



[Pump It Up](#) by [Elvis Costello](#) and [The Attractions](#) - youtube.com/watch?v=3Y7iiDvCYXA



'Subterranean Homesick Blues'
youtube.com/watch?v=MGxjIBEZvx0 and
youtube.com/watch?v=2Mb3CoWwNyY



1977 Saturday Night Live's 'Radio, Radio'
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eD_24nDzkeo



1969 Happening for Lulu's Jimi Hendrix Experience
appearance.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p032vp1d/player>

If Great Artists Steal, Then I Think Elvis Costello is a Red Handed Genius

*Or, a cocktail of Spotify and Wikipedia is a powerful way
to stay up way past one's bedtime.*

For most of my life, music never really clicked. But “for some reason”, [after Proposition 64 passed](#), music started making me very happy. I decided this year to indulge in unlimited music on Spotify. One of the highlights of my week has been the Discover Weekly playlist. This week's list turned me on to ‘[Pump It Up](#)’ by [Elvis Costello](#) and [The Attractions](#). Great song and I love his dancing in the video! But, I couldn't really make out the lyrics, [so I looked them up](#), and checked out [the Wikipedia article about it](#):

Influences

In his 2015 autobiography *Unfaithful Music and Disappearing Ink*, Costello acknowledged that the song owed an inspiration to [Bob Dylan](#): "'Pump It Up' obviously took more than a little bit from '[Subterranean Homesick Blues](#)'.

One night, many years later, Bob Dylan said to me: 'U2! How could they do that to you? How could they take your song like that?' It took me a moment to know what he was talking about, and a moment more to realise that he was putting me on.

But then, U2's '[Get On Your Boots](#)' was probably to 'Pump It Up' what 'Subterranean Homesick Blues' is to Chuck Berry's '[Too Much Monkey Business](#)!'

Of course I went to check out 'Subterranean Homesick Blues'. I've seen this version of the video: youtube.com/watch?v=MGxjIBEZvx0 but this version was new to me: youtube.com/watch?v=2Mb3CoWwNyY - and in hearing it, the theft is very apparent, but also it's its own thing.

Another moment of “theft” of his that I enjoyed was his [1977 Saturday Night Live appearance](#) where he was supposed to play one song, but played 'Radio, Radio' instead, [which infuriated show producer Lorne Michaels](#), and got him banned from the show for 12 years. Here's the clip:youtube.com/watch?v=eD_24nDzkeo (It all turned out, and he even reprised the event at [SNL's 25th Anniversary](#): <https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/elvis-costello-beastie-boys-sabotage-snl-1999/>)

He actually stole the idea for that from Jimmy Hendrix - openculture.com/2012/09/jimi_hendrix_wreaks_havoc_on_the_lulu_show_gets_banned_from_bbc.html Again, you can totally see it when you look at the original, but he adds so much to the theft.

You hear “good artists borrow, great artists steal”, and with a couple of examples, it can really sink in. Elvis Costello is caught red handed on both occasions, and I think he still made great art in both cases.

CALENDAR**SF - Feb 7 - 15 - Kat Robichaud's Misfit****Cabaret Presents Circus** - From burlesque to drag to circus to magic to music - a variety show of eccentric performers.facebook.com/events/527390221426050/**SF - Feb 14 - DDP - Decentralized Dance Party** - roving dance party - explainer:decentralizeddanceparty.com/the-party-manifesto/Event: facebook.com/events/2488726208034769/**SF - Feb 14 - Troll Bingo** - 8 PM to

Midnight - 1789 Egbert Ave - The bingo hall of the Mountain King.

NYC - Feb 14 - Rubulad Presents The**Love Boat** - artery.is/showcases/the-love-boat**BAY - Feb 15, 7 PM - That Really****Happened???** - An evening of true stories

1638 University Ave Berkeley - Reservations:

monkeyhouse.seats@gmail.com**NYC - Mar 1 - Competitive Winter****Picnicking** - teams compete in frigid temperatures on who can have more fun -withfriends.co/event/3666384/[Competitive winter picnicking](#) (I'LL BE JUDGING - please bribe accordingly.)**NYC - May 9 - Lost Horizon Night Market**

- wanna do a truck? - contact

shadowtrafficproductions.com**SF - Mar 15 - Brides of March** - "It's our

special day!" Wear a dress! All variety of

"brides" welcome. More street theater

than bar crawl. Roots: bridesofmarch.org/Event: facebook.com/events/2615570198679290/**SF - May 24 - Carnaval San Francisco****2020 Grand Parade** - Interested? Let me

know. Especially if you like to drum or like

to dress up or make floats.

Announcing The San Francisco Oracle Deck

From one of the creators: "The San Francisco Oracle is the culmination of three-year collaboration between local artists Robin Lehto & Eugene

Ashton-Gonzalez and is as much

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Whether you think it's something in the air, the ground, or the water that gives San Francisco that special something, curious fans of oracle cards will appreciate poring over the deck's 'Liner Notes' that describes the flavors - and origin stories - of each card and appreciate the city in a whole new way.

Pre-order the first edition at <https://igg.me/at/SFOracle> !!"**ONGOING****SF - Admiral Fiesta's free midweek outdoor sunrise or sunset dance parties** -eepurl.com/gn7ttf**SF** - <http://www.workshopsf.org/>**BAY** - BayAreaScience.org/calendar**BAY** - lod.org/events.html - monthly outdoor Tesla coil demonstrations.**NYC** - NonsenseNYC.com**??!** - ElectricDreaming.com**FROM:**

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