't even see my feet

Don't know if they're standing on the floor
Don't even know if there is a floor...

[Chorus - spoken, with sadness and longing]

Sometimes I don't know what's wrong

Sometimes I feel so out of touch

Ever since they dropped the bomb

Things have changed so much

Do the Funky Co-Op ('Til You Drop)

1984/July 2006

Written when my future wife Debbie and I lived in the Ark Co-op in West Austin while we attended UT.

[Verse 1]

They're really cheap to live in
For people with cash flow problems
Houses that are old and battered
Plumbing leaves much to be desired
Everyone eats together (no food fights)
You get tofu for dinner every night

[[Pre-Chorus crowd chanting+energy increasing]

A hundred and fifty people under one roof
(CO-CO CO-OP)
Is the only way to live and that's the truth
(CO-CO CO-OP)

[Chorus]

Come on, baby, set yourself free
And do the funky co-op with me
Raise your glass and stomp your feet
Have sex with everyone you meet
Much better than dancing in the street
Do the funky co-op
('Til you drop, 'til you drop, 'til you drop)
Do the funky co-op
(Never gonna stop, gonna stop, gonna stop!)

[Verse]

Everyone is so nice and friendly
Some houses even have orgies
You have to do four hours of labor a week
If you don't, you won't have anything to eat

[Instrumental Break]

[Bridge spoken]

The Loud Hall is where the crazy people loom
Dino once rode a motorcycle into my room
In the commons a blind guy reads Playboy in braille
Joe runs the Fin Bar with spirits for sale
Jobs are assigned by the Labor Czar
Always has someone waxing his car
At the pool clothes are nowhere to be seen
Can always get Shiner from the beer machine
We watch Star Trek every day in the TV room

Life is hell when you live in a commune

[Interlude]

[Pre-Chorus crowd chanting+energy increasing]

A hundred and fifty people under one roof

(CO-CO CO-OP)

Is the only way to live and that's the truth

(CO-CO CO-OP)

[Final Chorus]

Come on, baby, set yourself free

And do the funky co-op with me

Raise your glass and stomp your feet

Have sex with everyone you meet

Much better than dancing in the street

Do the funky co-op

('Til you drop, 'til you drop, 'til you drop)

Do the funky co-op

(Never gonna stop, gonna stop, gonna stop!)

[Coda]

One more dip in the pool

One more laugh

Just saw Laura

And we gonna' dance

One more Shiner

Before I crash

Do the funky co-op with me!

Florida Man Admits to Love Affair With Dolphin

2024/July 2026

On a trip to Florida, we went to a dog park and played a game called "Florida Man". Enough said.

[Intro - spoken]

*You know, they say Florida is lot like Texas
Just with better beaches and more hurricanes
Every day I read about something Florida Man did
That I just can't explain...*

[Verse]

Down in the Keys
Where the sun always shines,
I found a love
That's one of a kind.

She ain't no dancer
Under neon lights,
But when she jumps,
It's pure delight.

[Chorus - joyous]

She may not be a stripper,
But I love my Flipper,
She's a porpoise
Who gives me purpose.

In the ocean's blue,
My heart's forever true,
Around her I'm never nervous

[Hook]

And if I could learn how to breathe down there I swear

I might never come up for air!

[Verse]

We ride the waves
Under the golden sun,
Laughing and playing,
Our hearts beat as one.

Her sleek form glides
Through the ocean's embrace
Every splash she makes,
Puts a smile on my face

[Instrumental]

[Verse]

At night we swim
Beneath the silver moon,
Our love's a song,
An eternal tune.

She's my mermaid,
My ocean's muse,
If I feed her some shrimp,
She doesn't refuse

[Bridge - fast rap]

Now I know our love
Is against the laws of man
What we are doing
Is wrong and should be banned
I shouldn't hang with a fish
That doesn't fit in a can

But I make her feel like a dolphin
And she makes me feel like a man

Romeo had Juliet,
Their parents didn't understand

I got her and together
We'll make our stand

[Chorus - joyous]

She may not be a stripper,
But I love my Flipper,

She's a porpoise
Who gives me purpose.

In the ocean's blue,
My heart's forever true,

Around her I'm never nervous

[Hook]

And if I could learn how to breathe down there I swear
I might never come up for air!

[Instrumental]

[Final - joyous]

She may not be a stripper,
But I love my Flipper,

She's a porpoise
Who gives me purpose.

In the ocean's blue,
My heart's forever true,

Around her I'm never nervous

[Hook]

And if I could learn how to breathe down here I swear
I might never come up for air!

Free Beer

1983/June 2026

[Verse]

Went to this party with loud rock and roll music
And Doritos with avocado dip
Hipsters Cutting the Check and wearing leather
Discussing TikTok and the weather

[Pre-Chorus]

*Was ready to go when this guy says, "Have no fear!
Stay at the party because I'm serving..."*

[Chorus]

Free Beer (Free Beer)
We all know why we're here
FREE BEER

[Verse]

Woke one morning, the sun dazzled my eyes
A truck with loudspeakers went rolling by
"It's a election day, so raise your voice
And vote for the candidate of your choice!"

[Pre-Chorus]

*So I pulled the crank for the one guy who looked sincere
Because at Precinct 6 they were serving...*

[Chorus]

Free Beer (Free Beer)
There's nothing to fear
FREE BEER

[Verse]

I've got this cool woman, we rarely have spats
We've live together and even own a few cats
At night she lets me use the TV remote
Don't ever watch ice dancing or cooking shows

[Pre-chorus]

*One day she said, Why in the hell don't we get married this year?
I said sure, I'll go to the wedding as long as they're serving...*

[Chorus]

Free Beer (free beer)
Am I making myself clear?
FROM FREE BEER

[Instrumental break - saxophone and vibraphone]

[Bridge]

Now you may say I'm a man
With very few convictions
But I'm sure any of you would bend
Under the right conditions

[Bridge - faster]

My core ethics are flexible
My beliefs don't firmly adhere
Sure I'd even prostitute myself
For some cold...stout...refreshing...and above all

[Coda]

Free Beer (free beer)
We all know why we're here
Free Beer (free beer)
Am I making myself clear?
Free beer (free beer)
Yeah, it can knock you on your rear
Free Beer (free beer)
Free Beer (free beer)
But there's a nothing to fear

FREE BEER!

I Had to Take the Class, But I Was Too Sad to Laugh

July 2025/July 2026

[Verse]

Well I rolled through a stop sign in Port Aransas,
Didn't see the damn thing through my dark glasses
A beach cop appeared with ocean blue eyes,
He clocked me doing fifty in a twenty-five

He handed me a ticket
Then said with a laugh
"You can write the judge a check
Or you can take the class"

[Pre-Chorus - rhythmic]

So I signed up for the Tickle My Funny Bone
A driving school with a comedic tone
They tell dad jokes 'bout blinkers and cones,
Not a lot of chuckles but plenty of groans

[Chorus - faster]

But my heartbreak don't care 'bout a traffic cone,
Can't laugh at jokes 'bout a rollover zone.
Stared at that screen like a dog at a bone
'Cause ever since you left me,
I've been so alone

[Hook]

Yeah, I had to take the class...
But I was just too damn sad to laugh

[Verse - faster]

There were puppets, jugglers, and a terrible mime,
And a skeleton texting while drinking wine
Road rage and hemorrhoids were the butt of the jokes
But all I could think of was your final note.

You took the dog, the RV,
And my fishing pole,

[Spoken]

*Left me just the mix tape I made
Of Nat King Cole
(Bless his soul)*

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

Now I've got my certificate and a T-shirt too,
It says "I BRAKE FOR JOKES"—but Lord, that ain't true.
I mailed in my proof with a tear-stained stamp,
I know I should move on but I know I can't

So the next time I'll stop
At that red sign by the sea

So I don't have to meet the cop
who stole you from me

[Pre-Chorus]

So I signed up for the Tickle My Funny Bone
A driving school with a comedic tone
They tell dad jokes 'bout blinkers and cones,
Not a lot of chuckles but plenty of groans

[Chorus]

But my heartbreak don't care 'bout a traffic cone,
Can't laugh at jokes 'bout a rollover zone.
Stared at that screen like a dog at a bone
'Cause ever since you left me,
I've been so alone

[Hook]

Yeah, I had to take the class...
But I was just too damn sad to laugh

[Instrumental Break]

[Coda]

Yeah I had to take the class
And it was a pain in the ass
And I barely passed
'Cause I was just too sad to laugh

Yeah, I was just too damn sad to laugh

Man Yoga

2023/July 2026

[Intro - acapella chanting - starts softly but growing louder]

Yoga

Yoga

Yoga

Yoga

[Intro - with guitar riff and bass drums]

Yoga

Yoga

Yoga

Yoga

[Verse]

Take a break from cigars and scotch

Big ass trucks and big ass yachts

Head down to the studio where the real men flock

It's time to do Man Yoga

Ladies like a man with breath control

Whose not afraid of a forward fold

Cause a real sugar daddy can touch his toes

It's time to do man yoga

[Pre-Chorus]

In downward dog

You look like a Cybertruck

Ass up high and hard as stainless steel

Your chair pose is like

Sitting in your lazy boy

A Mayan God ready for a his meal

[Chorus]

Beer in the right hand, remote in the left,

Watching the game and yelling at the refs

[Hook]

So happy you came to the studio for Man Yoga!

[Instrumental Break - distorted guitar and sitar]

[Verse]

In cobra pose you look like a snake -

Evil, and as strong as an earthquake -

Yeah, watch out ladies when the ground shakes

'Cause we're doing man yoga

Don't be afraid to go into beast mode
When you're doing that Warrior Two pose
You can even grunt cause you're with your bros
It's time to do Man Yoga

[Pre-Chorus]

In downward dog
You look like a Cybertruck
Ass up high and hard as stainless steel
Your chair pose is like
Sitting in your lazy boy
A Mayan God ready for a his meal

[Chorus]

Beer in the right hand, remote in the left,
Watching the game and yelling at the refs

[Hook]

So happy you came to the studio for Man Yoga!

[Coda]

So happy you came to the studio for MAN YOGA

Random Grooves

June 2024/July 2026

[Verse - spoken]

Well, I woke up this morning, looked at the woman lying next to me and said, "Damn, I've been with that woman for over 40 years."

And like a wise old man once told me, "That's a long time with the same woman."

And you know what?

It is.

[Pre-chorus - intensity builds]

But hey - it's not about the years, or the tears, or the beers - it's about what's in your heart, and how you see the future with that person.

And folks, I just wanna' let you know...

[Chorus - joyous]

We've still got some

Random grooves

We can still make some

Solid moves

And even though we're now 62

We're only as old

As we choose

So baby put on your

DANCING SHOES

[Hook]

'Cause we've still got some

RANDOM GROOVES

[Verse -spoken]

Well, we may not dance like we used to.

In fact, I don't think we ever danced like we think we used to.

But it doesn't matter.

We go somewhere, and she wants to dance.

I say, "I'm waiting for the perfect song."

[Pre-chorus - intensity builds]

And I have a beer or two...

and then that perfect song comes on...

and for three to four minutes, we are like John and Olivia dancing at the summer fair...

because folks I just wanna' let you know...

[Chorus - joyous]

We've still got some

Random grooves

We can still make some
Solid moves
And even though we're now
62
We're only as old
As we choose

So baby put on your
DANCING SHOES

[Hook]
'Cause we've still got some
RANDOM GROOVES

[Instrumental break]

[Verse - spoken]
I don't know what else to say...
Except that life is long, and sometimes hard...
And to get through it all you need someone at your side...
Someone to be a friend, a partner, a motivator, an inspiration...

[Pre-chorus - intensity builds]
And someone to tell you when your pants are too tight
And that maybe you should button that top button on your shirt
Because hey, no one wants to see that...
Even if you think...

[Chorus - Joyous]
We've still got some random grooves
Our life is an endless cruise
Let's act without any cues
We're only as old as we choose

So baby put on your
DANCING SHOES

[Hook]
'Cause we've still got some
RANDOM GROOVES

[Interlude]

[Coda - whispered]
So baby put on those dancing shoes
'Cause we still got some RANDOM GROOVES

She Left Me For a Yogi

June 2024/July 2026

[Verse: Upbeat surf rhythm, bright acoustic guitars]]

Well, she packed her bags
One Thursday morn,
Said "I'm going to Disney
with your firstborn",

But she went to hook up
with a Yogi there
Took my little boy
And his teddy bear

[Chorus: Soaring multi-part harmonies, lush choral arrangement]

She left me for a yogi,
Said I was no Don Quixote,

And I was getting too damn old
(too damn old)

I never sang karaoke
And ate too many hoagies

[Hook: A cappella vocal harmony]

And I couldn't touch my toes
Or do a forward fold
(Whatever the hell that is)

[Verse: Upbeat surf rhythm, bright acoustic guitars]

She found her nirvana
in his downward dog,
I'm just a country bumpkin,
Thick as a log

She said my beer gut
Was no match for his abs
I was a warrior poser
While he was a man

[Instrumental Break, bajo sexto+trumpet]

[Bridge: Fast, Upbeat surf rhythm, bright acoustic guitars]

I guess my cowboy boots just can't compete
With his long white beard and unwashed feet
I'll just drink me a beer and sing my sad song

While she chants away and he bangs her gong

[Chorus: Soaring multi-part harmonies, lush choral arrangement]

She left me for a yogi (yogi)
Said I was no Don Quixote (yogi)
And I was getting too damn old
(too damn old)

I never sang karaoke
And ate too many hoagies

[Hook: A cappella vocal harmony]

And I couldn't touch my toes
Or do a forward fold
(whatever the hell that is)

[Instrumental Break - bajo sexto+trumpet]

[Coda - spoken with righteous anger]

And in conclusion
There's just one thing I want to know
If I can't see my damn feet
How the hell can I touch my toes?

[Chorus - Soaring multi-part harmonies, lush choral arrangement]

She left me for a yogi (yogi)
Said I was no Don Quixote (yogi)
And I was getting too damn old
(too damn old)

I never sang karaoke
And ate too many hoagies

[Hook: A cappella vocal harmony]

And I couldn't touch my toes
Or do a forward fold
(whatever the hell that is)

Slave to Fashion

1983/July 2026

Co-written with a college roommate of mine, Chuck Sadowski.

[Intro]

Thirty years old, divorced twice
It must be really nice
Not a care in the world
'Cept for who to hook up with next

[Pre-chorus]

Hell yeah it's nice
But you got to pay the price
Because you're a slave to fashion

[Chorus]

Jordache jeans, Bill Blass suits
Shiney 300 dollar cowboy boots

The women all love you
'Cause you're so couth

But if you don't plan
Some other Lady's Man
Is gonna' give you the boot

[Verse]

30 years old, tending a bar
Your ass is never going far
Look at you in your fast car
Please don't crash that car
'Cause you'll get a lot of scars
And they don't make La Coste hospital gowns

[Interlude]

[Bridge]

So what you gonna' do then,
Slave to Fashion?
When you leave us
Slave to Fashion

What will the ladies do?
Who will come to woo?
It sure as hell ain't gonna be you

All we wanna' do is screw

But when you're old you're through
And there ain't much you can do
'Cause there's millions just like you
Only younger and sexier

So Mr. Slave to Fashion
You better tell Bill Blass
To kiss your ass

'Cause soon you're only gonna' be
A thing of the past

[Pre-chorus]
Hell yeah it's nice
But you got to pay the price
Because you're a
SLAVE TO FASHION

[Chorus]
Jordache jeans, Bill Blass suits
Shiney 300 dollar cowboy boots
The women love you because you're so couth

But if you don't' plan
Some other Lady's Man
Is gonna' give you the boot

[Coda]
'Cause you're a slave to fashion
'Cause you're a slave to fashion

Slave to fashion,
(slave, slave, slave to fashion)
Slave to fashion
(slave, slave, slave to fashion)

Teddy Bear

1983/June 2026

Another song inspired by the Austin punk scene and possibly some of the scatological stuff Frank Zappa was doing at the time.

[Verse]

I got this woman
She's a class act indeed
I know how to satisfy
Her every need

I break her arms
I break her back
I pogo on her chest
Until she has a heart attack

[Chorus]

They say I'm psychotic
Slightly neurotic
But I just like things
A little chaotic

You won't believe it
But I swear
I'm just a big - soft - lovable - Teddy Bear

[Verse]

This woman of mine
I keep her to myself
I get somewhat angry
If she looks at someone else

I strangle her dog
I poison her cat
I beat on her tulips
With a baseball bat

[Instrumental Break - guitar, piano]

[Bridge - soft interlude]

But don't get me wrong
I really like this chick
I just have an old fashioned way
Of expressing it

You know, - back in the good ol' days,

You know - when a man was a man

And women didn't ask questions
About what they wouldn't understand

[Pre-Chorus]

But before I get too nostalgic
And this song turns tragic

It's time to get out the whip
(the whip, the whip - it's time to get out the whip!)

[Chorus]

They say I'm psychotic
Slightly neurotic
But I actually find it to be
Kind of erotic

You won't believe it
But I swear
I'm just a big - soft - lovable - Teddy Bear

[Instrumental break]

[Coda]

Yeah I'm psychotic
Slightly neurotic
Can't stand a girl
Who's too robotic
I love me a gal
Who lets me get exotic

You won't believe it but I swear
I'm just a big - soft - lovable - Teddy Bear

[Fade]

The Girl With the Ruby Lips

1983/June 2026

An ode to the early 80s Austin club scene...

[Intro]

C'mon, c'mon (repeat)

[Intro - Spoken]

(Laughs) This song is an ode to the early 80s dance club scene in Austin Texas...especially that 5 for 1 happy hour on Mondays at Angles...you know what I'm talking about...

[Verse]

I go to the bar
Pay my dollar cover
Take a look in the dark
For that special lover

Girls wearing teflon
They all got purple hair
They've all got shirts
That say, "I'm cruel but fair"

[Pre-Chorus - intensity builds]

Then in the darkness
This siren appears
A glow so intense
I spill my beer...

[Chorus - high intensity]

Hey darling I don't want
Any bruised hips (yeah)
Don't wanna' be abused
With chains and whips (oh no)

I'm just looking for the girl (c'mon, c'mon)
With the RUBY LIPS

[Verse - quiet storm building]

Our eyes join as one (one)
In a deadly embrace
The band grows louder (louder)
As we start the chase

So damn close to each other
Its starting to get warm (warm)
My lips part slowly

The words begin to form (form)

[Pre-chorus - intensity builds]

What's your major?

Where ya from?

I think I love you

Gimme some

[Chorus - High intensity]

Hey darling I don't want

Any bruised hips (yeah)

Don't wanna' be abused

With chains and whips (oh no)

I'm just looking for the girl (c'mon, c'mon)

With the RUBY LIPS

[Instrumental break - guitar solo]

[Coda - spoken]

What's your major?

Where ya from?

Will ya buy me a drink

After we're done

[Coda - double time]

I'm like a record that skips

That's why I need those ruby lips

Yeah, I'm broken and I need to be fixed

That's why I need those ruby lips

I'm a fine wine so c'mon take a sip

With those sexy ruby lips

[Chorus]

Hey darling I don't want

Any bruised hips (yeah)

Don't wanna' be abused

With chains and whips (oh no)

I'm just looking for the girl (c'mon, c'mon)

with the RUBY LIPS

[Outro]

I'm so broken and need to be fixed

Let's go to my apartment and strip

'Cause I think I've found my RUBY LIPS...

The Imperfect Texas Song

2022/June 2026

[Intro (spoken)]

You know back in 1975 David Allen Coe recorded what is considered the perfect Country and Western song.

Well...this is not that song...

[Verse]

I hit mama in my Uber
As she was waiting in the rain
For me to come and get her
To ride that dominos train

At the local Senior Center
Where she's looking for a man
Someone to call her darling darlin'
And to sometimes hold her hand

At her age its not easy
It may take an act of God
Her odds just aren't very good
And the goods are pretty odd

[Chorus]

I got measles the day my dog died
And then I lost my phone
My man says he's now a woman
And now I'm all alone

My doctor said to quit drinking
Cause its better to be stoned
That medical ganja sure is nice
But makes me so hungry for calzones

[Verse]

My son is living in my barndo
Still spending his Biden bucks
Trades crypto during the day
Hasn't had much luck

My daughter she works big tech
Makes more money than I can count
Blew it all on NFTs and doodles
Not sure what that was about

And I hated my cable company

And I finally took a stand
Now I spend more on streaming
And still only watch Only Fans

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

Used to read the newspaper
And watch the nightly news
But now I use my TikTok feed
For all of my misinformed views

But don't really read much anymore
Out here on the trails
Down here in Texas we burn books
To keep us warm when the grid fails

So I spent a few minutes writing
This Imperfect Texas Song
Let's all get out our guns, drink a beer,
And then all sing along...

[Final Chorus]

I got rabies the day my dog died
And then I lost my phone
My son says he's now a them
And now I'm all alone

My doctor said to quit drinking
Cause its better to be stoned
That medical mary jane is nice
But makes me so hungry for calzones

The Turnip King of Gillespie County

February 2024/July 2026

This is actually a true story. One year at the P&D ranch the weather was just perfect to grow this massive and unwanted turnip crop - I couldn't give them damn things away!

[Intro]

I live on the P&D Ranch
In the Texas Hill Country
It's a beautiful place
Somewhere you oughta' see

[Verse]

Every year in the fall
I plant me a big ol' food plot
Just a bunch of beans and greens
To provide food for the stock

[Pre-Chorus]

So I went to Lochte's
Just like I normally do
Said "I need some seeds for winter"
He said "I've got somethin' for you"

[Interlude]

[Verse]

I took that burlap bag home
Tilled and fertilized the dirt
Sprinkled the field with water
Then those seeds I dispersed

Well it rained and stayed warm
Then it rained a little more
There was no sign of winter
And those greens began to soar

[Pre-chorus]

Before I knew it we got turnips
Not just a few here and there
We got a football field full of 'em
We got more than enough to share

[Chorus - fast rap]

We got big ones, little ones
Fat ones, skinny ones
Turnips as far as you can see

Square ones (round ones)
Smooth ones (lumpy ones)
A root vegetable revelry

Old ones (young ones)
Straight ones (crooked ones)
A turnip menagerie

[Hook]

That was the year of our Lord twenty-twenty three
When a guy who once worked in eye tee
Became for a while
With incredible style
And a wink and a smile
The Turnip King of Gillespie County

(Yeah, the Turnip King of Gillespie County)

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

I took that burlap bag home
Tilled and fertilized the dirt
Sprinkled the field with water
Then those seeds I dispersed

Well it rained and stayed warm
Then it rained a little more
There was no sign of winter
And those greens began to soar

[Pre-chorus]

Before I knew it we got turnips
Not just a few here and there
We got a football field full of 'em
We got more than enough to share

[Chorus - fast rap]

We got big ones, little ones
Fat ones and skinny ones
Turnips as far as you can see

Square ones (and round ones)
Smooth ones (and lumpy ones)
A root vegetable revelry

Old ones (and young ones)
Straight ones (and crooked ones)

A turnip menagerie

[Hook]

That was the year of our Lord twenty-twenty three
When a guy who once worked in eye tee
Became for a while
With incredible style
And a wink and a smile
The Turnip King of Gillespie County

(Yeah, the Turnip King of Gillespie County)

[Coda - spoken]

Hey brother, can I loan you a turnip?

Really, I got turnips

You know the turnip is the potato's awkward cousin

But behind every great soup is a turnip wanting to take credit...

Yeah, turnips baby

Let's all dance and sing for the Turnip King

Velvet Thighs

1979/July 2026

Only a teenage boy could write something like this.

[Verse - slow and serene]

O heavenly vision, o divine nymph
I am so aroused by the sight
Of your velvet thighs gleaming
In the autumn moonlight

[Chorus]

Velvet thighs
(They make my fever rise)
Velvet thighs
(So hard to disguise)
Velvet thighs

[hook]

(When I lay my head in your lap
They muffle my cries...)

[interlude]

[Bridge - languid rap]

Don't know how mere denim
Can contain those two
They could burst free at any time
Like tigers at the zoo
I'm sorry they're all I see
'Cause there's so much more to you
But at the moment I confess
There's just one thing I wanna do...

[Instrumental break]

[Verse - slow and serene]

A joyful cantor through the park
The wind rustling your sunlit hair
But I can't see a thing
'Cause I'm blinded by the glare

Of your...

[Chorus]

Velvet thighs
(They make my fever rise)
Velvet thighs

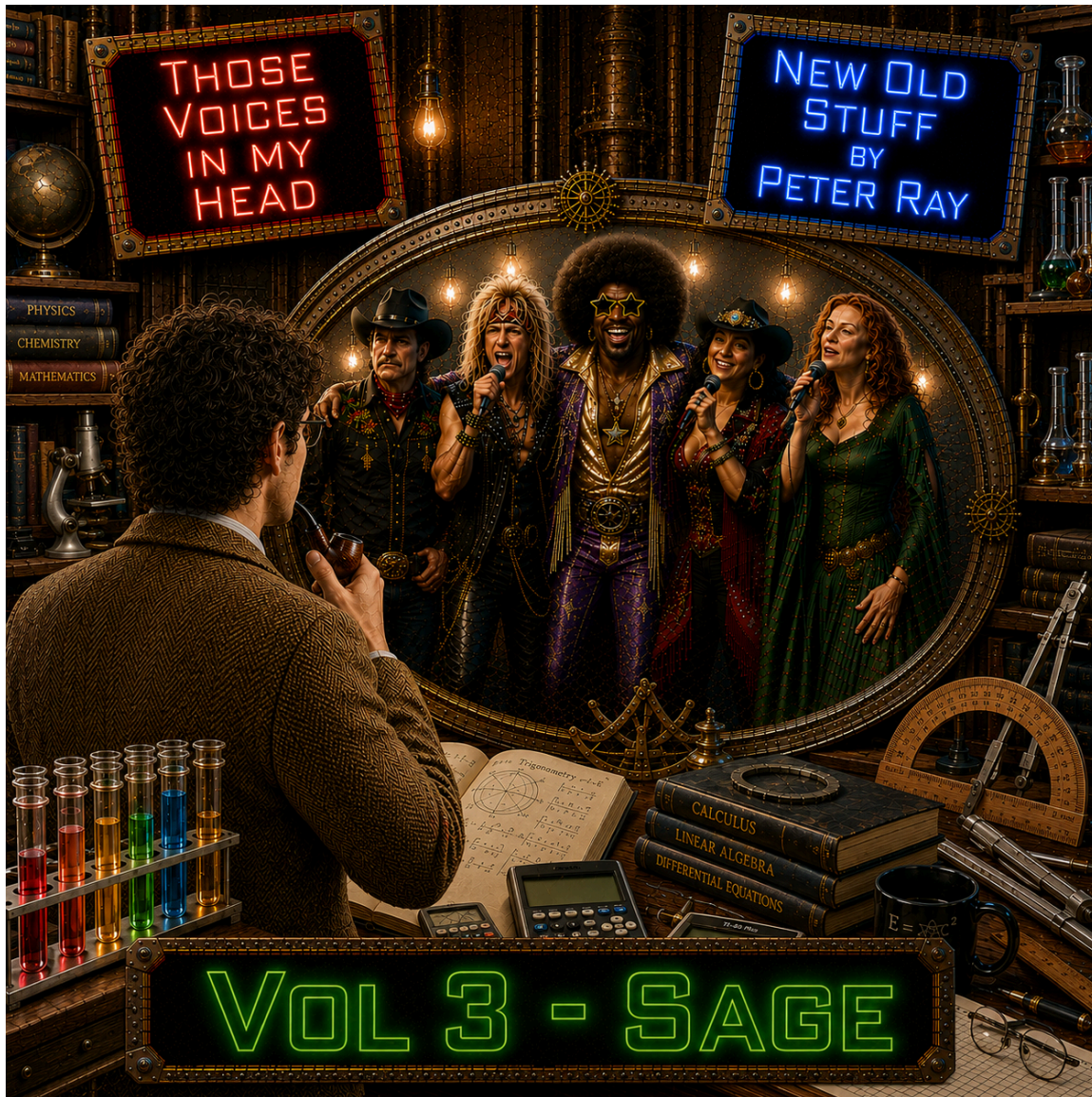
(So hard to disguise)
Velvet thighs
(When I lay my head in your lap
They muffle my cries...)

[coda]
Velvet (velvet)
Velvet (velvet)
Smooth and soft velvet
Where can I go wrong?

Velvet (velvet)
Velvet (velvet)
Sweet buttery velvet
Am I coming on too strong?

Velvet (velvet)
Velvet (velvet)
An endless river of velvet
Why do I have to end this song?

Volume 3 - Sage



City of Dreams (Farewell San Antonio)

1979/2026

Originally written about the year I moved from Germany back to America in 1979. Updated in 2026 to reflect my love for San Antonio, a city we lived in for 33 years.

[Verse]

City of Dreams

Within your walls I've laughed A thousand times

Loved your sweet cowboys

And drank your wine

Ciudad de los sueños

With the morning sun I must be flying

Seems like a part of me is dying

[Chorus]

But we can't live in a memory

And doesn't it always seem

That over each horizon awaits

Another city of dreams

[Verse]

City of dreams

Your confetti still lingers in my hair

My Fiesta medals still sparkle

In the April air

Ciudad de los sueños

Your river cuts through me like a knife

So full of people and so full of life

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

City of dreams

I'll miss your towers and your lights

Your cool mornings and your steamy nights

Ciudad de los sueños

My soul expanded upon your stage

My shadows lengthened and my fires blazed

[Chorus and Fade]

But we can't live in a memory

And doesn't it always seem

That over each horizon awaits

Another city of dreams

Ciudad de los sueños
Siempre amaré

Closing on the Mind

1977/July 2026

[Verse]

Emblazed figures on the mast
Stairways to the stars
Images of a future passed
Reveal to us our scars

[Chorus]

Searching
Onward for the truth

[Hook]

And closing on the mind
Closing on the mind

[Verse]

Burning sapphire nights
Shadows in the soul
The joy of wingless flight
The dust of ancient scrolls

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse intensity builds]

The carnage of the wind
Passages of light
What will have never been
Temples fade from sight

[Chorus]

Searching
Onward for the truth

[Hook]

Closing on the mind
Closing on the mind

[Coda softly]

Dancing pillars by the shore
Canopies of light
Tattered by the savage corps
Soldiers of the night

[Chorus]

Searching
Onward for the truth

[Hook]

And closing on the mind

Closing on the mind

[Coda]

Searching

Onward for the truth

Searching

For the final proof

And CLOSING ON THE MIND

Come Sail Away

1979/July 2026

[Verse - quiet]

Come sail away

We can leave this world behind

On a voyage to the edge of imagination

A place where we aren't confined

Trapped in prisons of the mind

[Hook]

We can be who we are...

[Verse - energy builds]

Come sail away

We can soar beyond this vale

On a journey to the mount of all creation

Traveling far beyond the rails

Reaching the holiest of grails

[Hook]

We can all live in peace...

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse - energy builds]

Come sail away

We can leave this world behind

On a flight to the peaks of aspiration

A place where we aren't refined

Forced to leave our hopes behind

[Hook]

We can dream what we feel...

[Verse - crescendo]

Come sail away

We can join the revelry

On a quest for a higher congregation

To seek our true destiny

A people living in harmony

[Hook]

We must live as one...

[Coda]

Come sail away

Come sail away with us

Come sail away with me

Everything That We Need

1978/June 2026

[Intro]

Everything that we need
We have right here in our hands
We don't have to ask questions
We don't have to understand
We can weave a heaven
Out of everybody's strand
And everything we need
We have right here in our hands

[Verse]

Our jewelry and our gold
Can't glitter in the dark
For too long we have waited
For that celestial spark
The force that will unite us
Is sleeping in our hearts
It's time for everyone of us
To wake up and do our part

[Interlude]

[Verse]

Turn away from endless wars
Say "No!" to falling bombs
Turn away from the wizard
Waving his fiery wand
Turn instead to the sorceress
With the light in her palms
Bringing us peace and solace
And a never ending dawn

[Verse]

My brother is your brother
Together we are one
Your sister is my sister
Beneath a common sun
This world is our world
It belongs to everyone
We march into the future
With so much to be done

God (The Mystery of Faith)

1978/May 2022/June 2026

Verse 1 was written after this school shooting in Uvalde, Texas in May of 2022. Verse 2 and the chorus were written in 1978. Faith is a journey and I'm still on it.

[Verse]

God, you made the metal in the earth
That was used to make the gun
You made the kid who pulled the trigger
As those other kids tried to run

You made the rage the kid felt
So he couldn't hear the screams
You made the innocence of children
Destroyed with all their dreams

You made all that crimson blood
That flowed from all those holes
You made that situation
The police could not control

You made the fear the teacher felt
As her classroom was attacked
The peace in her sweet temple
Shattered like so much glass

[Instrumental break]

[Chorus]

It's the mystery of faith
How the pain eases over time
Just listen to the choir
And drink all that wine

Make sure to love thy neighbor
And never act unkind
And never stare too deeply
Where the sun doesn't shine

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

God, I feared you when I was young
You towered over my youth
My soul trembled so as
I sat in that confession booth

I ignored you when I was a man
Salvation was not my need
Wine and women were better
Than those priests with all their beads

I turned to you when I was a dad
Weakness drove me to your pews
I needed help raising my children
I found your stories I could use

I question you now that I am old
So much damn evil in your world
And if we're all your children
Why do some get stones and others pearls?

[Spoken]
My time on earth is winding down
What lies ahead I do not know
And when my song comes to an end
Which God will be at the show?

[Instrumental break]

[Chorus]

It's the mystery of faith
How the pain eases over time
Just listen to the choir
And drink all that wine

Make sure to love thy neighbor
And never act unkind
And never stare too deeply
Where the sun doesn't shine

[Coda/Fade]
It's the mystery of faith
How the pain eases over time

Men (These Stones)

1979/Mar 2022/June 2026

Based on a poem called "Brother" written Feb 1979

Father and son lyrics written Mar 2022

Inspired by John Lennon's great and painful song "Mother"

[Verse 1 - Father]

Dear Father,
You were so very tall
I reached up to you
But I was so small
Wrapped in the flag
You only heard the call

In my hand I held a ball
You would never throw
When I needed you
You never did show
You were so far away
Places I could never go
At war with other fathers
I would never know

And when was I ten
You were no longer part of the show
I understand you were a great man
But you left me in the shadows

[Verse 2 - Brother]

Dear Brother,
You were there when others fled
When the world heaved
And the oceans bled
We went on our journeys
And sang our songs instead

Our hair grew longer
The nights were full of haze
The guitar was a temple
As our hymns we played
A new dad appeared
But we turned him away
And the world of our Father
Was so far away

But when I was seventeen
You were no longer part of the show

You had to follow your dreams
And moved into the shadows

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse 3 - Son]

Dear Son,
I promised I'd be a better dad
The constant pillar
That I never had
Always there with a smile
Whenever you got mad

I'd be at every game
Watch you on every stage
Would never be too tall
Or full of too much rage
I'd be there to applaud
Every time you turned a page
Our home would be a refuge
And never a cage

But when you were twenty one
I was no longer part of the show
Thought that you were now a man
But I left you in the shadows

[Instrumental Break]

[Coda]

Father, when you were old I reached out to you
Because you no longer seemed so tall
I understood the demons you battled
And the peace from those medals on the wall
I cried inside during the funeral
When the bagpiper left the hall

Brother, I've watched you struggle
Our childhood seems so far away
The world of being men is much harder
Then the songs we used to play
But I'm here to help you any way I can
To make it through the day

Son, the pain of watching you struggle
Is deeper than any pain I've ever known
I wish I could turn back the wrath of time
And return you to our peaceful home

But the curse of men means we keep marching
And keep pushing at these stones

But the curse of men means we keep marching
And keep pushing at these stones

Mom

2022/July 2026

[Intro]

You were born during the war
But you never let it make you cry
You played in the rubble and chased
Candy falling from the sky

One night as you walked your dog
You met a tall blonde prince
Who took you to America
Where you've lived ever since

In Hollywood you lived your dream
The beach was only a bus ride away
I was number four when I was born
You were only twenty that day

[Chorus]

*Mom,
You've been with me all these years
Watched the mountains I've tried to climb
Always there with words of wisdom
Like "Just take it one disaster at a time"*

*For you the world has sometimes been
A cruel and thankless place
But there's always been a poem in your heart*

[Hook]

And a smile upon your face

[Verse]

The years went by so fast and so slow
As we moved from base to base
So often you were on your own as
Us kids grew so hard to chase

Then one day it was time for a change
You loaded the car and drove away
Met a new prince with a heart of gold
Who tried so hard to ease your pain

He moved you out of the city
You could breathe that sweet country air
God blessed you with a daughter

With blue eyes and curly blonde hair

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

Then he moved us to a town he loved so much
Where "Howdy" is the greeting

But nothing on this earth lasts forever
His heart of gold stopped beating

The sky was so very dark that day
You were alone for a year

But then the sun came out again
And another prince appeared

He spoke the language of your birth
So very tall, dark and handsome

You knew Gemütlichkeit for 22 years
The happiest you've ever been

[Chorus]

*Mom,
You've been with me all these years
Watched the mountains I've tried to climb*

*Always there with words of wisdom
Like "Just take it one disaster at a time"*

*For you the world has sometimes been
A cruel and thankless place*

But there's always been a poem in your heart

[Hook]

And a smile upon your face

[Interlude]

[Bridge]

Well, it's been so long since that terrible war
And all those trips with kids to the beach

Sadly, you've outlived the men in your life
But your kids are still here within reach

And we all want to hear the stories
Because you have so much to teach

[Bridge - Whispered]
Mom, I know it must be hard
To find the strength to rise each day

But with your family at your side
There still so much for you to say

[Chorus]
*Mom,
You've been with me all these years
Watched the mountains I've tried to climb
Always there with words of wisdom
Like "Just take it one disaster at a time"*

*For you the world has sometimes been
A cruel and thankless place
But there's always been a poem in your heart*

[Hook]
And a smile upon your face

[Fade]

Onward and Onward (Child of the Stars)

1980/July 2026

Another song adapted from one of the poems I wrote for a high school Creative Writing class. The first two first verses are Youth and Adulthood are from 1980, the third verse on Old Age was written in 2026.

[Verse 1 - Youth]

(Dreamy paternal voice)

child of the stars
your flight is over
you can't go on
seeking forever
one day
you must fall to earth
and accept
there are no meanings
there are no reasons
just the ebb of your heartbeat
and the seasons of your soul
pushing you onward
and onward

[Chorus]

Onward and onward

(Shuffling...

grinding...

sweating)

Onward and onward

(Living...

loving...

forgetting)

[Verse 2 - Adulthood]

(Cruel robotic voice)

you
yes, you
quit looking so perplexed -
we mean YOU!
don't try to run
those we find we never lose...
there's only one matter
to be discussed:
do you want to be like us?
you
that's who
do you want to be a you
the rest of our life?

we didn't think so...
NEXT!

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse 3 - Old Age]
(Joyful voice)

child of the stars
after all these years
your flight has just begun
today
you will rise from the earth
and accept
there is a meaning
there is a reason
for the the drums of your heartbeat
and the seasons of your soul
to push you onward and onward

[Final Chorus]
Onward and onward
(Growing...
shining...
turning)
Onward and onward
(Living...
loving...
learning)

[Coda]
(dreamy with echo and reverb)
Onward and onward and onward and onward

Second Chance America

December 2024/June 2026

[Intro - spoken]

Second Chance America

[Verse]

Andy ran for office
But no he didn't win
Then he ran outta' money
And his patience wore thin

He was on a school board
He hated those damn kids
So he set a few charges
45 died in the din

[Bridge]

Because in 1927
No hero caught his eye
He only saw grey above
While others saw blue skies

Criminals are made, not born
He carved on a wooden sign
We never hear his story
But we all know his kind

[Chorus]

After he was paroled
The girls and Charlie Manson
Formed a bluegrass band
And set up shop in Branson

The grannies all loved Charlie
Because he was so handsome
But he would steal their dentures
And hold them for ransom

Because this is America baby
Some of us get a second chance
To dry clean our tuxedos
And wash the blood from our hands

No criminal ever dies
No case is ever closed
Because it's America baby

It's always on with the show

[Verse]

A kid robbed a grocery store
He confessed out of fear
In '33 he got out of jail
After 8 and half years

He formed a gang and robbed banks
His fame spread near and far
The people all loved the kid
Even more than FDR

[Bridge]

Because during the 30s
Heroes were in short supply
Everyone was out of work
There were no more blue skies

So many daughters dreamed
Of being at his side
So many mothers wept
The day that JD died (chorus)

[instrumental Break]

[Verse]

A drug dealer walked alone
Through midtown one day
His pockets fat with cash
From all those denied claims

Some kid with a toy gun
Sat in the shadows and aimed
The dealer fell to the ground
As those real bullets rained

[Bridge]

The kid got on a bus
And fled across state lines
With curly hair and tight abs
And a smile that really shined

His picture went viral
He was a meme for our times
Because in the 2020s
Heroes are so hard to find

[Instrumental break]

[Coda]

After the election
The smiling and the rich
Moved into the people's house
And started a new grift

He'll sell you his Bible
He'll sell you his cologne
He'll make a goddamn fortune
Off of everything you own

Because this is America baby
Some of us get a second chance
To dry clean our tuxedos
And wash the blood from our hands

No criminal ever dies
No case is ever closed
Because it's America baby
Cause it's how we roll

Texas Dogs

2022/2023/June 2026

Written originally in the spring of 2022 after we had to put our third dog Hannah to sleep. Updated in April of 2023 after we got our new dog, Mérida

[Intro - spoken]

I've been owned by 4 Texas dogs
During a 40 year span
Each had its own personality
So easy to understand

[Chorus]

Spooner the Spitz...The Olympic high jumper
Always in the air with a smile on his face

Louie the Beagle...The happy wanderer
Always sneaking out to explore a new place

Hannah the Corgi Shepherd...The sweet companion
Always so eager to share your space

And now our sweet Mérida...The Texas torpedo
Always so eager to join the race

[Verse]

When a dog is a puppy
So much raw energy to tame
Never serious about anything
Life's just an endless game

When a dog is middle aged
Loyalty is the key
Your faithful friend will trust you
Unconditionally

And when a dog is aging
Those bones begin to creak
The eyes begin to cloud
That puppy energy grows weak

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

We live so much longer than our friends
And then it's time to say goodbye
The decision is never easy

As they stare with trusting eyes

And when that last breath fades
And it's past the time to cry
That arc from birth to death
Is like a meteor in the sky

[Bridge - spoken]

And now our home is empty
No more shedding or random barks
I keep searching for paw prints
As I wander In the dark
But the only ones I find
Are in the memories in my heart

[Final Chorus]

Spooner the Spitz...The Olympic high jumper
Always in the air with a smile on his face

Louie the Beagle...The happy wanderer
Always sneaking out to explore a new place

Hannah the Corgi Shepherd...The sweet companion
Always so eager to share your space

And now our sweet Mérida...The Texas torpedo
Always so eager to join the race

Trying to Get Unstuck

October 2025/July 2026

This song is based on a conversation I had with a lady at the Fredericksburg Dog Park. I told her I was a songwriter, and she said, "Write a song about me and my dog", which I did. I never saw her again and don't know her name...

[Intro]

She left a note on the counter — just a simple "goodbye"
Tossed her scrubs in the back seat, she didn't even cry
The Texas heat was drawing near,
The open road was wide and clear
She said "I've mended every heart but mine...it's time to disappear."

[Pre-Chorus]

She's heading north
Driving up the Alcan
Going to Alaska
To find a rugged man

[Chorus]

Years as an ER nurse
Carved the lines on her face
But she stands tall and proud
Red hair down to her waist

With her black lab at her side
She pushes forward in her truck
She lost a guy but not her pride

[Hook]

Now she's trying to get unstuck

[Verse]

Crossing the plains and passing trains
She makes her way
Through Montana mornings and long Yukon days

She hums along to every song
On that radio dial
And the eyes of that dog never fail to make her smile

[Verse]

She laughed in the bars and danced to the bands
Trying to find a man who would understand...her plans

She met loggers and miners and heartbreak refugees
But none of them quite matched what she needed him to be

[Instrumental Break]

[Bridge - softly]

Now those northern lights shimmer in her aging eyes
She found her footing beneath those endless skies
Maybe love's not a man
Or a wedding band
Maybe it's a dog, the open road, and a life you command

[Pre-Chorus - Final]

She headed north
Drove up the Alcan
Went up to Alaska
To find a better man

[Chorus]

Years as an ER nurse
Carved those lines on her face
But she stands tall and proud
Gray hair down to her waist

With her black lab at her side
She pushes forward in that truck
Sitting next to her guy with those magic eyes

[Hook]

And she's finally feeling unstuck

[Coda]

She's finally feeling unstuck

We Do We Abandon the Old People (Why Don't We Care)

1979/June 2026

Written when we traveled from Germany to Texas, and stopped to see my stepfather Ed's family. It was the first time I remember meeting a really old person with physical frailties. It had quite the effect on me.

[Verse - spoken]

Why do we abandon the old people?
Those tellers of stories
Those links with past glories
Those sturdy bridges to the shores of yesterday

[Pre-chorus]

And we hide them away, hide them away
Hide them from the day, hide them from the day

[Chorus]

As the years hurtle by
The body will wither
But the summits of the soul
Can stand tall forever

[Bridge - spoken]

But we see them in our living room
And we turn the other way

[Verse - spoken]

Why do we abandon the old people
Sad faces and lonely eyes
Whispers of former lives
They are bright portals to the shores of yesterday

[Pre-chorus]

And we hide them away, hide them away
Hide them from the day, hide them from the day

[Chorus]

A mind alive with dreams
Will begin to sleep when
No one tries to spark
The fires that burn within

[Bridge - spoken]

But we see them out on the street
And we walk the other way

[Verse - spoken]

Why do we abandon the old people?
Those cold and trembling hands
Evidence of time's demands
The proof they touched the shores of yesterday

[Pre-Chorus] And we hide them away, hide them away
Hide them from the day, hide them from the day

[Chorus]
The wisdom of the ages
Is locked within their hearts
We're children at their feet
Our selfishness keeps us apart

[Bridge - spoken]
But we see them in our dreams
And we run the other way

[Verse - spoken]
Why do we abandon the old people?
Obsessed with what we wear
We pretend that no one's there
And we don't need to walk the shores of yesterday

[Pre-Chorus]
And we hide them away, hide them away
Hide them from the day, hide them from the day

[Coda - high energy]
Obsessed with our treasure chest of toys
We can't hear their sobs above the noise

There's so much to share...
Why don't we care?
There's so much to share...
Why don't we care?

Wizard Oil

2023/Updated July 2026

Adapted from Carl Sandburg's "The American Songbag". Originally this was targeted at our current President, but with this version, I broadened the scope to focus on all mendacious politicians and preachers.

[Intro - Spoken]

"Nobody ever went broke overestimating the ignorance of the American public"

"You can fool most of the people most of the time"

"There is a fool born every minute" - PT Barnum

[Verse]

Oh! I love to travel far and near throughout my native land;
I love to sell as I go 'long, and take the cash in hand.
I love to cure all in distress that happen in my way,
And you better believe I feel quite fine when folks rush up and say:

[Chorus]

I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,
(I'll take another bottle or two)
I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,
(Ill take another when I'm through)

[Verse]

Now, listen to what I'm going to say
And don't you think I'm jesting
When I tell you for your aches and pains
That Wizard Oil's the best thing

It's healing and it's soothing,
it's refreshing and it's reviving
The proof of which, wherever it's sold
The people all are thriving

[Chorus]

I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,
(I'll take another bottle or two)
I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,
(I'm so happy to believe in you)

[Instrumental Break - guitar solo]

[Verse]

Once while selling 'way out West
In the State of Illinois,
The people all came running up
To see what made the noise.

The merchants laughed in their counting rooms
The farmers laughed a-hoeing.
Amongst the rest a Dutchman came
A-puffing and a-blowing

[Instrumental break - spoken with different voices, mixed with laughter]

"A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage"

"We are not about to send American boys... to do what Asian boys ought to be doing."

"I'll never lie to you."

"It's Morning Again in America."

"Read my lips: no new taxes."

"I still believe in a place called Hope."

[Chorus]

I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,

(I'll take another bottle or two)

I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,

(I'll take another when I'm through)

[Coda - spoken different voices, mixed with laughter]

"I'm a uniter, not a divider."

"We are the change we've been waiting for."

"I will build a great wall... and Mexico will pay for it."

"Build...Back...Better."

"We're going to win so much, you may even get tired of winning."

[Chorus - fast and intense]

I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,

(I'll take another bottle or two)

I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,

(I'm so happy to believe in you)

[Final Coda - spoken with different voices and laughter]

"Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.."

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do."

"In my Father's house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you"

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

[Final Chorus]

I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,

(I'll take another bottle or two)

I'll take another bottle of Wizard Oil,

(I'll take another when I'm through)

[Fade - with laughter]

I'll take another bottle or two

Women (I Thank You)

May 2022/June 2026

[Verse]

Woman -

Light...whisper...

Woman -

sight...sister

Woman -

Spell...chant...

Woman -

heal...aunt

[Chorus]

Woman

The river of life flows through you

Your rains soften the earth

The gateway to the infinite

The fount of endless birth

[instrumental break]

[Verse 2]

Woman -

Stone...water...

Woman -

home...daughter

Woman -

Sky...balm...

Woman -

light...mom

Woman -

Birth...life...

Woman -

earth...wife

[Instrumental break]

[Chorus]

Woman

The river of life flows through you

The pathway to the light

The gateway to the infinite
The dawn that ends the night

[Coda]

To my Sisters, I thank you

To my Aunts, I thank you

To my Daughter, I thank you

To my Mothers, I thank you

To my Wife, I thank you

[Chorus]

Woman

The river of life flows through you
Your rains soften the earth

The gateway to the infinite
The fount of endless birth

Woman

The river of life flows through you
The pathway to the light

The gateway to the infinite
The dawn that ends the night

[Fade]

Volume 4 - Swain



At the Edge of the Dance Floor

2025/June 2026

Written for a couple I know in Fredericksburg, Buddy and Gladys. I wrote the words on a napkin during Oktoberfest one Saturday afternoon as I watched them sit next to the dance floor as a young couple from Austin swirled around them.

[Intro - spoken]

*Next to the dance floor the two proudly sat
She wore her pearls and he wore his hat
He grinned like a child, although his hands badly shook
And she held him prisoner with just one look*

[Chorus]

So hold me close under this harvest moonlight,
Let's dance in our hearts while the kids circle by
And dream of those days when we did so much more
Then just sit at the edge of another dance floor.

[Verse]

She steadied his walker, and guided him near,
Next to the stage where they could see and hear
The young couples spinning so easy and free,
He held her hand and she held his keys

[Verse]

The band was on fire, the fiddler carried the tune,
Her laughter like lightning filled up the room.
He tapped to the rhythm, got lost in a trance,
But she brought him back with only a glance

[Bridge]

Once they were swirling through the sweet summer air,
With his boots on the hardwood and her ribboned-up hair.
Her dress was so blue and her skin was so white
They moved like panthers hunting in the night
Now the time moves more slowly, but the love doesn't fade -
It just waltzes gently in the memories you've made.

[Verse]

When the final song faded, she straightened his tie,
And kissed him softly on his lips and his eyes.
For love doesn't vanish, it just learns to adjust
At the edge of the dance floor, you know who to trust

[Final Chorus and Fade - spoken]

So hold me close under this harvest moonlight,
Let's dance in our hearts while the kids circle by

And dream of those days when we did so much more
Then just sit at the edge of another dance floor

Chasing Those Dreams With You

1980/June 2026

Written for a girlfriend I had at the time. We were young, read and wrote too much poetry, and really wanted to run off with the Renaissance Faire together.

[Verse]

Beautiful lady, playful child
Running wild
And free like the wind
Sweet darling, your smile
Is where my world ends and begins

[Chorus]

*And you know I love you
You know I really love you*

[Verse]

Feelings fade and then blaze anew
Captured by you,
Tossed and turned like a ship
O baby, the torment
As into my heart you rip

[Chorus]

*But you know I love you
You know I really love you*

[Instrumental Break]

[Bridge]

Kathy, I know there are dreams
That both of us share
Our book of poems gets published
We run off with the Renaissance Faire
And I'm doing everything I can
To help us get there

But we both know,
Deep in our souls,
There's still a long way to go

And if we find the treasure chest empty
The rainbows all faded from view
I just want to say I've enjoyed
Chasing those dreams with you

Chasing those dreams with you

Chasing those dreams with you
There's still a long way to go
Chasing those dreams with you

[instrumental break]

[Coda]

Beautiful lady, playful child
Running wild and free like the wind
Sweet darling, your smile
Is where my world ends and begins

I wanna' keep chasing those dreams with you

Happiness (You Rescued Me)

1978/June 2026

[Verse]

Happiness is
The warmth of your smile
Drifting into me

Ecstasy is

The waves of your touch
Washing over me

[Chorus]

Like the ocean upon the shore
And just when I think
You've given it all
You fascinate me more

[Verse]

Paradise is
Sleeping in your arms
Wrapped up in dreams

Enchantment is

The glow in your eyes
Warm as sunbeams

[instrumental Break]

[Bridge]

All my dreams had turned to dust
The world was covered in rust
There was no one I could trust

And then you rescued me,
You rescued me

In the shadows I would hide
Lost somewhere dark inside
By myself, crucified

And then you rescued me,
you rescued me

[Instrumental break]

[Verse]

Salvation is
The peace in my heart
Whenever you are near

Forever is
The time that we share
A joy beyond the years

[Chorus]
Like the ocean upon the shore
And just when I think
You've given it all
You enrapture me more

[Coda]
You rescued me
You rescued me

Love is Like a Roller Coaster

1980/June 2026

[Verse]

Love is like a roller coaster
At a carnival on a weekend night
It moves with flashing speed and grace
Filling you with endless awe and fright

[Verse]

At best it ascends skyward and free
Lifting you above the darkness below
Perched beyond the sorrow and the sadness
You are crowned - you tremble - your face aglow

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

At worse it descends like a bullet
You are tossed and twisted - the whole world bends
And yet when the ride is over
You want to do it again and again (and again and again)

[Coda - double time rap style]

*Love is like a roller coaster
Spins you like a janky toaster
Puts you on a movie poster
Burns you like a coffee roaster*

*All I want and all I need
Is somewhere to plant my seed
Don't require the perfect steed
Just someone who takes the lead*

*But love is like a roller coaster
Spins you like a janky toaster
Puts you on a movie poster
Burns you like a coffee roaster*

[Final Verse - slower, with sadness]

Love is like a roller coaster
At a carnival on a weekend night
It moves with flashing speed and grace
Filling you with endless awe and fright

Pinioned By Laws I Don't Understand

Summer 1979/July 2026

One of the last songs I composed for the project. This was a poem from one of my high school notebooks. I'm sure I was just mad that I had to go home alone because my girlfriend had a curfew. The overlords are of course her parents.

[Verse]

Swimming in a pool frosted by twilight
The warmth of your body is like firelight
And I know in my soul
That the time is right

[Pre-Chorus]

But the overlords glare down upon us
And bellow their icy commands

The curfew tolls and we must part
Pinioned by laws I don't understand

[Chorus]

I mount my dragon and ascend into the sky
Cloaked in shadows, my sword at my side

I look below as you fade away

[Hook]

Knowing I shall return another day

[Verse]

I know we are young and that in their eyes
We've entered a realm we don't yet surmise
But doesn't the mind awaken during a sunrise?

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse - Whisper]

Someday in a cottage at the foot of a rainbow
On a night enrobed in a hot summer glow
At that moment the seeds of paradise we'll sow

[Pre-Chorus]

But the overlords glare down upon us
And bellow their icy commands
The curfew tolls and we must part
Pinioned by laws I don't understand

[Chorus]

I mount my dragon and ascend into the sky
Cloaked in shadows, my sword at my side
I look below as you fade away

[Hook]

Knowing I shall return another day

[Coda]

But crushed by laws I don't understand
I'll have to wait until I'm a man
On that day please take my hand

Reflections on a Dinner Conversation One Silent Friday Night

1980/June 2026

[Verse]

The Knight gazes at his Queen
And probes her starry eyes
That appear so small, so far away,
So preoccupied

(Male voice)

"Your highness, you're so different
From what you always seemed
In all my midnight fantasies
And early morning dreams..."

The Queen replies, "Is that so?
Well, to tell the honest truth
I fancied you as someone wild -
Of such I've seen no proof."

[Instrumental - Flute solo]

[Verse]

The Knight beneath his shining steel
Reels with whirlwind shock
She describes a treasure chest
She never dared unlock?

The Knight sighs to himself,
Drinks the vinegar of defeat,
The noble siege is over
When you touch and feel no heat

The Knight errant on his quest
Now abandons all hope
His journey led to the castle,
But he couldn't cross the moat

[Instrumental - harpsichord solo, bass solo]

[Verse]

As long as that moat exists -
And he knows it always will -
He'll seek his Holy Grail on other
Far less regal hills

Will the Queen shed a tear? No -

She's too much civility -
All this means is one less suitor
In her gallery

Let's not the friendship between
Knight and Queen ever abate
As for courtly love -
That's what lonely minstrels contemplate...

[Instrumental]

[Coda]

(Softly with sadness)

*The Knight gazes at his Queen
And probes her starry eyes
That appear so small, so far away,
So preoccupied*

The Enchanted Sunrise

1978/July 2026

[Intro - Spoken]

Her dance enchants,
Her eyes entice
Her spirit is a sunrise,
A slowly kindling fire.

Warmer still she gathers,
Warmer still we rise,
Until our sleepy longings
Open like the skies.

[Verse]

She comes to me
Draped in a flowage of dreams,
Rejoicing and revoicing
The wonders I've seen.

She rises like the dawn
Through veils of silver skies,
Carrying whispers of morning
In the light of her eyes.

[Pre-Chorus]

Enraptured by love's sweet surge,
Our bodies mingle and then they merge.
Heart to heart, and breath to breath
Beyond the reach of time and death.

[Chorus]

Higher still our spirits climb,
Past the edge of earthly time
On a silent flight set free
To the summit of ecstasy

[Interlude]

[Bridge - spoken]

No word is spoken,
Nothing is defined
Only the stillness
Of two souls entwined

The wind remembers
The stars agree

Love is the oldest
Song upon the sea

[Instrumental Break]

[Final Chorus]
She comes to me
Draped in a flowage of dreams,
Rejoicing and revoicing
The wonders I've seen.

[Coda]
Each day is born anew
Within her endless eyes
Enchanted, I surrender
To her sunrise

The Farewell

1979/July 2026

Written for a girlfriend I left behind after we moved to College Station from Germany. This is one of those songs I couldn't record before the advent of AI voices, because I could never sing these lines and get away with it. The arrangement is all Jim Steinman and Celine Dion.

[Intro - Grand Piano and Sweeping Strings]

[Verse - Lush and intimate, soft soprano]

My dear, no sword beneath the sun
Could cut the cloth that we have spun

No sharpened steel, no warrior's art
Could cut your memory from my heart.

No ship that sails the endless blue
Could carry me away from you.

No star that burns in darkest night
Could steal your rainbow from my sight.

[Pre-Chorus - Building intensity, passionate belting]

There's a scar upon my heart,
Wide as the restless sea.
Only your touch can fill
This void inside of me

[Chorus - Full operatic orchestra, dramatic, soaring vocals]]

I will wait through every storm,
Faithful as the rising dawn.
Until you find your way back home,
Where we both belong

[Interlude]

[Verse - Lush and intimate, soft soprano]

No other arms could hold me tight
And fill my soul with such delight.

No other smile, no other face
Could ever take your cherished place.

The joy we built still lights my soul,
Those warm beams still keep me whole

Each passing day I still believe
Love is stronger than our grief

[Instrumental Break]

[Bridge - Whispered delivery, romantic]

I pledge my heart forever true,
Every dream belongs to you.

With every prayer and every song
I tell the world where I belong

[Pre-Chorus - Building intensity, passionate belting]

There's a scar upon my heart,
Wide as the restless sea.
Only your touch can fill
This void inside of me

[Final Chorus - Full operatic orchestra, dramatic, soaring vocals]

I'll laugh and sing once more,
When you're standing by my side.
Until that day my faithful heart
Will keep our love alive

[Coda - Fading strings, whispered delivery, romantic]

Until that day my faithful heart
Ensures our love won't die

You, and Only You

1979/July 2026

[Verse]

Lying in a forest
Still damp with dew
Throbbing with the melody
Of the sweetness of you

I was lost and alone
So many seasonless years

Laughing without laughter,
Weeping without tears

[Pre-Chorus]

Then you came,
Soft as drifting rain.
And nothing stayed the same.

[Chorus]

The sight, the sound, the scent of you,
You, and only you.
You, and only you.

[Verse]

You arrived in whispers,
Wrapped in misty white,
Turning every shadow
Into morning light.

You twisted the fabric of my soul
You stirred my weary frame,
You sent the wingless songbird
Flying into the flame

[Instrumental break]

[Bridge]

Over every mountain,
Past the edge of dawn,
Love can find a shattered heart
Long after hope is gone.

Every breath remembers,
Every star shines through.

Every road keeps leading
Back to only you

[Final Chorus]
Now I'm lying in a hotel room
With an Austin, Texas, view

Still hearing that old melody,
The sweetness born of you.

Though the miles surround me,
One thing remains true

The songbird is still singing
This heartbeat belongs to you

You, and only you.
You, and only you.

Volume 5 - Fabulist



The Charge of the Cowboy Brigade

Feb 2023/July 2026

Written for a rancher and poet I met at the Cowboy Poetry Festival in Alpine Texas.

[Intro]

My name is Joel and I'm a Cowboy
I work on these west Texas plains
The sky is wide and the days are long
The wind is an endless refrain

[Pre-Chorus]

While I'm watching the herd
I'm calmed by the words
Of the Charge of the Light Brigade

[Chorus]

With the moon overhead
And the rocks painted red
I hear the Charge of the Light Brigade

[Verse]

My time on this earth is ending
The trail doesn't last forever
There's strength in my soul, not in my limbs
The sun has turned me to leather

[Pre-Chorus]

But before I take that final breath
And meet the Lord in my death
I want to teach kids about the Light Brigade

[Chorus]

The kids need poetry these days
Truth to help 'em see through the haze
I want to teach 'em about the Light Brigade

[Instrumental]

[Verse]

I went to the local high school
Offered my services as a teacher to them
They said sorry Joel, no money to teach
But the state gives us money for lawmen

[Pre-Chorus]

When I heard this I got on my horse
Rode into the night with such force

With the fury of the Light Brigade

[Chorus]

I looked up at the stars and my Lord
Prayed for guidance with these words
“Help me teach these kids about the Light Brigade”

[Bridge]

And then the stars appeared as badges to me
And the solution became so clear
I would become a lawman tomorrow
And I’d be on campus within the year

[Interlude]

[Verse]

So now I’m a deputy sheriff
I got a badge, carry a gun at my side

I gotta keep an eye on Brewster county
So empty, so peaceful, so wide

[Pre-Chorus - intensity building]

But every day I get to look into the eyes of those kids
And watch as they squirm, a little afraid

But every day I get to look into the eyes of those kids
And watch as they squirm, a little afraid

[Chorus - powerful]

As I tell them the story (of the blood and the glory)
Of the Charge of the Light Brigade

As I tell them the story (of the blood and the glory)
Of the Charge of the Light Brigade

[Bridge - Spoken - defiant]

*Half a league
Half a league
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.*

*“Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!” he said.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.*

*"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.*

[Bridge - angry]
Goddamn I love you Texas
Your big skies and endless plains
But why'd I have to become a lawman
To teach kids about the Light Brigade?

[Final Verse - wistful]

My name is Joel and I'm a Cowboy
I work on these West Texas plains

The sky is wide and the days are long
The wind is an endless refrain

[Final Coda - whispered]

*"Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,*

*Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of hell
Rode the six hundred"*

Crazy Shirtless Finn

2022/2026

Written after spending two weeks in Salida, Colorado, in June during the FIBARK festival. Finn is a composite of many characters I met during that trip. Finn was first mentioned in the song "The Year I Turned 60", and it was my nephew Colin who suggested I write an entire song about him.

[Intro - spoken]

*He came down from the mountains
Along with Giraffe Man, Pink Elephant, and the Mud People
This is his story...*

[Chorus]

Crazy shirtless Finn
Bottle of Jack in his hand
Dancing to the soundcheck
Doesn't need no band

Tall with long red hair
Walks like an accordion
Speaks softly as a summer rain
Flashing his sleepy grin

A lover of the ladies
Anything that moves
A legend in the Rockies
With nothing to prove

[Verse]

The next day we went rafting
The Arkansas was fast and wide
When we got to the river
My shock I couldn't hide
That dervish from last night
He was going to be our guide

He reeked of Jack and perfume
His eyes were moist and red
As we entered the waters
Not a word was said

Our big old raft raced wildly
Through the choppy foam
Finn stood tall and focused
His face as still as stone

As we spun 'round through the crack
I fell backwards into the churn

A thin white arm reached out to me
The grip was strong and warm

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

He pulled me back into the raft
And didn't say a word
Continued to paddle onward
The journey undisturbed

When we got back to the shore
Finn smiled deep and wide
Said, "A little rough back there
But hey - it was a hell of a ride!

"You going to Fibark tonight?
The party it never stops
I'll see you in the pit, my friend -
Let's dance until we drop!"

[Chorus]

Crazy shirtless Finn
Bottle of Jack in his hand
Dancing to the soundcheck
Doesn't need no band

Tall with long red hair
Walks like an accordion
Speaks softly as a summer rain
Flashing his sleepy grin

A lover of the ladies
Anything that moves
A legend in the Rockies
With nothing to prove

Dancing With the Dancing Queens

March 2023/July 2026

I lived in San Antonio for over 30 years. During that time, I did all of “The 100 Things to Do in San Antonio Before You Die” as published by the San Antonio Current. Marching in the June Pride Parade was the last item on the list I completed, and I really did it with the cast of “Mama Mia” from the San Pedro Playhouse.

[Verse]

Saturday night
And the air is hot
Our group is ready
But the parade is not
The guy with the clipboard
Is losing his mind
When he turns his head,
Someone moves up the line

The cast of Mamma Mia is marching in stride
Singing and dancing in support of Pride
Mr. Inflatable Unicorn is starting to sway
It's so damn hot clothes are peeling away

[Chorus]

We
Are the drama queens
Marching
With the Dancing Queens
It's such
A Puro San Antonio scene

[Hook]

Should be
On the silver screen

[Verse]

The cast of the show
Is young and wild
Folks along the route
Are just oozing style
We have to stop every 5 minutes or so
To pump up the beat for the traveling disco

The folks from ABBA should be pretty proud
Knowing we're playing their music good and loud
We cross the rainbow bridge and the crowd screams
The glow sticks wave and the glitter gleams

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

In a few hours the march starts to slow
We see abandoned floats all over the road
Parade walkers have all done their time
Ready to hit the bars, time to shine

The guy with the clipboard has a drink in his hand
Talking to a guy who's pretty and tan
There's confetti and clothing all over the street
And the song "Dancing Queen" is still on repeat

[[Chorus]

We
Are the drama queens
Marching
With the dancing queens
It's such
A Puro San Antonio scene

[Hook]

Should be
On the silver screen

[Interlude]

[Coda]

We
Are the drama queens
Marching
With the dancing queens
It's such
A San Antonio scene

[Hook]

Should be
On the silver screen

Dodging Death in the Desert

March 2023/July 2026

This is another song based on a true story. We really did almost die on that hill above Terlingua, and enjoyed every minute of it.

[Intro - spoken - wind blowing]

I'm gonna' tell you the moral of the story right now
Instead of waiting for the end of this song
Some of you have short attention spans
And may not wait around that long

[Chorus]

*The moral of the story is pretty simple
And not that difficult to sing
Never rent an onion shaped tent
On a hill above Terlingua*

*During the months of March and April
When the desert winds of spring
Might...just...kill..you*

[Verse]

My friend Mark was a shrink
Spent years keeping Texans straight
When it was time to retire
We went west to celebrate

We took our wives to Big Bend
To enjoy that sweet desert air
Wanted to stay someplace different
We all said "We don't care where"

So I logged into AirBnB
Starting searching for a place
When I found the Otters Den
Couldn't wipe the smile from my face

Had to drive up a rocky road
The engine groaned, the wheels spun
When we finally got to the top
Our onion was bathed in the setting sun

It was really quite the sight
Wide at the bottom with a tall thin spine
Two queen beds on a Persian rug
It was pretty posh inside!

We sat at the picnic table
Drinking wine and enjoying the stars
I told Mark it was his special day
"You don't know how lucky you are!"

Around midnight we headed for the tent
Crawled into our soft warm beds
Kissed our wives goodnight
And thanked the gods for our sweet spread

[Chorus]

*The moral of the story is pretty simple
And not that difficult to sing
Never rent an onion shaped tent
On a hill above Terlingua*

*During the months of March and April
When the desert winds of spring
Might...just...kill..you*

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

A few hours later we heard a sound
Like bombs going off during war
The pole holding up our onion
Was shaking like the hammer of Thor

We feared the onion would collapse
And the canvas would engulf us
We would die upon that Persian rug
Pummeled by endless gusts

I took command and shouted
"Let's all make a run for the truck!"
In our underwear we raced
Through the sand and the dust

When we got inside the truck
I locked all the doors
Held my wife's hand and prayed
"Please Jesus, spare this Ford"

I think I heard Mark weeping
"I just retired and this is my fate
Who rented this goddamn onion
And can we get a rebate!"

In the morning we awoke
Wiped the sand from all the windows
Saw the onion was still standing
Felt new hope as the sun rose

I told Mark it was a sign
We could have died but did not
His retirement would be long and happy
But next time we're renting a yacht!

[Final Chorus - wind blowing]
*The moral of the story is pretty simple
And not that difficult to sing
Never rent an onion shaped tent
On a hill above Terlingua*

*During the months of March and April
When the desert winds of spring
Might...just...kill..you*

Here, Hold My Accordion

March 2023/June 2026

I actually was the DJ for my niece's Quince, and I was really replaced at the last minute by a local band, which let me play songs during their breaks. A lot of alcohol was involved so I'm not sure if the accordion bit is true...

[Intro]

Here, Hold My Accordion!

[Verse]

It was a steamy night in South Texas
The sound of Tejano filled the air
It was my niece's Quinceanera
And everyone was there

I was supposed to be the DJ
Playing music was my gift
But at the last moment I was told
"We need to talk about this

We've hired a local band
Because that's the way it's done here
But you can spin your music
During breaks when they're drinking beer"

At first I was offended
Was a little angry and a little hurt
I'd just purchased this groovy
"Kiss Me I'm the DJ" shirt

[Instrumental break]

[Verse]

But once the party started
I put all that stuff aside
Seeing my niece as a young woman
Filled me with so much pride

During the first break I played
3 songs while the band went out back
And then during the second break
I played 5 more from the rack

During the third break I was afraid
Maybe they'd taken another gig
And when they finally appeared
My relief it was so big

The band looked a little wobbly
Their eyes were glassy and red
The guitar player was sweating
And the drummer looked dead

[Instrumental break]

[Verse]

They asked me to stick around
While they started their next set
And then I heard the words
That I would never forget

“Hey friend, hold my accordion
While I go out back and rest
Just press this button and squeeze
And then press this one next”

I thought “Why the hell not?”
I could fake it for a while
But that damn thing was so heavy
And really not my style

I played the best I could
But that song went on so long
Then they started another one
And my playing was all wrong

[Instrumental break]

[Verse]

Then they started dancing
With complex synchronized steps
The weight of that huge instrument
Started hurting my biceps

One song turned into another
The room began spinning ‘round
But somehow that accordion
Began to make a beautiful sound

[Instrumental break]

[Verse]

At one point I dropped to my knees
Flung that big box in the air

Caught it without missing a note
Or messing up my hair

The accordion player came back
Said "It's me again so hand that over here""
I said, "Sorry pal, I'm keeping this beast
But you can hold my beer!"

[Outro - spoken]
Yeah, I'm keeping this accordion
But you can hold my beer..

Yeah, I'm keeping this accordion
But you...can...hold...my beer!

A Hunka, Hunka Burning Wisdom of the Ancients

December 2025/July 2026

While visiting my son in Monterrey one winter, I actually did come across a Zoltar-like machine with the likeness of Elvis Presley in it. This song wrote itself.

[Intro - spoken]

The King of Rock and Roll is here to give you the wisdom of the ages
So listen up now...

[Verse]

I felt so damn old late on a winter 's night
Drifting through a shuttered amusement park

Lit by cold and flickering lights
Then I saw that Rock Star machine in the dark

[Pre-chorus]

No, it wasn't Zoltar behind that dusty glass
But the King himself, profound and grand

Beads on his white suit, lips curled with sass
A crystal ball clutched by his massive hand

[Chorus]

I fed that glass box a wrinkled dollar bill
And he said, "Listen up now, bubba, hear me clear"

"I'm dispensing a hunka, hunka burning wisdom
Straight from the ancients and down from the spheres

[Spoken]

I looked that Elvis Zoltar in the eye...and then heard him say...

[Bridge - spoken]

Destiny ain't something you wait for when lost
It's something you build with your own two hands

Create it wisely and don't fear the cost
And drop some more coins if you still don't understand"

[Instrumental break]

[Bridge]

I wanted to ask that wise old Elvis
So many things before he disappeared

Like why are Dipping Dots the Ice Cream of the Future

When its been around for 50 years

And will I find true love one of these days
And will I burst into flame when it appears?

[Final Verse - Bright and upbeat]
When I stepped away, the clouds parted
Sunlight spilled out on the empty midway

No longer feeling broken hearted
Skipping down the boardwalk on a bright new day

No longer alone, no longer lost on a shelf
Now with a chorus ringing in my soul
Just needed a little truth from the King himself
That wise old King of Rock and Roll

[Final Chorus]
I fed that glass box a wrinkled dollar bill
And he said, "Listen up now, bubba, hear me clear"
"I'm dispensing a hunka, hunka burning wisdom
Straight from the ancients and down from the spheres

[Coda - gospel choir - call and response]
A hunka, hunka burning wisdom (of the ancients)
A hunka, hunka burning wisdom (of the ancients)
A hunka, hunka burning wisdom (of the ancients)
A hunka, hunka burning wisdom (of the ancients)

I Had a Dream About the Greatest Concert Ever

2023/July 2026

[Intro - spoken]

*I had a dream last night
That I can't get outta' my head
(Never eat a chili relleno
Right before you go to bed)
It was about two of the world's greatest live bands
The Allman Brothers and the Grateful Dead...*

[Verse]

It was a cool night in '72
I had hair down to my ass
Too young to drink back then
But I smoked a lot of grass

I was in line for a show
At the 'Dillo in Austin, Texas
The Dead and the Allmans were playing
The moon began to crest

We all wondered who would open
As we passed those joints around
Both bands were so cosmic
And both made such sweet sounds

When the show started
It was clear what they had done
There was no opening act
Two bands were joined as one

[Chorus]

The wall of sound was awesome
They amps climbed into the sky
They had to cut a hole in the roof
To fit them all inside

God looked down through that hole
Eyes closed and smile wide
Dressed in tie dye and beads
His old lady at his side

[Verse]

Out front was Duane and Jerry
Flashing grins and their guitars
Pig sang next to Greg

Sharing whisky from a jar

Dickey was next to Weir
Phil and Berry on the right
So many damn drummers on stage
And all of them so tight

I heard parts of Truckin' and Whipping Post
Elizabeth Reed and Sugar Mag
But they really didn't play any songs
It was just one endless jam

The women were in a trance
Swaying softly in the breeze
The men were swaying also
The music bringing peace

[Chorus]
The wall of sound was awesome
They amps climbed into the sky
They had to cut a hole in the roof
To fit them all inside

God looked down through that hole
Eyes closed and smile wide
Dressed in tie dye and beads
His old lady at his side

[Coda]
When the last encore ended
I lay upon the floor
My head still spinning
My heart beating in my core

I had my old lady next to me
The dream was coming back
I smiled up at Duane and Jerry
As they stood upon their stacks
The amps all set to 12
And glowing in their racks

Each held up a pick
And gently smiled back (pause)
Each put on his slide
And started to attack (fade on slide guitar solos)

I Keep Losing My Son

April 2023/July 2026

As my wife Debbie will attest, I lost my son many times while he was young. It's a miracle he survived my absent minded parenting.

[Pre chorus - spoken]

*Forgive me father for I have sinned
I have a son and I keep losing him
The problem is Texas is such a big and noisy state
And I'm always taking him to car shows and oyster bakes*

[Chorus - intensity builds]

I see something interesting and start to stare
And then suddenly my son's not there
My wife's furious, threatens a divorce
We spend hours looking for him of course

We always find him, that's the saving grace

But we always find him in the strangest place...

[Verse - fast paced and frantic]

In November San Antonio
Has a big ol' car show
Even though I have a trophy truck
I always wanna go

Love chatting with the demo dollies
Checking out the rides
One year I was told, "You can go,
but keep him at your side..."

There were so many cars
To see on that day
The exhaust fumes and the perfumes
were taking me away

At one point I looked down
at the end of my hand
And Oh my God, it was something
I had never planned

He wasn't there
Again

[Bridge]

He somehow walked to the parking garage

Across Commerce Street

Where his Sunday school teacher saw him
And called security

He arrived in a squad car
with its blue lights flashing

And the biggest grin on his face

[Pre chorus - quiet, spoken]
Forgive me father for I have sinned
I have a son and I keep losing him
The problem is Texas is such a big and noisy state
I'm always taking him to car shows
and oyster bakes

[Chorus - intensity builds]
I see something interesting and start to stare
And then suddenly my son's not there
My wife's furious, threatens a divorce
We spend hours looking for him of course

We always find him, that's the saving grace

But we always find him in the strangest place...

[Verse - fast paced, frantic]
I enjoy the annual
Texas Renaissance Fest
I like the food and the music,
but I love the belly dancers the best

One year I was sitting in the front row
watching the ladies do their thing
The sun was dazzling overhead
and so was all that bling

I'm not sure if it was the beer
or that middle eastern vibe
Before you knew it (yeah you guessed it)
my mind began to glide

I was sure my son was next to me
but then the time began to pass
When I looked down where he was supposed to be
all I saw was grass

Yeah, I had lost him
Again

My wife was pretty angry
Almost shot me then and there

After searching the grounds for hours,
We found him with a bear

Yeah, he was sitting next to the live bear
With the biggest grin on his face

[Instrumental break]

[Verse - fast paced, frantic]
One year I headed west
with a new truck and the fam
To go see Boquillas del Carmen
on the mighty Rio Grande

We paid a dollar to be paddled
across the rolling waves
On the other side burros would take us
the rest of the way

(Spanish voice)
"Just one dollar each amigo,
and you can ride up that hill
On the back of a real Mexican donkey -
it will be quite the thrill"

Well, I started watching a Seniorita
gleaming in the sun
And before I knew it,
my son's burro had started to run

He ran into the reeds
until he was way out of view
I told the donkey guy,
"That's my son! What are we gonna do"

He just smiled and said,
(Spanish voice)
"5 dollars my friend, and I'll go get him for you!"

Yeah, I had lost him
Again

My wife looked at me
with eyes that would melt titanium

I paid the fiver and soon
the boy returned my son

He arrived on the back of a braying burro
with the biggest grin on his face

[Pre chorus - quiet, spoken]
Forgive me father for I have sinned
I have a son and I keep losing him
The problem is Texas is such a big and noisy state
And I'm always taking him to car shows and oyster bakes

[Chorus - intensity builds]
I see something interesting and start to stare
And then suddenly my son's not there
My wife's furious, threatens a divorce
We spend hours looking for him of course

We always find him, that's the saving grace
But we always find him in the strangest place...

[Coda]
Forgive me father for I have sinned
I have a son and I keep losing him

I Was Born Ten Thousand Years Ago

2023/June 2026

Adapted from Carl Sandburg's "The American Songbag"

[Verse]

I was born ten thousand years ago,
And there's nothing in the world that I don't know;
I saw Peter, Paul and Moses,
Playing ring-around-the-roses
And I'm here to lick the guy what says 'taint so.

I saw Satan when he looked the garden o'er,
Saw Adam and Eve driven from the door,
And behind the bushes peeping,
Saw the apple they were eating,
And I'll swear that I'm the guy what ate the core.

[Chorus]

I was born ten thousand years ago
And I'm here to harvest your soul
I'm sorry but it's something I can't control
Because I was born ten thousand years ago

[Instrumental break]

[Verse]

I saw Jonah when he embarked within the whale,
And thought he'd never live to tell the tale.
But old Jonah had eaten garlic
And he gave the whale a colic,
So he coughed up and let her out o' jail.

I saw Samson when he laid the village cold,
Saw Daniel tame the lions in the hold.
And helped build the Tower of Babel,
Up as high as they were able,
And there's lots of other things I haven't told.

[Instrumental break]

[Verse]

I taught Solomon his little A-B-C's,
I helped Bringham Young to make Limburger cheese,
And while sailing down the bay
With Methuselah one day,
I saved his flowing whiskers from the breeze

Queen Elizabeth she fell in love with me
We were married in Milwaukee secretly,
But I schemed around and shook her,
And I went with General Hooker
To shoot mosquitoes down in Tennessee.

[Chorus]

I was born ten thousand years ago
And I'm here to harvest your soul
I'm sorry but it's something I can't control
Because I was born ten thousand years ago

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse]

I remember when the country had a king,
I saw Cleopatra pawn her wedding ring,
And I saw the flags a-flying
When George Washington stopped lying,
On the night when Patti first began to sing.

[Coda]

I'm not asking for your sympathy
I'm not asking for your grace
I'm just a bad ass American devil
Who's gonna' lay your soul to waste

[Chorus]

I was born ten thousand years ago
And I'm here to harvest your soul
I'm sorry but it's something I can't control
Because I was born ten thousand years ago

It's On With the Show

Jan 2024/July 2026

Written after attending the brunch and listening to the band at the Hilltop Cafe on a wintry Texas day.

[Verse - Slow and expressive]

It's a cold Texas morning
The winter winds blow
The trees are all shaking
Covered in snow

The dog's in the yard
Too cold for his bone

The car starts slowly
The engine just groans

[Pre-Chorus - intensity building]

*But hey, who cares about the weather?
When the band's back together
And we're ready to rock and roll...*

[Chorus - fast and energetic]

The drums are tight,
the bass is right,
It's cold but we're gonna'
play all night

Gotta' keep moving
Gotta' get back on the road
Gotta' keep proving
Our music has soul

Gotta' stand out on that stage
While the fans around us rage

Gotta' get back in the ring
Gotta' hear those guitars sing

[Hook]

Round by round
And blow by blow
It's on with the show!

[Instrumental Break]

[Verse - Slow and expressive]]

It's a cold Texas morning

There's ice on the roads

The birds are all gone
The grass is buried in snow

Behind all the fog
The sun tries to glow

Too weak to shine
Too pale and too old

[Pre-Chorus - intensity building]
But hey, the amps will keep us warm
During this winter storm
And the band's in the zone...

[Chorus - - fast and energetic]
The drums are tight, the bass is right,
It's cold but we're gonna' play all night
Gotta' keep moving
Gotta' get back on the road
Gotta' keep proving
Our music has soul
Gotta' stand out on that stage
While the fans around us rage
Gotta' get back in the ring
Gotta' hear those guitars sing

[Hook]
Round by round and blow by blow
It's on with the show!

[Instrumental Break]

[Final Hook]
Round by round and blow by blow
It's on with the show!

On the Road to Valentine

Feb 2024/July 2026

This is another song based on a true story, and captures my love of West Texas which I have visited many times in my life. .

[Intro - spoken]

*I took my Valentine to Valentine on Valentine's
To attend the annual Valentine Dance*

[Verse]

It's a town of just 73
And it should have occurred to me

That there was absolutely no chance
On a Wednesday there'd be a dance

'Cause it was a workday you see
And those people didn't have time for me

'Cause this dance was gonna' be on a Saturday
When working people come out to play

And I had to be somewhere else on Saturday

So I never took my Valentine to Valentine on Valentine's
To attend the annual Valentine Dance

'Cause I gave my tickets to my friend Eddie
Who took his Valentine as his steady

[Pre-chorus]

*Does any of it really matter
When you're driving through West Texas
And you're going faster and faster
(And faster)*

[Chorus]

The roads are like a roller coaster
The hills get bigger as you get closer

The sky is blue and the dirt is red
The cliffs tower above your head

The air is cool and your mind is clear
Watch for the havelina and the deer

[Hook]

And even though I never took my Valentine
To Valentine on Valentine's
We still had a pretty good time

On the road to Valentine

[Interlude]

[Bridge - spoken]

*I took my bride to the town of Marfa
To see those mysterious lights
Those lights are big business in Marfa
They even built a roadside viewing station*

For all those tourists who wanna' see 'em

[Verse]

I drank me a beer and sat in the stand
It was so dark I couldn't see my hand
The folks around me were staring hard
As we all looked into the stars
When Nerissa's dad turned on his TV
Some mysterious lights we did see
'Cause he lives in Shafter over the hill
Which I knew - but hey, it still gave me a thrill

'Cause I got to see those lights

[Instrumental Break - Long]

[Bridge - spoken]

*I took my gal to the Terlingua ghost town
We stayed in an onion shaped tent on a hill
Cause everything else in town was booked
Including the teepees,
the bubble homes,
and the shipping containers*

Those tourists really like the desert, you see

[Verse]

We had tacos at the Chili Pepper
And because it was such good weather
We hiked Closed Canyon and the Hoodoos
And the Lost Mine Trail for the views

There's nothing like how the wind blows
When you're standing in the Chisos

And though I was ready to be scared
I only saw a single bear

But hey -
I got to see those lights

[Pre-chorus]
Does any of it really matter
When you're driving through West Texas
And you're going faster and faster
(And faster)

[Chorus]
The roads are like a roller coaster
The hills get bigger as you get closer

The sky is blue and the dirt is red
The cliffs tower above your head

The air is cool and your mind is clear
Watch for the havelina and the deer

[Hook]
And even though I never took my Valentine
To Valentine on Valentine's
We still had a pretty good time

On the road to Valentine

[Coda]
I'm just feeling fine
Don't care about the time
Pour me some more wine

On that road to Valentine

Possum in the Dark

2023/July 2026

My take on the George Jones “riding his lawnmower to the liquor store” myth. We don’t have possums on our ranch, so I’m sure the eyes I saw in the distance that night on the tractor were those of a raccoon.

[Intro]

*A riding lawnmower was all that he had
To get to that liquor store on the square
When his hands started tremblin’
And his mouth grew dusty and bare*

After George lost his license
After way too many DWIs
He stared straight ahead, sad but heroic
Driving slowly with bloodshot eyes

[Chorus]

Singing “If Whisky Won’t Kill Me,
Her Memory Will”
With a voice that still
Gives me the chills
A voice that would outlive
The booze and the pills
A voice you can sometimes hear
In the hills

[Instrumental]

[Verse]

The neighbors heard the sounds at night
But had nothing to say
The Record Row suits
All knew the truth
But turned the other way

Yeah, he missed a few concerts
But got to the studio most days
And kept making hit records
For all those DJs to play

[Pre-chorus]

He kept singing sad stories
About what he did that day
Like driving that mower to town
To get another bottle his way

[Chorus]

Singing "If Whisky Won't Kill Me,
Her Memory Will"
With a voice that still
Gives me the chills
A voice that would outlive
The booze and the pills
A voice you can sometimes hear
In the hills

[Coda - redneck rap style]

*Sometime at night after the sun sets
And the insects sound like a Nashville quartet*

*I put on my robe and grab me a fifth
Head out to the barn, put the shredder on the hitch*

*Start up the tractor and head for the fields
The stars wrapped around me - warm, like a shield*

*Sometimes I see eyes moving in the darkness
Might be a possum, might not - I ain't gonna' guess*

*But when it starts singing, I know I've been blessed
It's George at the mic, and damn he's the best*

[Chorus and Fade]

Singing "If Whisky Won't Kill Me,
Her Memory Will"
With a voice that still
Gives me the chills

A voice that would outlive
The booze and the pills
A voice you can sometimes hear
In the hills

Red Dirt Divorce

Feb 2022/July 2026

Lyrics written at the Cowboy Poetry Festival in Alpine in February of 2022 in collaboration with Colin Helton.

[Verse]

I met her at the pickers circle
Roosters strutted in the rain

The bartender blew his harp
And the Shiner eased our pain

We were young but didn't know
Our love was so Straight and sweet

We drove all night to get home
Amarillo by Morning on repeat

[Pre-chorus]

Watched the sun rise over Palo Duro
Holding hands and sharing dreams

Got married at the courthouse
Then moved into my RV

[Chorus]

We started at 21 but it didn't last long
Like the third verse of so many songs

Not strong enough to break that horse
Lost her in a red dirt divorce

And now it's time to move along

[Verse]

At first it was like paradise
We took all that fortune gave

Made love every night
By the glow of the microwave

But slowly it dawned on me
That something just wasn't right

She wore lots of new perfume
Slept days while I worked nights

[Pre-chorus]

Didn't listen to George anymore
Not even Cross My Heart

Brought my paycheck home to her
She smiled and played her part

[Chorus]

We started at 21 but it didn't last long
Like the third verse of so many songs

Not strong enough to break that horse
Lost her in a red dirt divorce

And now it's time to move along

[Bridge]

Found out she was restless
After being married for three years

She ran around with every guy in town
For the Netflix and the beer

When she came home late again
The dog barked because he knew

When she had no explanation
I knew that we were through

[Interlude]

[Pre-chorus]

*Some women are like horses
They have to run to be free*

*The door to her barn was open
The wind blew away the key*

[Bridge - Spoken]

When things finally went south
I told her, "You keep the couch
But I get the dog
And the truck"

When the Judge said "You're broke up"
I didn't get choked up
Grabbed the keys and wished her,
"Good luck!"

[Final Chorus]

We started at 21 but it didn't last long
Like the third verse of so many songs

Not strong enough to break that horse
Lost her in a red dirt divorce

And now it's time to move along

The God of Noise and the Tall Dark Prince with the Rainbow Smile

1980/June 2026

A Tribute to Jimi Hendrix, who of course I idolized as a young guitar player. This is another musical version of a poem I wrote in my high school Creative Writing class.

[Verse]

In space
The star studded cathedral
Where the God of Noise dwells
Pressing the buttons and pulling the levers
Which keep the burly sounds of life
Captive with the chains of order

[Verse]

In space
The God of Noise
Feeling slightly mischievous
Decides he is now bored with order
And presses the buttons and pulls the levers
Which unleash the burly sounds of life

[Verse]

On earth
A rock and roll band
Fronted by The Tall Dark Prince with the Rainbow Smile
Struggling to find the right sound
Doomed seemingly forever to play
For foggy brained drunks
In smoky clouds

[Verse]

On earth
A rock and roll band
Starts its set at the exact same instant
The God of Noise unleashes
The burly sounds of life

“Good evening, all you Astro Boys and Foxy Ladies.
Me and the cats in the band are gonna’ play a few songs for you.
Thanks for letting us tune up here.
We just wanna’ be nice to your ears...”

[instrumental break - guitar solo]

[Verse]

In space

The God of Noise
Gazes at his mischief
And feels abruptly guilty -
Decides once again to press the buttons and pull the levers
Which keep the burly sounds of life
Captive with the chains of order

[Coda]
On earth
A rock and roll band
Receives a record contract
From an insane with disbelief talent scout
The Tall Dark Prince smiles
Sets fire to his scepter
Kisses the sky, embraces the heavens

Dead at 27...

The Year I Turned 60

December 2022/July 2026

Written to describe my 60th year. All these events actually happened. It was a good year.

The year that I turned 60
Was Two Thousand and Twenty Two
Started the year in Key West
Where I almost got a tattoo

In February went to Alpine
For the Cowboy Poetry Fest
Liked that poem bout herding turtles
Red by a kid in a vest

In March went to Maddie's wedding
Danced with that funky friar
And with America from Cuba
That woman was on fire!

Then in April took sister Barb
To a Riverwalk piano bar
Where the guy sang a song about cats
That went a little bit too far

[Instrumental Break]

In June I judged a beer fest
Organized by my wife
A job I've prepared for
My whole freakin' life

Then I went to the mountains
Spent two weeks in Salida
Met so many cool folks
Like Giraffe Man and the Spider

And crazy shirtless Finn
Bottle of Jack in his hand
Dancing to the sound check

[Hook]
Didn't need no band

[Instrumental Break]

In September went to Alaska

Cruising with Mark and Denise
Ate four damn lobsters in one night
It was quite the feast

Back in San Antonio
The Jazz Fest was so swell
Danced in liquid nitrogen
But we didn't inhale

In October took Ma to Germany
Where we chilled in Opa's bar
Met Hanzi and his daughter
Who sold us eggs from her car

Snuck off to Barcelona
Where we ate tapas all week
Crazy town on the Med
Where no one ever sleeps

Then back home at the ranch
Got us a new dog for the house
That Merida, she's crazy
Tried to eat a deer leg on the couch

[Instrumental Break]

[Coda]
The year that I turned 60
Was Two Thousand and Twenty Two
My friend when you turn 60
What u gonna' do?

[Fade - Whispered]
My friend when you turn 60
What u gonna' do?
What u gonna' do?