

GARY'S BANGERS

VOLUME 3

AUGUST 2022



A Public Service of the

TEAM GARY INSTITUTE

HOT GARY SUMMER



I do realize that summer, at least in the northern hemisphere, is almost over. However, it's still August, and therefore there is still time to make August count. Also, it cooled off for like two days, then got extremely hot again, so it's back to feeling like summer. And when I compiled the songs, I wanted a summer theme, and I'm not about to redo it this late in the month. SORRY.

The problem with summer themes as an adult is that once you're out of school, summer is a lot less summer. You go outside and yeah, the weather is summery, and maybe you get some time off from work to go to the beach or something, but it doesn't feel as strong as it once did. It may, in short bursts, but even when you work at a college, like I do, the cyclical nature of it all far less pronounced.

Rather than chase this idea down a rabbit hole, let's just say that a lot of the songs I personally connect to summer are from times when I actually had nothing to do all summer long, or there was a clear mode shift into summer from the rest of the year. Rather than fill this with songs I liked in high school and college (which would still kick ass, btw), I looked to these brief flashes of that feeling. I still leaned heavily on some "golden age of indie rock" greats, but since The Kids™ are all about The Vibes™, I rubbed Gary all over this playlist extra hard. His body is composed of 90% summer vibes, so SUMMER MIX UNLOCKED.



01 Milky Way - Shine (Go To California)

This is what's known as "coming out swinging." You want fun summer bangers? YOU GOT 'EM.

I bought this CD kind of at random from someone on a mailing list that was pruning their collection. I liked the name and the cover, and I don't remember what I spent, but I have gotten way way more than my money's worth at this point. If you're in a bad mood, this puts you in a good mood. If you're in a good mood, stand back, fools.

02 Stereo Total - Get Down Tonight

I was torn between this and Marshmello for track #2 (Marshmello would keep the synthy dance vibe going). However, as there is nothing about this track that doesn't delight me, it seemed right to put two faves back to back. The "who!"s, the bass flourishes, the way the guitar part could just disintegrate at any moment - this is the stuff.

03 Marshmello - Alone

I know I tend to throw in something downbeat for track 3, but this walks the line between getting down tonight, and lying down tonight, so yeah. It also has [a relateable video](#) for those of us who didn't fit in in high school because our heads were shaped like marshmallows.

(Also, my son introduced me to this, so shout-out to "the Boy.")

04 Wendall Stuart and the Downbeaters - Always Something There To Remind Me

I used to follow this Tumblr blog that always posted the best obscure R&B songs, which is how I found this. If there's one reason to start checking Tumblr again, this may be it.

05 Stevie Wonder - Sir Duke

For me, there is no song that says summer more than this one. I hear the opening horns, and I'm immediately back in my dad's beige Oldsmobile Cutlass (back when no one's car had air conditioning - or no one we knew, at least) listening to this on the radio. Not sure why this is the song that stuck with me, but it could be a lot worse.

06 Jake Bugg - Lightning Bolt

The first time I heard this, I thought it was actually some old Hasil Adkins song or something. Turns out it's some teenager or something. Style points deducted for not calling the album "Buggin' Out," but a solid offering nonetheless.

07 Free Loan Investments - Bomb the Bourgeoisie

[PROPAGANDA OF THE DEED, MOTHERFUCKERS!](#)

08 レコレコ田楽 - ナマナマ

If I may quote the “Baby Wheel” guy, “[I don't know what this is.](#)” I just have this very strange Japanese compilation CD that somehow came into my possession years ago, and this is the first song, and I am here for it. (I think my friend Mat was working at a record store that got this and everyone there hated it, but he knew I wasn't like the others.)

09 Mississippi John Hurt - I'm Satisfied

Hey gang, let's have a summer memory sesh! There was a time when my job was laying out a little community newspaper. The office was in the publisher's house, two blocks away from my apartment. One rainy summer day, he decided we'd take a relaxed attitude towards work. He put on *Today!* by Mississippi John Hurt, got out a box of old photos he'd taken when he had been a young hippie in Kansas, and spent the day going through them and telling me the stories behind each one.

I remember the music part fondly, anyway.

10 Jonathan Richman - I'm Just Beginning To Live

I could have just put “That Summer Feeling” on here and called it a day, but that's not how I roll. I also could have just made a whole compilation of only Jonathan Richman songs, just because something about him screams summer to me. I could also have gone with “The Beach” off this particular album, but I chose this one because I think it embodies the summer feeling that he sings about in “That Summer Feeling.”

I once posted this song on Facebook and someone commented, “This makes me wish I was young again.” That's not how I interpret this song at all. I see it as “I don't care how old I am, I'm just getting started!”

11 Digital Underground - Rumpy Rump

This is how the phrase “that'd be tight” entered my lexicon.

12 Sly & the Family Stone - I Want To Take You Higher

This entire album will change your life. How they had they energy they do at 3am is up for debate, but there's no denying that they've tapped into something rare in this performance.

You should also watch [the video](#), because the visuals make it even better. Just pretend there aren't thousands of filthy hippies just out of frame. (Check out [Pee Wee's salute to Sly Stone](#) while you're there too.)

13 Section 25 - The Process

This is kind of an anomaly in their catalog, but a wonderful one. I always wanted to use it as the soundtrack for something, and when I took a directing class one summer, [I got the chance](#) and even got to combine a couple of my favorite things.

(The password is “circle” without the quotes.)

14 Air Miami – World Cup Fever

I realize the World Cup is in the fall, but I caught the fever early by buying this record in the summer.

15 Jacob Berendes – History Of Sour Candy

This guy played a show with a friend of mine once, and I was not expecting what he was about to lay on the crowd. The whole album is songs based on search terms people had used to find his website.

In one of my darker periods, I used the chorus of this song (“I’M ALIVE! SONOFABITCH LIFE WON’T KEEP ME DOWN!”) as a bit of a mantra. My therapist found this hilarious.

Anyway, after he had played his set with my friend, I excitedly went up to him to buy whatever he had for sale. I asked if he had any CDs or anything, and he said, “Yeah, hang on,” and then pulled out a pair of pants, then stuck the neck of his guitar down one pantleg, then wrapped the other one around the rest of the guitar, then set the whole thing down on a table. “Ok,” he said. Just when I thought he couldn’t have impressed me anymore!

16 Nick Gilder – Hot Child in The City

It’s my assumption that the child is hot because it is summer.

17 18th Dye – Whole Wide World

My wife and I used to be in a band together, and we once covered this song. At some point we had learned about a disgusting beverage called “Sparks.” It was an energy drink with booze in it. (Kind of a proto-Four Loko.) It was the only energy drink that actually gave us energy, but it was gross and got you drunk. (We preferred Sparks Lite, which had less sugar, and so was somehow slightly less bad, but still awful, but touring was exhausting and you could get Sparks at gas stations.) At one show, we played this song last, and somewhere in the neighborhood of the solo, my wife dropped her guitar and walked offstage into the darkness. The bass player and I exchanged glances, and somehow found a way to finish the song. It turns out that Sparks and the Ethiopian food we had for dinner was a heady combo, so seeing an opportunity to go hurl elsewhere, she took it, in a very rock & roll move.

It would have been just as rock & roll to have barfed into the crowd, but perhaps a different sort of rock & roll than our fans could have handled.

18 Bongwater – You Don’t Love Me Yet

David Sanborn briefly had a show called *Night Music* that always had a crazy mix of musicians as guests, and they tended to play together over the course of the show. My friend had discovered it while staying up late while home from college one summer, and started recording it.

Bongwater played this song [in one episode](#), while accompanied by Sanborn, Bob Weir, and . . . Screamin’ Jay Hawkins! Even without the extra flair, Bongwater was the exact kind of weird I had been seeking.

19 dr higgings - dempf

Another “someone selling a bunch of CDs on a mailing list” score. Nothing especially summery connected to this one, it just felt right.

20 Michael Nesmith & The First National Band - Joanne

Some of you may already be aware of my love of AM 740 WJIB Cambridge/Boston. Back when I first discovered it, this song was in SUPER heavy rotation. I was super into it. These days, Joanne may not get as much WJIB airtime as before, but I play it enough on my own to make up for that.

21 Furtips - P.C. to Stuffy

I bought this CD because I saw a review of it somewhere, and the picture next to the review was of the band rehearsing. These Furtip gents had attached a piece of cardboard to the front of the microphone and drawn a silly face on it, so whoever was singing looked ridiculous. Sold!

22 Kaze Ni Naru - Tsuji Ayano

Earlier this summer, my family was not having any of my movie suggestions. *Godzilla vs. Kong*? Nope. *Leprechaun 3*? No way. We ultimately settled on *The Cat Returns*, a Studio Ghibli film that wasn't directed by Hayao Miyazaki. It was a different kind of strange than I had expected, but still a wonderful kind of strange.

This is the song in the final credits, and I wasted no time finding out what it was so I could listen to it all the time.

23 Underworld - Born Slippy

Speaking of songs from the ends of movies, you may remember this one from *Trainspotting*. Back in the day, I spent countless summer nights aimlessly driving around Boston with my roommate Sarah while listening to the *Trainspotting* soundtrack.

We came to believe that the “babes and babes and babes” line was surely a prediction of what was in store for us as the summer wore on.

Alas.

A fine song nonetheless.

And there we are. 23 tracks this time around - a new record!

Until next time, fellow kids,
epk and Gary
August 2022

