

Puttin' it in Our Rearview, or from Mississippi to Miami: A Playlist

Students enrolled in "Bebop to Hip Hop: Young America and Music," a history course taught by Sharony Green, Assistant Professor of History, University of Alabama, were challenged to contribute to a curated playlist that addresses how human beings have claimed power by moving through space. The students were asked to first, pick a song that they would put on heavy rotation if they were about to set out on a road trip. In other words, the "Rearview Mix" playlist in the first column reflects the music that might be playing if the students collectively put every worry and care in their rearview mirror.

But what happens to such soundtrack if the idea was expanded to include the particular hopes and challenges of migrating people of African descent to, through and away from Florida before and after the Second World War? The students briefly intuited the gist of these migrating people's experiences via visual and auditory images. The result is a another playlist called "The Migrating Body." This second prompt grew from Professor Green's research on the specific experiences of postwar black migrants to South Florida. The experiences of such migrants are reflected in the digital art installation Green created. Her research methodology includes interviews with people of African descent from places as varied as the South, the North, and the Caribbean.

With both playlists in mind, we may be curious about how both playlists emerge as political narratives. For sure, the students' own experiences as postwar people inform their soundtrack as much the students' *impressions* of the migrating bodies in question. As we consider the varied song titles, lyrics, sounds, lyrics and artists separately and together, we might further push our thinking about very different people and the politics of space.

The Rearview Mix

Maybe This Will Be My Year – Train
Uranium Rock – The Cramps
Like a Rocket – Reverend Horton Heat
See The World – Gomez
Let it Go – James Bay
Phantom Limb – The Shins
Summertime Sadness – Lana Del Rey
Ghost Rider - Rush
Going to California – Led Zeppelin
Devil's Pie – D'Angelo
Controlla – Drake
It's My Life – Bon Jovi
Electric Feel – MGMT
Let Me Go – Cake
Buffalo Soldier – Bob Marley
Summer Friends – Chance the Rapper
One Love – Bob Marley
Bohemian Rhapsody – Queen
Wanna Be Us – Lil Yachty featuring Burnberry Perry
1979 – Smashing Pumpkins
Keep on Singing My Song – Christina Aguilera
No Problem – Chance the Rapper
Alexander Hamilton – Hamilton, The Musical
soundtrack
Still Here – Drake
Can't Stop the Feeling! – Justin Timberlake
Alone in My Home – Jack White
Eye of the Tiger – Survivor
Thinking Out Loud – Ed Sheeran
Real Love Baby- Father John Misty
Sweet Home Alabama – Lynyrd Skynyrd
When the Stars Come Out – Chris Stapleton
Take It to the Limit – The Eagles
44 Bars - Logic
Forrest Gump – Frank Ocean

The Migrating Body Mix

Big Rivers – Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Two
Maybe – Sick Puppies
I Ain't Got Nobody – Hattie Ellis
People Make the World Go Around – Marc Dorsey
FourFiveSeconds – Rihanna featuring Kayne West
and Paul McCartney
Old Man River – Jim Croce
Love in Vain – Rolling Stones
Mississippi Poor Boy – The Canton Spirituals
Danny Brown – 25 Bucks featuring Purity Ring
Home Sweet Home – Motley Crue
Move On Up – Curtis Mayfield
The Gambler – fun
If I Was President – Wyclef Jean
That Power – Childish Gambino
Girls – The 1975
Straight Outta Compton – N.W.A.
Pursuit of Happiness - Kid Cudi
Blessed – ScHoolboy Q featuring Kendrick Lamar
Runaway – Kanye West
Blackbird – The Beatles
Never Gonna Break My Faith – Aretha Franklin and
Mary J. Blige
Alright – Kendrick Lamar
A Change is Gonna Come – Sam Cooke
Landslide – Dixie Chicks
Mary – Patty Griffin
New York – Jay-Z featuring Alice Keys
Every Teardrop is a Waterfall – Coldplay
Hood Politics – Kendrick Lamar
Amazing Grace – any version
As Crazy As It Is – ZHU x A-Trak x Keznamdi
What's Going On – Marvin Gaye
Homecoming – Kanye West
C.R.E.A.M. – Wu Tang Clan

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