

Simon and Garfunkel – Bridge Over Troubled Water (1970)

When you're weary
Feeling small
When tears are in your eyes
I will dry them all

I'm on your side
When times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

When you're down and out
When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard
I will comfort you

I'll take your part
When darkness comes
And pain is all around
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind

Sail on Silver Girl,
Sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way

See how they shine
If you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4G-YQA_bsOU

Simon and Garfunkel – Sound of Silence (1964)

Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain still remains
Within the sound of silence

In restless dreams I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone
'Neath the halo of a street lamp
I turned my collar to the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light that split the night
And touched the sound of silence

And in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more
People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening
People writing songs that voices never shared and no one dared
Disturb the sound of silence

Fools, said I, you do not know
Silence like a cancer grows
Hear my words that I might teach you
Take my arms that I might reach you
But my words, like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence

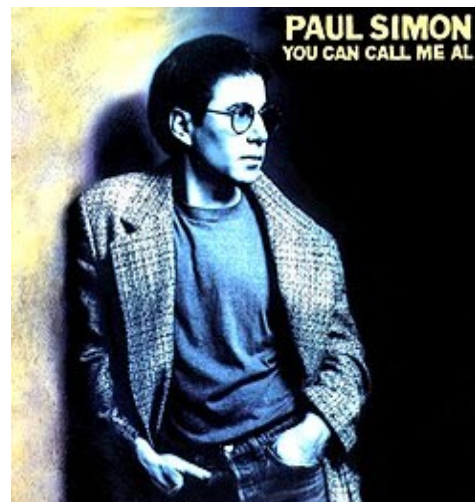
And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made
And the sign flashed out its warning
In the words that it was forming
And the sign said – the words of the prophets are written
On the subway walls and tenement halls
And whispered in the sounds of silence



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAEppFUWLfc>

Paul Simon – You Can Call Me Al (1986)

"You Can Call Me Al" is a song by American singer-songwriter Paul Simon. The lyrics are about a man experiencing a midlife crisis, and were partially inspired by Simon's trip to South Africa and his experience with its culture. The song became one of Simon's biggest hits, reaching the Top 5 in seven countries.



A man walks down the street, he says:
"Why am I soft in the middle now? Why am I soft in the middle?
The rest of my life is so hard.
I need a photo-opportunity, I want a shot at redemption,
Don't wanna end up a cartoon in a cartoon graveyard."

Bone digger, bone digger,
Dogs in the moonlight
Far away in my well-lit door
Mr. Beer Belly, Beer Belly
Get these mutts away from me, you know
I don't find this stuff amusing any more

Chorus: If you'd be my bodyguard, I can be your long-lost pal.
I can call you Betty, and Betty, when you call me, you can call me Al.

A man walks down the street, he says, "Why am I short of attention?
Got a short little span of attention and, woh, my nights are so long.
Where's my wife and family? What if I die here?
Who'll be my role model, now that my role model is gone, gone?"

He ducked back down the alley with some roly-poly little bat-faced girl.
All along, along, there were incidents and accidents, there were hints and allegations.

[Chorus] + [Instrumental Break]

A man walks down the street, it's a street in a strange world
Maybe it's the third world, maybe it's his first time around
Doesn't speak the language, he holds no currency, he is a foreign man
He is surrounded by the sound, the sound
Of cattle in the marketplace
Scatterlings and orphanages
He looks around, around
He sees angels in the architecture
Spinning in infinity, he says, "Amen, Hallelujah"

[Chorus]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uq-gYOrU8bA>

Simon and Garfunkel – Scarborough Fair (1966)

"Scarborough Fair" is a traditional English ballad, dating back over many centuries. Many versions of the song have been recorded by many musicians, including the 1966 arrangement by Simon & Garfunkel. A different version of the ballad, called "The Cambric Shirt", was recorded by John Lomax in 1939 and has since been covered by other musicians.

The title comes from a medieval market fair held in the town of Scarborough. This event, known as the "Scarborough Fair", was an important commercial gathering that happened about 45 days every year, starting in the 13th century. The fair attracted merchants from across England and Europe. Goods included cloth, spices, livestock, and crafts. It functioned as both a marketplace and a social event.

In the ballad, the speaker asks someone travelling to the Scarborough Fair to deliver a message to his former lover, together with a series of impossible tasks ("Make a cambric shirt without needle work", "Find an acre of land in the sea" and "Reap the land with a sickle of leather"). This idea is typical of traditional English ballads and symbolises unattainable love.

In medieval folklore, herbs were believed to have protective or magical properties. The herbs parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme each hold a symbolic meaning, especially in love songs. The meanings are:

- Parsley – comfort and protection
- Sage – wisdom and judgement
- Rosemary – remembrance
- Thyme – courage and strength

So, in the ballad, the speaker talks about:

- Comfort (parsley) to heal emotional pain
- Wisdom (sage), to understand his mistakes
- Remembrance (rosemary) of what was lost
- Courage (thyme) to try again

The herbs weren't randomly chosen, they subtly reinforce the ballad's theme; that a love can only be restored under impossible conditions.



Parsley



Sage



Rosemary



Thyme

The Lyrics

Are you going to Scarborough Fair?
Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme
Remember me to one who lives there
She once was a true love of mine

Tell her to make me a cambric* shirt *(On the side of a hill in the deep forest green)*
Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme *(Tracing a sparrow on snow-crested ground)*
Without no seams nor needle work *(Blankets and bedclothes, the child of the mountain)*
Then she'll be a true love of mine *(Sleeps unaware of the clarion* call)*

Tell her to find me an acre of land *(On the side of a hill in the sprinkling of leaves)*
Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme *(Washes the grave with silvery tears)*
Between the salt water and the sea strands *(A soldier cleans and polishes a gun)*
Then she'll be a true love of mine

Tell her to reap it with a sickle of leather *(War bellows blazing in scarlet battalions)*
Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme *(Generals order their soldiers to kill)*
And gather it all in a bunch of heather *(And to fight for a cause they have long ago forgotten)*
Then she'll be a true love of mine

Are you going to Scarborough Fair
Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme
Remember me to one who lives there
She once was a true love of mine

* cambric: A fine, white fabric made of linen

* clarion: A medieval trumpet



The Cambric Shirt (1957):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ja0IfYIHS9Y>

Simon and Garfunkel (1966):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jj4s9l-53g>

Celtic Woman (2006):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBBpnvYEDSA>

English Folk Song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gCGEbIL3Mk

Middle English (13th century) version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a236nedPul>