

Lyrics Week 9—Songs of, Part 2—Songs of Family and Friends

Mother-in-Law by Ernie K. Doe, written by Alan Touissant (1961)

Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
The worst person I know
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
She worries me so
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
If she'd leave us alone
We would have a happy home
Sent from down below
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
Satan should be her name
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
To me they're 'bout the same
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
Every time I open my mouth
Steps right in to put me out
How could she stoop so low
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
I come home with my pay
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
She asks me what I made
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
She thinks her advice is the constitution
But if she would leave that would be the solution
And don't come back no more
Mother-in-law, mother-in-law
MYYY mother-in-law, mother in law

Stand by Me by Ben E. King, written by Ben E. King, Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoler (1961)

When the night has come
And the land is dark
And the moon is the only light we'll see
No, I won't be afraid
Oh, I won't be afraid
Just as long as you stand
Stand by me
So darlin', darlin', stand by me
Oh, stand by me
Oh, stand

Stand by me, stand by me
If the sky that we look upon
Should tumble and fall
Or the mountain should crumble to the sea
I won't cry, I won't cry
No, I won't shed a tear
Just as long as you stand
Stand by me
And darlin', darlin', stand by me
Oh, stand by me
Oh, stand now
Stand by me, stand by me
And darlin', darlin', stand by me
Oh, stand by me
Oh, stand now
Stand by me, stand by me
Whenever you're in trouble won't you stand by me
Oh, stand by me
Won't you stand by

With a Little Help From My Friends by The Beatles (1967)

What would you think if I sang out of tune?
Would you stand up and walk out on me?
Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song
And I'll try not to sing out of key
Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends
What do I do when my love is away?
Does it worry you to be alone?
How do I feel by the end of the day?
Are you sad because you're on your own?
No, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, get high with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends
Do you need anybody?
I need somebody to love
Could it be anybody?
I want somebody to love
Would you believe in a love at first sight?
Yes, I'm certain that it happens all the time
What do you see when you turn out the light?
I can't tell you, but I know it's mine
Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, get high with a little help from my friends

Oh, I'm gonna try with a little help from my friends
Do you need anybody?
I just need someone to love
Could it be anybody?
I want somebody to love
Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends
Oh, I get high with a little help from my friends
Yes, I get by with a little help from my friends
With a little help from my friends

**He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother by The Hollies, written by Bobby Scott and Bob Russell
(1969)**

The road is long
With many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where, who knows where
But I'm strong
Strong enough to carry him
He ain't heavy, he's my brother
So on we go
His welfare is of my concern
No burden is he to bear
We'll get there
For I know
He would not encumber me
He ain't heavy, he's my brother
If I'm laden at all
I'm laden with sadness
That everyone's heart
Isn't filled with the gladness
Of love for one another
It's a long, long road
From which there is no return
While we're on the way to there
Why not share?
And the load
Doesn't weigh me down at all
He ain't heavy, he's my brother
He's my brother
He ain't heavy, he's my brother
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

Teach Your Children Well by Crosby Stills Nash & Young (1970)

You, who are on the road
Must have a code you try to live by
And so become yourself
Because the past is just a goodbye
Teach your children well
Their father's hell did slowly go by
Feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's the one you'll know by
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you, you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you
And you, of tender years
Can't know the fears your elders grew by
Help them with your youth
They seek the truth before they can die
Teach your parents well
Their children's hell will slowly go by
And feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's the one you'll know by
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you, you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you, you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you
Ooh, and know they love you
And know they love you, yeah
And know they love you

You've Got a Friend by James Taylor, written by Carole King (1971)

When you're down and troubled
And you need some lovin' care
And nothin', nothin' is goin' right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night
You just call out my name
And you know, wherever I am
I'll come runnin'
To see you again

Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there
You've got a friend
If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
Soon you'll hear me knockin' at your door
You just call out my name
And you know, wherever I am
I'll come runnin', runnin', yeah, yeah
To see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there, yes, I will
Now, ain't it good to know that you've got a friend
When people can be so cold?
They'll hurt you, yes, and desert you
And take your soul if you let them
Oh, but don't you let them
You just call out my name
And you know, wherever I am
I'll come runnin', runnin', yeah, yeah
To see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there, yes, I will
You've got a friend
You've got a friend
Ain't it good to know you've got a friend
Ain't it good to know, ain't it good to know
Ain't it good to know
You've got a friend
Oh, yeah, now, you've got a friend
Yeah baby, you've got a friend

Lean on Me by Bill Withers (1971)

Hmm... hmm-hmm-hmm-hmm
Hmm-hmm-hmm-hmm
Hmm-hmm-hmm-hmm-hmm
Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have sorrow

But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow
Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on
Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill
Those of your needs that you won't let show
You just call on me brother when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on
Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on
You just call on me brother
When you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on
If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
Call me
If you need a friend
(Call me)
Call me (call me)
If you need a friend
(Call me)
If you ever need a friend
(Call me)
Call me
(Call me) Call me
(Call me) Call me
(Call me) Call me
(Call me)
If you need a friend

(Call me)
Call me
(Call me) Call me
(Call me) Call me
(Call me) Call me

Cat's in the Cradle by Harry Chapin (1974)

My child arrived just the other day
He came to the world in the usual way
But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay
He learned to walk while I was away
And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, dad"
"You know I'm gonna be like you"
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
"When you coming home, dad?" "I don't know when"
But we'll get together then
You know we'll have a good time then
My son turned ten just the other day
He said, thanks for the ball, dad, come on let's play
Can you teach me to throw, I said-a, not today
I got a lot to do, he said, that's okay
And he, he walked away, but his smile never dimmed
It said, I'm gonna be like him, yeah
You know I'm gonna be like him
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
"When you coming home, dad?" "I don't know when"
But we'll get together then
You know we'll have a good time then
Well, he came from college just the other day
So much like a man I just had to say
Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while?
He shook his head, and they said with a smile
What I'd really like, dad, is to borrow the car keys
See you later, can I have them please?
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
"When you coming home, son?" "I don't know when"
But we'll get together then, dad
You know we'll have a good time then
I've long since retired, my son's moved away
I called him up just the other day
I said, I'd like to see you if you don't mind

He said, I'd love to, dad, if I can find the time
You see, my new job's a hassle, and the kids have the flu
But it's sure nice talking to you, dad
It's been sure nice talking to you
And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me
He'd grown up just like me
My boy was just like me
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
"When you coming home, son?" "I don't know when"
But we'll get together then, dad
We're gonna have a good time then

Whenever I Call You Friend by Kenny Loggins and Stevie Nicks, written by Kenny Loggins and Melissa Manchester (1978)

Whenever I call you friend
I begin to think I understand
Anything we are
You and I have always been ever and ever
I see myself within your eyes
And that's all I need to show me why
Everything I do always takes me home to you
Ever and ever
Now I know my life has given me more than memories
Day by day, we can see
In every moment there's a reason to carry on
Sweet love showin' us a heavenly light
I've never seen such a beautiful sight
Sweet love flowin' almost every night
I know forever we'll be doin' it
Sweet love showin' us a heavenly light
I've never seen such a beautiful sight
Sweet love flowin' almost every night
I know forever we'll be doin' it right
Whenever I call you friend
I believe I've come to understand
Everywhere we are you and I were meant to be
Forever and ever
I think about the times to come
Knowin' I will be the lucky one
Ever our love will last
I always want to call you friend
Sweet love showin' us a heavenly light
I've never seen such a beautiful sight
Sweet love flowin' almost every night

I know forever we'll be doin' it
Now I know my life has given me more than memories
Day by day, we can see
In every moment there's a reason to carry on
Sweet love showin' us a heavenly light
Never seen such a beautiful sight
Sweet love flowin' almost every night
I know forever we'll be doin' it, doin' it
Sweet love showin' us a heavenly light
I've never seen such a beautiful sight
Sweet love flowin' almost every night
I know forever we'll be doin' it, doin' it, doin' it
Sweet love
Sweet love, yeah
You're the glowing light in my life (sweet love)
So, so bright in my life (sweet love, yeah)
Oh, everything I do takes me back to you (sweet love)
Whenever I call you friend (sweet love, yeah)

Ode to My Family by The Cranberries (1994)

Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Understand the things I say
Don't turn away from me
'Cause I've spent half my life out there
You wouldn't disagree
Do you see me?
Do you see? Do you like me?
Do you like me
Standing there?
Do you notice
Do you know? Do you see me?
Do you see me?
Does anyone care?
Unhappiness
Where's when I was young
And we didn't give a damn
'Cause we were raised
To see life as fun
And take it if we can
My mother
My mother, she'd hold me
She'd hold me

When I was out there
My father
My father, he liked me
Oh, he liked me
Does anyone care?
Understand what I've become
It wasn't my design
And people everywhere think
Something better than I am
But I miss you
I miss, 'cause I liked it
'Cause I liked it
When I was out there
Do you know this?
Do you know? You did not find me
You did not find
Does anyone care?
Unhappiness
where's when I was young
And we didn't give a damn
'Cause we were raised
To see life as fun
and take it if we can
My mother
My mother, she'd hold me
She'd hold me
When I was out there
My father
My father, he liked me
Oh, he liked me
Does anyone care?
Does anyone care?
Does anyone care?
Does anyone care?
Does anyone care?
Does anyone care?
Does anyone care?
Does anyone care?
Does anyone care?
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo
Doo, doo-doo, doo, doo, doo-doo, doo

The Season's Upon Us by Dropkick Murphys (2013)

The season's upon us, it's that time of year
Brandy and eggnog, there's plenty of cheer
There's lights on the trees and there's wreaths to be hung
There's mischief and mayhem and songs to be sung
There's bells and there's holly, the kids are gung-ho
True love finds a kiss beneath fresh mistletoe
Some families are messed up while others are fine
If you think yours is crazy, well, you should see mine
My sisters are wackjobs, I wish I had none
Their husbands are losers and so are their sons
My nephew's a horrible wise little twit
He once gave me a nice gift-wrapped box full of shit
He likes to pelt carolers with icy snowballs
I'd like to take him out back and deck more than the halls
With family like this, I would have to confess
I'd be better off lonely, distraught, and depressed
The season's upon us, it's that time of year
Brandy and eggnog, there's plenty of cheer
There's lights on the trees and there's wreaths to be hung
There's mischief and mayhem and songs to be sung
They call this Christmas where I'm from
My mom likes to cook, push our buttons, and prod
My brother just brought home another big broad
The eyes rollin' whispers come love from the kitchen
I'd come home more often if they'd only quit bitchin'
Dad on the other hand's a selfish old sod
Drinks whiskey alone with my miserable dog
Who won't run off fetch sure he couldn't care less
He defiled my teddy bear and left me the mess
The season's upon us, it's that time of year
Brandy and eggnog, there's plenty of cheer
There's lights on the trees and there's wreaths to be hung
There's mischief and mayhem and songs to be sung
They call this Christmas where I'm from
The table's set, we raise a toast, the father, son, and the Holy Ghost
I'm so glad this day only comes once a year
You can keep your opinions, your presents, your happy new year
They call this Christmas where I'm from
They call this Christmas where I'm from

If I Had a Son by James Maddock (2013)

If I had a son, I'd throw him in the air
Catch him as he fell and let him grow his hair
He'd show me how to laugh and live my life again
I'd carry him to bed and read aloud to him
If I had a son I'd watch him in his sleep
Happy in his dreams as he lay there in my keep
I'd wish that I were him and dress him up in blue
I'd put him on my shoulders to see farther than I do
If I had a son, if I had a son
I would be a better man if I had a son
If I had a son I'd teach him how to throw
Show him how to act cool if he said he didn't know
I'd show him who his friends were and to know what side he's on
Send him off to school and miss him when he's gone
If I had a son, if I had a son
I would be a better man if I had a son
If I had a son, if I had a son
I would be a better man if I had a son
Will I see him in me? Will he see me in him?
And we will grow apart and see each other now and then
If I had a son I'd throw him in the air
The way my dad threw me when his brother Mick was there
One of them would catch me while the other one would throw
Well that's the kind of feeling I'd want my boy to know
If I had a son, if I had a son
Would I be a better man if I had a son?
If I had a son, if I had a son
Would I be a better man if I had a son?

When You're Ready by Brian Fallon (2020)

In this life there will be trouble, but you shall overcome.
They'll hurt you in your heartstrings, they'll leave you in the dust.
But you do just like I told you, stand strong and hold your own.
A soft answer quiets wrath, a gentle whisper breaks a bone.
I can't tell you who to love.
I don't know who that might be.
I hope they cheer you up like crazy, sweep you right up off your feet.
Though I don't want you to grow up,
Cause I don't want you to leave.
When you're ready to choose someone,
Make sure they love you half as much as me.
In the night there will be darkness, but your light is bright enough.
There'll be lovers sometimes leaving, and lovers you'll stand up.

But you do just like I told you, keep your heart above all things.
It's a wicked world, my lovely, but you don't have to let it in.
I can't tell you who to love.
I don't know who that might be.
I hope they cheer you up like crazy, sweep you right up off your feet.
Though I don't want you to grow up,
Cause I don't want you to leave.
When you're ready to choose someone,
Make sure they love you half as much as me.
So for now I'll be your audience applause.
For now I'll leave the night light on.
I know the time is flying, so much has already flown.
And I'm watching you just color.
Yeah, I'm watching you just color,
with your brand new pajamas on.
I can't tell you who to love.
I don't know who that might be.
I hope they cheer you up like crazy, sweep you right up off your feet.
Though I don't want you to grow up,
Cause I don't want you to leave.
when you're ready to choose someone,
Make sure they love you half as much as me.