



GARY'S BANGERS VOLUME FOUR

A PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE TEAM GARY INSTITUTE

“If you’re brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello.”

– Paulo Coelho



2022'S GARY ASTRALLY PROJECTING INTO 2023

Volume 4, comin' in HOTTTT

I wanted to do a September edition of this, which then became an October edition (and was going to feature Spooky as a guest DJ), but then it was November, then December, so maybe a Christmas one? Then I found the above quote and figured that worked for saying goodbye to 2022 and hello to 2023. Now it's almost February (and let's assume it actually is February just because) but friends, 2023 has been some hot garbage already, so let's say goodbye to January as well, and Throw Some Stank™ on the remainder of 2023.



Our Mission

We here at the Team Gary Institute recently watched the Ken Burns program on country music, and I had a lot of ideas about cool old country songs to include in this edition, and I'm not sure where a lot of those went. Half of this stuff wasn't even on my list of potential jams. They just forced their way in.



Our Vision

I also had thought I had stockpiled a lot of forgotten, or weird, or outsider-y bangers and I think I've really just lost all perspective on what I was trying to do at all. This is not unusual, so here we are at the point in the process where I say, "that'll do, Pig," and release the beast back into the wilderness.

The Bangers

Why you're here.

Please enjoy these notes regarding this volume's musical selection. The people on the right seem to be having a good time, Gary and I hope you do as well.



Track 1 - Introductory Mood

I wanted to open with more of an actual "mixtape in the hip hop sense" vibe than usual, so here we are.

I'm possibly ripping off CVS Bangers more than ever, though I held off on using the airhorn sound effect, which is fairly unlike me.



Track 2 - The Pooh Sticks - Young People

I use the phrase "get into it" all the time thanks to this song. I've never been sure if they knew that "young people, they turn me on" could be taken in a creepy way or not. I kind of assume they did and leaned into it while getting into it. Rock and roll!



Track 3 - Heavenly - Tool

Keeping the twee vibes going. One time in a record store my friend pointed at a Heavenly record and told me I would like them. It had a kitten wearing a crown on the cover. Story checks out.



Track 4 - The Looper Trio - Little David's Harp

Country, outsider-y, and weird! The chorus is super catchy, even if the whole thing may feel a little unsettling. From a self-released/private pressed record, which should surprise no one. Was expecting more loops, though.



Track 5 - Litany - My Dude

I thought this was going to be about saying something like, "It is Wednesday, my dude." It's not. But it's still good!



Track 6 - The Mendoza Line - Catch A Collapsing Star

The first appearance of a "dude doing a weird Dylan imitation for no good reason" track. The song manages to transcend that mildly incomprehensible choice.



Track 7 - East River Pipe - Make A Deal With the City

Most deals I make with cities revolve around me staying the hell away from said cities. East River Pipe seems to have a better relationship with large metropolitan regions than I do.



Track 8 - The Specials v. Wu Tang - A Message to You Rudy v. Cream (Track Team Mashup)

Found this while going down a Specials rabbit hole after Terry Hall died. I really love that they let the trombone solo run free under part of this. If there were more than two mashups I actually liked, I would do a Gary's Bangers Special Edition - Bangers & Mash.



Track 9 - The Carpenters - Superstar (Stripped Down Version)

Speaking of rabbit holes, there are loads of "isolated vocal" tracks on YouTube. This one is a little different because you can hear the bass line and some drums, which proves that along with all their other accomplishments, The Carpenters also invented Drum & Bass. The main thing here is that this version almost feels like a Portishead song. It really ups the melancholy, and highlights the degree to which K-Car had some serious pipes.

Anyway, if you'd like to learn more about isolated vocal tracks, I recommend you start [here](#).



Track 10 - The Mountain Goats - The Best Ever Death Metal Band Out of Denton.

The obvious Mountain Goats song to have used would have been "This Year" since this is now a start-of-the-year collection. TBEDMBOOD gets me right in the feels, though. It's full of things I love - death metal bands, terrible band names, friendship, The Man crushing your dreams (I love this as a theme, not as a practice), and revenge. Hail Satan indeed.



Track 11 - The Clash - Koka Kola

This may be my favorite Clash song. It's definitely got the best Mick Jones backup singing, and the drumming is a delight to behold.



Track 12 - Cory Mcabee - The Billy Nayer Show

I went through a period of being deeply obsessed with Cory Mcabee's videos after someone turned me on to "HAM." This one is just a fun song with a lovely video, and is the kind of weird that just really doesn't happen anymore.



Track 13 - Bells Of - Strange Pair

The second "dude doing a weird Dylan imitation for no good reason track. This one feels more natural to me for some reason (assuming there is anything natural about sounding like Bob Dylan). It's less pronounced, maybe?



Track 14 - Joni Mitchell - I Wonder What's Inside Your Butthole

Remember back at the beginning of the pandemic when this song captured the world's heart? There are some amazing adaptations out there, and this is but(t) one of them.



Track 15 - Galaxie 500 - Strange

It was really hard trying to decide which Galaxie 500 song to put on this. I went with this one just because at this point in the mix I imagine everyone was thinking about this word.



Track 16 - The Mekons - Millionaire

I'm pretty sure the creature she describes in the bridge is a former president.



Track 17 - SF Seals - Baby Blue

Something told me this was the right song to put here. Don't ask me to explain it, I am but a vessel through which bangers pass.



Track 18 - Jolie Holland - Mad Tom of Bedlam

Possibly one of the greatest interpretations of an old broadside ballad of all time. OF ALL TIME.



Track 19 - Belle & Sebastian - We Rule the School

This has just the right winter melancholia note I was seeking. "Do something pretty while you can," they said. Consider it done, my dudes.



Track 20 - Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers - Lady From The Beauty Shop

There was a period where if you came to visit me in Boston I would take you to see Little Joe Cook at the Cantab Lounge, largely because of this song. However, in a live setting, he was more of a blues/R&B performer. I had no idea that this version existed, and it's not even the only extremely 80s mix of this on YouTube. But it still rules? Also, in case you were wondering, he married the lady from the beauty shop, so this has a happy ending.



Track 21 - Haruomi Hosono - Rose Beast

I seem to be on a "members of Yellow Magic Orchestra" kick lately, and Gary's Bangers is reaping the benefits.



Track 22 - Leonard Redriver - Dear Lord

This is a character done by friend of mine that I used to be in a variety show with. Leonard Redriver is a spot-on imitation of the stereotypical aging hippie acid-casualty Cambridge folkie. He's pants-wettingly good live, in part due to the ridiculous beard and bald head wig that's part of the deal. On record, thankfully, the songs are still perfect and hilarious.



Track 23 - The Louvin Brothers - When I Stop Dreaming

Another band with a catalog so amazing that it's hard to choose just one song to include. There wasn't nearly enough of them in the Ken Burns country music program, despite them being wildly influential.



Track 24 - The Replacements - Favorite Thing

A little more lyrically upbeat than that last number.



Track 25 - The Kossoy Sisters with Erik Darling - I'll Fly Away

You may recognize this song from *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?* When I saw that picture, I immediately needed a copy of this song. Much to my dismay, the Original Soundtrack Recording is all the songs from the movie performed by more modern recording artists. This particular album turned out to be very hard to track down at the time, but somehow I managed to get a copy. My own personal odyssey was then able to come to a close.



Track 26 - Valley High School Band - Dance to the Music

Combining my love of Sly and the Family Stone with self-released amateur bliss. The whole song is so delightfully loose, but there's one part where it just goes bananas in the greatest possible way.



Track 28 - The Mountain Goats - This Year

Yeah, I know I said this was the obvious choice earlier, but sometimes the obvious choice is the right one. I have had a really shit month, and I decided I wanted to end on an up note, and this was the song I knew would do it, even if the chorus is the only part of it that represents my own lived experience. Also, he rhymes "year" with "year," which I'm not crazy about. But it slaps, so let's go out of this mix and into the world on a high note.



So here we are. The longest one yet, by a fair amount. Soon I'll just hand out copies of my record collection, keywords for YouTube searches, and some sort of cosmic magnetism that makes strange but amazing music cross my path. Is it a gift? A curse? Only The Gary knows for sure, and he's not gonna fink.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, FRIENDS!
GARY (& EPK)
JANUARY 2023 (BARELY)



Track 27 - Krista Muir - No Matter How Far

You may also know her as "Lederhosen Lucil," a fake German comedy singer. I'm guessing that at the time I learned about this song, it wasn't available on record, so this is the audio from the video of a performance of it that had been on her label's web page. But that particular video is gone now, and there seems to be no trace of it anywhere online. I don't even have a copy of the actual video, just the audio. A Lederhosen Lucil mystery? Perhaps. This had the right sense of longing that I usually look for in a final track, and that's what this was going to be until I had a last minute change of plans re: GBVIV's closing number.

