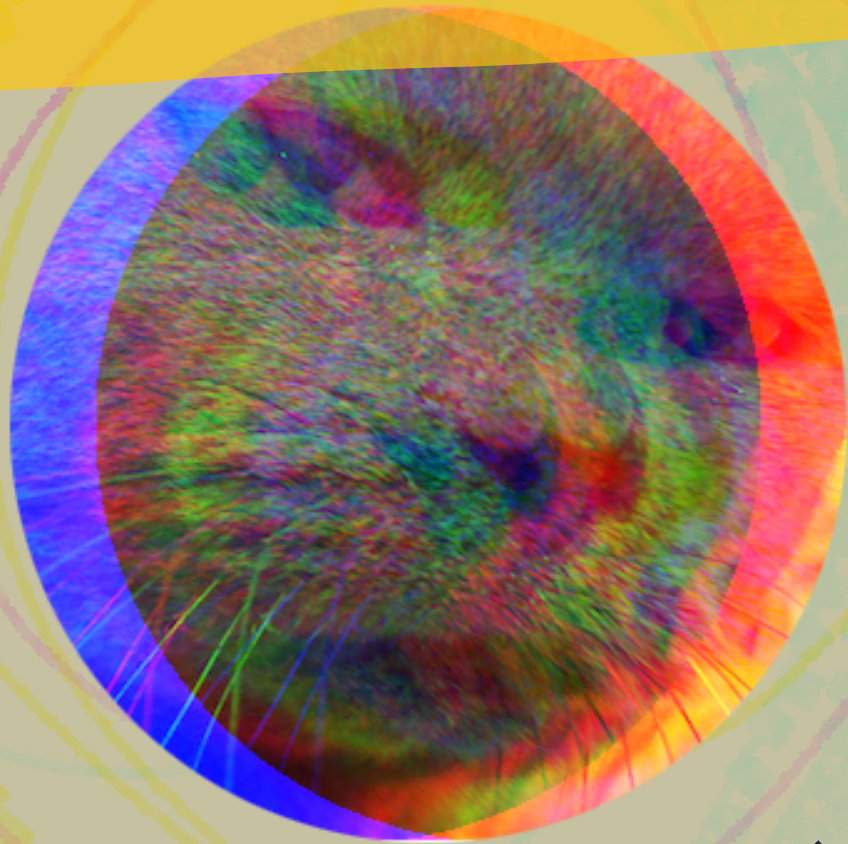


# GARY'S BANGERS

VOLUME 2

JULY 2022



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# WELCOME TO VOLUME 2

Something worth celebrating this July 4th

I originally had planned on doing a tongue-in-cheek "USA #1!" playlist for the 4th of July. After a minute of thought, I decided to dial that back to just a collection of songs that mentioned the US or the 4th of July. Then as June unfolded, the Supreme Court turned on their patented Bullshit Firehose™ and this idea became supremely unfunny in the worst possible way.

However, given that the mood in the US is so bad right now, I decided the best thing I could do in the name of Gary would be to make the bangin'-est Gary's Bangers yet. (Not that hard since there's only one other one!) You are now witnessing the output of that effort.

I think the state of things and the decline of the American Experiment™ still seeped in a little, even if I was shooting for an inspirational tone. (How could it not?) Chances are probably good that if a song seems like it would apply ("Maybe Partying Will Help," I'm looking in your direction) it probably does. But it may not! This is about as enigmatic as I get, so let's run with it.

My initial impression is that this is more upbeat than Volume 1. Hopefully it can provide some inspiration or solace or whatever you need to get through the day, whether you're in the US or elsewhere. Let's all celebrate Gary, if nothing else.

## **01. JONATHAN RICHMAN - VELVET UNDERGROUND**

I think this was the second song I had picked out as part of my original playlist (the first was "Lawn Dart" by Ed's Redeeming Qualities, even though the opening line clearly states that the song's story took place on the third of July - hence its absence here).

At some point after the 2016 election, I listened to this song and the line "To me, America at its best," hit me really hard. Obviously the America that gave us the Velvet Underground no longer exists, but I was overwhelmed by the feeling that using "America" and "best" in the same sentence was not something people were going to do for much longer.

I hate being right sometimes.

## **02. BRONCHO - CLASS HISTORIAN**

Something to pick up the mood after that king-sized bummer of a first liner note.

## **03. LABI SIFFRE - BLESS THE TELEPHONE**

As someone who really doesn't like talking on the phone, it takes something special for me to like a song celebrating doing just that. This would be that something special. I had thought Labi Siffre was somewhat unknown, but apparently he's been covered by Madness (It Must Be Love), Kenny Rogers (!)((Something Inside) So Strong), and sampled by Eminem (My Name Is). Guess I am not as with what's going down as I once believed. Oops.

## **04. TY SEGALL - EVERY 1S A WINNER**

You might be surprised at how long it takes me to remember that this is a cover of a song I already liked. You might not be. Does this mean it's a good interpretation, or just that I'm a ding-dong? Don't answer that. Anyway, for whatever reason, whenever I hear the name "Ty Segall," I picture an NPR host. Some mash-up of Peter Sagal, Kai Ryssdal, and other groups of letters put together in a random order.

## **05. MARNIE STERN - YEAR OF THE GLAD**

I was on board as soon as I learned she has an album called "The Chronicles of Marnia," and this song only brings me more on board, whatever that means. I think I thought this was Deerhoof the first 32 times I listened to it.

Anyway, I'm not sure 2022 is the year of the glad, but starting a new job in the second half of it has certainly made me a bit gladder.

## 06. JOHN CALE - BARRACUDA

No, not *that* Barracuda. The synth riffs make it seem impossible that this came out in 1974, but I accepted that John Cale was way ahead of the curve some time ago. You might want to do so as well.

If you'd like to learn more about John Cale, please refer to the topic of track 1.

## 07. THE HOUSEMARTINS - OVER THERE

An 80s song that lyrically seems as relevant as ever. Also, it's got a funky beat, and you can bug out to it. Don't bug out too much though - house martins are insectivores.

## 08. WUSSY - AIRBORNE

Wherever I go, it seems like I am followed by The Ass Ponys. When I was music director for my college radio station, I really dug whatever album of theirs it was that came out at the time. Then I accidentally made friends with a former member of them on some weird pre-Soundcloud "post your band's music" site when I was in a band and looking for places to post said band's music. Then this popped up in my Discover Weekly, and I liked it without realizing this is another some-dude-from-The-Ass-Ponys project. I'm not complaining, as I like it all, I'm just not sure what to make of the fact that of all bands for me to be weirdly adjacent to, it's a band called The Ass Ponys.

## 09. MINUTEMEN - MAYBE PARTYING WILL HELP

I keep partying, but it has yet to help. Party. Fail. Party Harder.

## 10. ANDREW W. K. - PARTY HARD

How much harder am I supposed to party if it doesn't help? Science has proven empirically that this is hardest one can party. What now?

I was going to do a "rule of 3" on the theme of partying, but sometimes even I get tired of my shit.

## 11. FRANK WATKINSON - CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Another song from my original "Gary's Bangers Volume 2" concept. Also the first of two "old dude singing a melancholy jam with an acoustic guitar" tracks on this playlist. This gentleman's melancholy is legit. Go to his [YouTube page](#) and witness the sheer power of said melancholy. (I highly recommend his version of "Fade Into You.") Legend.



## 12. DUM DUM GIRLS - THERE IS A LIGHT THAT NEVER GOES OUT

With Morrissey turning more and more into a right wanker as time goes by, I now consider this to be the definitive version of this song.

## 13. THE BUDOS BAND - BLACK VENOM

I choose to believe that "budos" means "awesome." I also choose to believe that "venom" means "store brand Ecto Cooler." You win some, you lose some.

## 14. SAVOY MOTEL - SORRY PEOPLE

The first 10 times I heard this I was convinced it was an actual 70s track. It is not! Kind of puts a dent in their "we're not revivalists!" argument. If I may paraphrase Don Cheadle in *Boogie Nights*, "Play what you dig."

## 15. SHINTARO SAKAMOTO - IN A PHANTOM MOOD

As close as you can get to A.M. Gold without actually being A.M. Gold. This came out in 2011, but it feels like something I would have heard on the crap-o-delic radio in my dad's second-hand Oldsmobile some summer day back when no cars had air conditioning and all the jams were funky in their own magical ways.

## 16. MOON DUO - JUKEBOX BABE

Far superior to "Jukebox Hero." I realize that having bees living in your ears is better than "Jukebox Hero," so let's say this is MUCH better than "Jukebox Hero," even though that still seems like faint praise.

Man do I hate "Jukebox Hero."

## 17. GOAT - LET IT BURN

"This is just Black Sabbath with a female singer" - my wife.

"I KNOW, RIGHT?" - me.

## 18. THE SPACE LADY - I HAD TOO MUCH TO DREAM LAST NIGHT

You and me both, The Space Lady. (This is what happens when someone asks "What if we made The Electric Prunes even more electric?")



## 19. I'LL BE LOVING YOU - THE KING KHAN & BBQ SHOW

I used to know a guy named Rikki who liked to talk about two things: Rikki, and The King Khan & BBQ Show (but mostly just Rikki). Because of this, I was too quick to dismiss them out of hand, and I now regret the error of my ways. Rikki, however, still wants to talk about Rikki.

## 20. X - 4TH OF JULY (DEMO)

I think everyone saw this coming, what with the July 4th release date of this and all. I had originally used the album version, but when I was looking for a good picture for the track metadata (yes, I was already aware that I was nerd, thank you), I stumbled on this version. As much as I love the album version, it always seemed a little too slick. "Throw some Stank on it," I said, because Things go better with Stank™. The Stank Lords have smiled upon me.

## 21. HARRY DEAN STANTON - BLUE BAYOU

"Old dude singing a melancholy jam with an acoustic guitar" track #2. While I may have needed to convince you that Frank Watkinson was a legend, I don't believe I'll need to do that with Harry Dean Stanton. If his filmography was just *Repo Man* and *Pretty In Pink*, he'd still be one of the greats. But instead he's been in damn near everything, and this track is exactly the sort of wobbly I would have expected a song sung by him to be. (Assuming I had been expecting him to sing, which I had not, so BONUS.) This is for sure the note I wanted to end on.

And there we are. How did Volume 2 end up longer than Volume 1? Hope this isn't too exhausting. If it is, I believe we know what Gary would do.

Until next time friends!  
epk and Gary  
July 4th, 2022

