

Tom Flannery

Auctioneer



words and music by
Tom Flannery

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produced by Tom Flannery
recorded at the Home Office
Archbald PA

available @ www.tomflannery.com

20 new songs

\$9.99

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01. Doctors Without Borders

(instrumental)

02. Auctioneer

Bang the gavel bang the drum
words come rolling off the tongue
memories fade when they disappear
look at me

I'll be your auctioneer

Sell the pictures on your shelf
into the frames fit someone else
sell the carpets sell the chandeliers
leave things to me
I'll be your auctioneer

voices echo down empty halls
then they'll suffer through withdrawals
knowing that they're not welcome here
that much is clear
while I'm your auctioneer

State your preference state your price
then leave us to our own device
walls around us to make things disappear
we'll start over
I'll be your auctioneer

voices echo down empty halls
then they'll suffer through withdrawals
knowing that they're not welcome here
that much is clear
while I'm your auctioneer

Bang the gavel bang the drum
words come rolling off the tongue
memories fade when they disappear
look at me
I'll be your auctioneer

03. I Threw a Party (and Nobody Came)

I threw a party and nobody came
looked around for someone to blame
champagne on ice and caviar
and freshly rolled Bob Marley cigars
and freshly rolled Bob Marley cigars

I threw a party and the taste was sour
lining up as the lone wall flower
Motown...Stax....and the Rolling Stones
it ain't no fun when you're all alone
it ain't no fun when you're all alone

back door open....front door wide
patio bombed with pesticide
waiters waiting for to impress
the little ladies in their little white dresses
the little ladies in their little white dresses

I threw a party and nobody came
stayed up all night in the pouring rain
watched the heat rise from the driveway floor
playing havoc with the fine decor
playing havoc with the fine decor

I threw a party and the lights went out
leaving bottles of Lager and pints of Stout
to be showered in under candlelight
and bloody knuckles to raw to fight
and bloody knuckles to raw to fight

back door open....front door wide
patio bombed with pesticide
waiters waiting for to impress
the little ladies in their little white dresses
the little ladies in their little white dresses

I threw a party and nobody came
and they say boy can you be the same?
heart and soul and a fistful of air
counting all the empty chairs
counting all the empty chair

04. Road Weary

When the wind blows cold upon your face
and the rain pelts down like steel
when you're running dead in last place
and the pain is all too real
another step will break you down
and send the crowds all home
who's got time to look around
when you want to be alone

I'm road weary baby
weary of the road
shoes hanging from my feet
ready to explode
I'm road weary baby
simply bought and sold
spying from the rear-view
and scared of being old

I want an easy chair
I Wanna sit down
I wanna rest in there
float before I drown
I want an easy chair
I Wanna sit down
I wanna rest in there
float before I drown

If I say I'm sorry will it bring you back
or will you still catch the next train
will you stay in tune or keep intact
the memories in the frame
the dust still covers everything
that we try to wipe away
but like a bird that learns to sing
it'll be back the next day

I want an easy chair
I wanna sit down
I wanna rest in there
float before I drown
I want an easy chair
I wanna sit down
I wanna rest in there
float before I drown

I want an easy chair
I wanna rest in there
I wanna sit down
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I'm road weary baby
weary of the road
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ready to explode
I'm road weary baby
simply bought and sold
spying from the rear-view
and scared of being old

05. A Fighter

The noise the smells the blood on the floor
searching without knowing what you're looking for
some dish it out some take it slow
cause they ain't got nowhere else to go

Old man in a young man's game
bottom of the card...still the same
once got as high as number 3
by taking a dive no one could see
that was sweet
what was sweet
that was sweet

Didn't sleep that night...but blew my purse
couldn't decide which part was worse
the gamblers the whores the wannabe mob
or the hands that actually do the job

See...I once killed a man all remember when
he went down and never got up again
dropped his left with every jab he threw
I did just what I was trained to do
yes I did

my mother said "son....you lost your way"
I said "mamma...you don't understand
the world made me this way
the world made me this way"

Flowers to the funeral and all that stuff
they didn't blame me but I still called their bluff
needle in the arm bottle on the nightstand
tattoo on the same right hand

So whadda you got at the end of the day
with a guy on the ropes that you won't put away
the Arum's and the King's fed up to here
with a former sure thing who disappeared
he disappeared
oh he disappeared
disappeared

I just threw up my dinner in a garbage can
always before they tape my hands
head on crooked but my chin on straight
might go down early but I stay up late

I tried other things but that ain't for me
5 O'clock whistle and the wait and see
"A Man" it says on Sonny's tombstone
I don't want to shrivel up and die alone
no I don't

my daddy said "son....your soul's on fire"
I said "daddy...you don't understand
The Lord's a liar
The Lord's a liar
The Lord's a liar"

So lay your money boys...place your bets
on desperation and regret
got a whispered promise of a big payday
if I carry this bum...so let us pray

Block it all out...it's just him and me

ignore the taunts and the debris
if this town has a name I forget it still
but you'll hear from me....I know you will
I know you will

got a boy of my own with questions now
I tell him...."son you won't understand
until it hits you somehow
until it hits you somehow
until it hits you somehow"

06. The Girl in the Clouds

I gotta hurry to the mountain top
there's a girl waiting up there
she loves to smile at the top of the world
with starlight in her hair
walks barefoot in the grass
and makes angels in the snow
don't ask me what her name is
I'll only tell you that I don't know

she's the girl in the clouds
rollin' and tumblin'
the girl in the clouds
thunder and lightnin'
a little risqué
and a little big frightening
oh oh
she's the girl in the clouds

I gotta put down my backpack
and slug some Sherpa tea
'cause there's a whole lotta something
draining out of me
who knows where it goes son
maybe she gets it all
be a crying shame to waste it
watching another fall

she's the girl in the clouds
rollin' and tumblin'
the girl in the clouds
thunder and lightnin'
a little risqué
and a little big frightening
oh oh
she's the girl in the clouds

say it ain't so but say it anyway
gotta learn at the end of the day
that the covers on the bed and the locks on the door

won't keep the boogey man out no more

Time is always a wastin'
that's the bad thing about getting old
it takes away what you've stolen
and gives you back what you've sold
so when steps won't take me higher
I'll know I'm finally home
just wrap me up in your arms
and don't call in the loan

she's the girl in the clouds
rollin' and tumblin'
the girl in the clouds
thunder and lightning
a little risqué
and a little big frightening
oh oh
she's the girl in the clouds

say it ain't so but say it anyway
gotta learn at the end of the day
that the covers on the bed and the locks on the door
won't keep the boogey man out no more

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there's a girl waiting up there
she loves to smile at the top of the world
with starlight in her hair
walks barefoot in the grass
and makes angels in the snow
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she's the girl in the clouds
rollin' and tumblin'
the girl in the clouds
thunder and lightning
a little risqué
and a little big frightening
oh oh
she's the girl in the clouds

07. Will You Still See Me?

If I wear the right clothes
if I comb the right hair
if I shine the right shoes
if I pray the right prayer
if I sing the right song
if I kiss the right way
will you love me tomorrow

like I love you today

will you still see me
will you still see me
will you still see me
as you want me

If I drink the right drink
if I smoke the right brand
if I walk with a swagger
if I shake the right hand
if I pop the right pill
if I stay up all night
will you still hang around
to make morning's alright

will you still see me
will you still see me
will you still see me
as you want me

I've grown blind from the swagger
that came over me
when you returned a smile
with a backdoor key

If I don't grow old
if I still look the same
if I lay down to die
and call out your name
if I hold my temper
if I run in place
if I do it quietly
will you recognize my face

will you still see me
will you still see me
will you still see me
as you want me

08. Coming Back to You

All alone in a dirty town
worn out tracks in the dusty ground
faces hard with eyes ablaze
got to the end and found a missing page
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you

Been too long off on my own

shoes too small where my feet have grown
loves rolls by like a river's flow
who can tell just where it'll go
so....I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you

If it can't be the way that it used to be
maybe I can be you and you can be me
pick up the pieces and mix them up again
so we can start all over when we near the end
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you

Prayers and pills and therapy
chasing your tail for what used to be
a brand new day but the same old sun
shining down on everyone
so I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you

If it can't be the way that it used to be
maybe I can be you and you can be me
pick up the pieces and mix them up again
so we can start all over when we near the end
'cause I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you

All alone in a dirty town
worn out tracks in the dusty ground
faces hard with eyes ablaze
got to the end and found a missing page
so...I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you
I'm coming back to you

09. The Death of Joe Strummer

What happens when the heart is too big for the chest
and it just can't keep up with all the rest
what happens when it takes you on
and wears you down until you're gone
what do we take from that Joe?
what do we take from that Joe?
now that you're gone

I got these sounds in my head
they make no sense so we're stuck instead

with recycled trash and computer chips
rock and roll for food and tips
what do we take from that Joe?
what do we take from that Joe?
now that you're gone

You were Woody Guthrie with a mowhawk
and a scratching loud guitar
a ravaged voice from screaming
telling us where we are
now you're knocking at the backstage door
trying to get in
panhandling on the boardwalk
wondering what might have been

It still don't feel right that you're gone
without the blaze of glory of a deathbed song
so used to watching 'em waste away
eaten to the bone by a brand new day
what do we take from that Joe?
what do we take from that Joe?
now that you're gone

10. Drunk Driving

Passed the legal limit
about 15 years ago
now there's a bottle between my legs
and I'm moving real slow
I'm drunk driving
drunk driving
ain't no way
I can face this road alone
I'm drunk driving

No License or registration
insurance...plates...or tags
but I got an AM radio preacher
and functioning air bags
I'm drunk driving
drunk driving
ain't no way
I can face this road alone
I'm drunk driving

Troopers and local cowboys
hiding among the elms
woman's a calvary cross
with a task to overwhelm

Jesus saves the fallen
the wretched and the sick

but he knows that I'm a liar
with my promises to kick
I'm drunk driving
drunk driving
ain't no way
I can face this road alone
I'm drunk driving

Gotta get to where I'm going
and leave when I arrive
when hands they start to tremble
I know that I'm alive

Haven't killed anybody
they haven't tossed the key
judge sees me back again
gonna let me cop a plea
I'm drunk driving
drunk driving
ain't no way
I can face this road alone
I'm drunk driving

11. Annabelle

Rest your weary head tonight
I'll stay awake till the morning light
to keep all of the wolves at bay
if that's what it takes to make you stay

Annabelle Annabelle
how many myths must I dispel
how many riots must I quell
how much truth must I tell
for you to say you love me
Annabelle
for you to say you love me
Annabelle

If this is a game of win or lose
of options weighed...of pick and choose
I'll clear the smoke out of your sky
only qualified persons need apply

Annabelle Annabelle
how many myths must I dispel
how many riots must I quell
how much truth must I tell
for you to say you love me
Annabelle
for you to say you love me
Annabelle

right or wrong
weak or strong
outside where we don't belong
heaven and hell
kiss and tell
drowning in an empty well
oh Annabelle
oh Annabelle

Beware to all the great facade
of claiming to have the ear of God
I thought I had it yesterday
and now Annabelle is gone away

Annabelle Annabelle
how many myths must I dispel
how many riots must I quell
how much truth must I tell
for you to say you love me
Annabelle
for you to say you love me
Annabelle

right or wrong
weak or strong
outside where we don't belong
heaven and hell
kiss and tell
drowning in an empty well
oh Annabelle
oh Annabelle

Rest your weary head tonight
I'll stay awake till the morning light
to keep all of the wolves at bay
if that's what it takes to make you stay

Annabelle Annabelle
how many myths must I dispel
how many riots must I quell
how much truth must I tell
for you to say you love me
Annabelle
for you to say you love me
Annabelle

12. The Misfits

This is for all the people
who just don't fit anywhere
clothes hanging from bodies

that never came up for air
this is for all those who tread
on the inside of the law
and tussle and argue with themselves
leaving wounds red and raw

this is for the misfits baby
this is for the misfits baby
this is for them and me
got a lock but lost the key
this is for the misfits baby
this is for the misfits baby

This is for the creepy crawlers
who only come out at night
in daylight they just sleep it off
and try with all their might
to keep the demons satisfied
and strangers from their door
minimize another's guilt
by sleeping on the floor

this is for the misfits baby
this is for the misfits baby
this is for them and me
untethered to the sea
this is for the misfits baby
this is for the misfits baby

This is for all the rock and roll singers
with mirrors for a crowd
scrawny kids with busted eardrums
from turning up too loud
this is for those with just enough
to get by sight unseen
the last kid in the yearbook
and the last kid on the scene

this is for the misfits baby
this is for the misfits baby
this is for them and me
with hard knock degrees
this is for the misfits baby
this is for the misfits baby

This is for those who buy their beer
one quart at a time
with Paul Mall's and rusted fingers
and no partner in crime
this is for those who fought the fights
but lost every one
who always look to the stars

but come home with the sun

this is for the misfits baby
this is for the misfits baby
this is for them and me
one and one....sometimes makes three
this is for the misfits baby
this is for the misfits baby

13. Flirtin' With the Blues

They tell me to live then they teach me to die
I get through the day trying not to cry
for who's sake am I'm tossin' and turnin' this way
fear for tomorrow and disdain for today
my head gets filled up with things that I can't use
wise man said son "you're flirtin' with the blues"

Coffee on the table is grown cold to the touch
burrow through my kitchen but don't expect too much
maybe the trace of a woman who once darkened my door
or the tracks of my landlord carved into the floor
looking for another soul...another soul to pay his dues
I woke up this morning I was flirtin' with the blues

so I'm gone gone gone
no use in sticking 'round
when the ghosts they haunt my head
and the living are in the ground
I wish I could fly in the mornings
and swim all night long
all day smile for the camera
and act like nothing's wrong
all day smile for the camera
and act like nothing's wrong

Growing up is growing old they never tell you that
push you out, get you up, and then they'll lay you flat
skin like leather and eyes like a motel peep hole
begged and borrowed what I never stole
the power to console and the power to confuse
and the strength to keep on keeping on...flirtin' with the blues
the power to console and the power to confuse
and the strength to keep on keeping on...flirtin' with the blues

14. It's Dark Out Here

It's dark out here and I'm missing you
but the wheels still move along
searching for something that we just might find
when you're in a place too long
X marks the days I've made it through

and I count what's up ahead
send our best to Mrs Graves
you know her Johnny boy came home dead

It's dark out here
and I'm missing you
what have we gotten
ourselves into?

It's dark out here but the heat it stays
like the sand stuck in my shoes
fall on back to instincts
and the things I have to lose
ain't no time for mercy Lord
or for counting 1-2-3
last night it was someone else
tonight it could be me

It's dark out here
but I'm afraid for you
if I can really do the things
that they want me to

It's dark outside I need your kiss
and your head across my chest
to keep my heart from crashing through
the layers of my vest
I dream through night-time goggles
and sleep during the day
surrounded by your perfume
and the words I'd never say

It's dark out here the stars they shine
but don't reach the desert floor
guess they got a better offer
or just grew sick of war
it's killing and that's all it is
don't let them call it something less
no matter how many goddamn medals
they stick on their own chest

It's dark out here
but I love you still
and don't say if
'cause you know I will
It's dark out here
but I'm afraid for you
if I can really do the things
that they want me to

It's dark out here
and I'm missing you

what have we gotten
ourselves into?

15. I'm Missing You

Memories don't fade in the dark
they creep behind the eyes
your face grows clearer with all the words
and all the passive lies
I'm missing you like a limb that's gone
torn off by the guns of war
I'm missing you like a child's smile
sliding underneath the door

How many times have I looked to the door
expecting it to swing
and open wide with your smile
let loose on everything
I'm missing you like the summer breeze
that tamps down the heat gone by
I'm missing you like the autumn leaves
that always make me cry

I put one foot in front of the other
but I still don't get nowhere
I can see the scenery drifting
but I reach and nothing's there
I'm missing you
I'm missing you
I'm missing you
I'm missing you

My prayers have all gone unanswered
like my questions always will
hope as ever present
as money lifted from the till
I'm missing you like I never thought
I could miss someone before
I'm missing you like a pair of shoes
when they're reaching for the floor

You may be lost but not forgotten
a restless heart that roams
know that your will sustains me
until you make it home
I'm missing you
I'm missing you
I'm missing you
I'm missing you

Memories don't fade in the dark
they creep behind the eyes

your face grows clearer with all the words
and all the passive lies
I'm missing you like a limb that's gone
torn off by the guns of war
I'm missing you like a child's smile
sliding underneath the door

I'm missing you
I'm missing you
I'm missing you
I'm missing you

16. Wishing on a Train

If I don't have a ticket
can I still get on the train
I came home once more
and she left me again
I know there's some room
on that 12:45
I had her to myself
on the night I arrived
oh oh I'm wishing on a train
oh oh I'm wishing on a train

It's for dreamers and schemers
and gamblers and thieves
and assorted desperados
who know just what they need
to feel that rumble
coming up through the floor
and that lonesome whistle
blowing once more
oh oh I'm wishing on a train
oh oh I'm wishing on a train

I'll wear my Sunday clothes
when I ride out of town
so the Lord won't forget
that I've been around
oh oh I'm wishing on a train
oh oh I'm wishing on a train

If I don't have a ticket
can't you just turn your head
and keep your eyes peeled
for her face instead
it's a much better use
of your precious time
until your shift ends
at a quarter to nine
oh oh I'm wishing on a train

oh oh I'm wishing on a train

I've sat in the choir
and listened from below
and I still can't tell you
why she had to go
oh oh I'm wishing on a train
oh oh I'm wishing on a train

If I don't have a ticket
can I still get on the train
I came home once more
and she left me again
I know there's some room
on that 12:45
I had her to myself
on the night I arrived
oh oh I'm wishing on a train
oh oh I'm wishing on a train

17. Gravitas

They found my uncle dead on the floor
I got the call about half past four
went through some papers and they found my name
said sorry son must be a shame
nothing funny here so we're gonna go
if you need anything just let us know
so they left me with a dead man on the floor
his girth was blocking the bathroom door
I drank a 20 oz Pepsi on the way in the car
my piss coulda filled a cookie jar
tell me what's a poor boy to do?
had to move the body to get through

Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas

Got drunk one night but that ain't all
from mixing things I still can't recall
self medicating the latest sting
she took away most everything
found her on her back legs in the air
with a rotary student named Pierre
that boy had style I'll give him that
wearing nothing but socks and a Stetson hat
so I shimmied up the town's only flag pole
naked as a preacher's soul
but when I slid on down twas quite a view
them cleats'll tear a boy in two

Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas
Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas

Look at 'em stern
and move real slow
and you'll never have to tell 'em
where you're gonna go
Look at 'em stern
and move real slow
and you'll never have to tell 'em
where you're gonna go

Woke up one morning next to a girl
I met hours before on the tilt-a-whirl
Richard Petty tattoo on her chest
said she was thrown out of the mid-west
she looked much better at the carnival
through whiskey haze and Paul Mall's
but the sun comes up baby that's a fact
and her boyfriend staring through the window crack
heard the tobacco chaw and the rifle cock
at times like this a man takes stock
a little hallelujah can I get an amen
straight into the hands of the born again's

Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas
Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas

I got bored one time and went off to war
couldn't get a job so I joined the corps
they wanted me bad at least that's what they said
I learned to kill and to make a bed
them sheets as tight as Dot McPhee
3 meals a day and an enemy
but on my first day at the front
I got blown to pieces now I wear a shunt
doc said "son you'll never be the same"
I said "doc ain't that a goddamn shame....
on the edge of making my daddy proud
now I'm stuck here in this cloud"

Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas
Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas

Look at 'em stern
and move real slow
and you'll never have to tell 'em
where you're gonna go
Look at 'em stern
and move real slow
and you'll never have to tell 'em
where you're gonna go
where you're gonna go

Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas
Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas baby Gravitas

18. Nowhere Now

You finally fell asleep
and it'll be morning soon
no sense giving up now
you might stay down until noon
and I've got so many things to do
and I know on nights like this
if I lay down beside you
I'll only dream of your kiss

So I drift alone on the edges
and try not to look ahead
where everybody's waiting with I told you so's
and a needle without thread
but I never felt obligated
and pity is a waste of time
you got my heart in your pocket
and I got yours in mine

but you're nowhere now you're nowhere now
you're nowhere now you're nowhere now
you're nowhere now
you walk in place
you search the lines
in my face
you're nowhere now
but I'll stay behind
to tend to the fraying
ties that bind

You may map your trip in advance
and count the miles in between
eyes peeled for every shortcut
that can save some gasoline
but love's a train that jumps the tracks
and ends up here or there
and I'll take what's sitting next to me
over an empty chair

but you're nowhere now you're nowhere now
oh you're nowhere now oh you're nowhere now
you're nowhere now
you walk in place
you search the lines
in my face
you're nowhere now
I'll stay behind
to tend to the fraying

ties that bind

sometimes I get so tired
that my eyes can barely see
the clock across the hall
or the one in front of me
so I just run on faith
that the days are rolling by
and they'll tap me on the shoulder
if I forget to cry

Who am I to ask for favors
who am I to search for blame
in a so world filled with sadness
and a world so filled with pain
just a ripple...just a ripple in the sea
or another grain of sand
but if you can see it through
to wipe this scourge from the land

but you're nowhere now you're nowhere now
you're nowhere now you're nowhere now
you're nowhere now
you walk in place
you search the lines
in my face
you're nowhere now
but I'll stay behind
to tend to the fraying
ties that bind

sometimes I get so tired
my eyes can barely see
the clock across the hall
or the one in front of me
so I just run on faith
that the days are rolling by
and they'll tap me on the shoulder
if I forget to cry

but you're nowhere now you're nowhere now
you're nowhere now you're nowhere now
you're nowhere now
you walk in place
you search the lines
in my face
you're nowhere now
but I'll stay behind
to tend to the fraying
ties that bind

19. The One You Love Best

Push on push on
I hear the voice in my head
but a voice just goes silent
while a love goes dead
and the highway starts breathing
when the sun touches down
jester wears the brains
while the king wears the crown
The clock on the wall
just sits and won't move
like a man with no dreams
and nothing to prove
guess I'll scrape off the dust
and tie down the rest
and try to remember
the one you love best
the one you love best

I stay up all night
and work 'till the dawn
grab a few hours
and then work again all day long
'cause the market ain't good
and the bank rolls it's eyes
when you tell 'em that you got
another surprise
The union she caved
so the boys could get back
before the ones they bused in
picked up all of the slack
preacher says we're all equal
then he dines with the rest
as I try to remember
the one you love best
the one you love best

We passed in the hall
like ghosts in the wind
father forgive me
I think I have sinned
I think I have sinned

The kids hopped a plane
like a pair of stunned deer
told the girl at the counter
"anywhere but here"
they left with no baggage
at least none you could see
they say they're doing ok
they ain't nothing like me
Grandkids come calling

inside Christmas cards
lawyer says the wife
she sends her regards
she hooked up with a fella
a good man I'm told
who won't fall apart
when he starts to get old
when he starts to get old

Well they'd grind me down slow
until the back of my hand
is all that was left
made me feel like a man
tears on the pillow
dried blood on your dress
as I try to remember
the one I love best
Now my eye's are now slits
and my head has grown soft
all that's left is some fog
and a persistent cough
there's an old picture frame
on top of the chest
that might be the one
the one you love best
the one you love best

The women who stay
got that look in their eye
like rolled up flags
on the 4th of July
on the 4th of July

Now my eye's are now slits
and my head has grown soft
all that's left is some fog
and a persistent cough
there's an old picture frame
on top of the chest
that might be the one
the one you love best
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20. Doctor Jerry

(instrumental)