

david bowie life on mars

David Bowie Life on Mars has become one of the most iconic phrases associated with the legendary musician's legacy. This phrase not only references one of his most celebrated songs but also encapsulates Bowie's fascination with space, fantasy, and the exploration of otherworldly themes. Throughout his career, Bowie consistently pushed the boundaries of music, art, and identity, often drawing inspiration from science fiction and cosmic imagery. In this article, we will delve into the significance of "Life on Mars" within Bowie's oeuvre, exploring its origins, lyrical themes, cultural impact, and the ways it reflects his artistic evolution.

The Origins of "Life on Mars"

The Song's Creation and Release

"Life on Mars?" was written by David Bowie and first appeared on his 1971 album *Hunky Dory*. The song was crafted during a period of intense artistic experimentation for Bowie, who was exploring various musical styles and personas. It was recorded in 1971 at Trident Studios in London and released in December of that year.

Bowie described "Life on Mars?" as a reflection of his disillusionment with modern entertainment and society. Its theatrical, cinematic quality, combined with poetic lyrics, made it a standout piece that showcased his talent for storytelling through music. The song's arrangement features a piano-driven melody, lush orchestration, and a theatrical vocal delivery that elevates its storytelling.

The Inspiration Behind the Song

The lyrics of "Life on Mars?" are famously enigmatic, blending pop culture references with philosophical musings. Bowie was inspired by the surreal and often absurd nature of popular media, as well as his observations of society's obsession with fame and superficiality.

Some key influences and ideas that shaped the song include:

- American films and Hollywood's portrayal of fantasy and reality
- The rise of television and mass media's influence on youth culture
- The desire to explore existential themes through a pop song
- Satire of societal disillusionment and consumer culture

The song's title and chorus evoke a sense of longing for something more meaningful—a possible extraterrestrial or utopian existence—hence the phrase "Life on Mars?" as a symbol of escapism and curiosity.

Thematic Analysis of "Life on Mars?"

Exploration of Society and Media

At its core, "Life on Mars?" is a critique of the superficiality and chaos of modern life. The lyrics depict a young girl who is disillusioned with her surroundings, seeking solace in fantasy. Lines such as "It's on America's tortured brow, that Mickey Mouse has grown up a cow" suggest a satirical take on American culture and media influence.

Bowie uses vivid imagery to question reality:

- "Mickey Mouse has grown up a cow" symbolizes the commercialization and distortion of innocence
- "It's a wonder that she remembers her name" hints at lost identity amid societal pressures

This critique extends to the broader theme of escapism—dreaming of "Life on Mars" as an alternative world where the chaos of Earth can be escaped.

Cosmic and Space Imagery

The song's title and recurring motif evoke a sense of outer space, aligning with Bowie's fascination with cosmic themes. Throughout his career, Bowie frequently incorporated space imagery, culminating in his alter ego Ziggy Stardust.

In "Life on Mars?", the cosmic imagery serves as a metaphor for:

- The search for meaning beyond the mundane
- The allure of the unknown and the universe's mysteries
- Escaping the constraints of terrestrial life

This cosmic perspective underscores Bowie's interest in science fiction and the idea of human curiosity about extraterrestrial life, which became a recurring motif in his work.

Impact and Cultural Significance

Musical and Artistic Influence

"Life on Mars?" is widely regarded as one of Bowie's greatest compositions, praised for its lyrical complexity, melodic richness, and theatrical arrangement. It has influenced countless artists across genres, from glam rock to alternative and indie music.

The song's innovative production and poetic lyrics set a new standard for songwriting, inspiring musicians to blend storytelling, social critique, and cosmic imagery in their work.

Legacy in Popular Culture

Over the decades, "Life on Mars?" has permeated popular culture:

- Featured in films, TV shows, and commercials, often symbolizing alienation or societal critique
- Covered by numerous artists, including Frank Black, Mott the Hoople, and Natalie Imbruglia
- Covered or performed as a tribute to Bowie's enduring influence

The song's enduring appeal lies in its universal themes—disillusionment, hope, escapism—and its poetic lyricism, which continues to resonate with new generations.

David Bowie's Artistic Evolution and "Life on Mars?"

From Ziggy Stardust to the Present

"Life on Mars?" exemplifies Bowie's artistic persona during his early 1970s phase—explorative, theatrical, and deeply introspective. The song reflects his fascination with science fiction, fantasy, and societal critique, themes that persisted throughout his career.

Over the years, Bowie evolved from the flamboyant Ziggy Stardust to more experimental and introspective works, but "Life on Mars?" remains a cornerstone of his artistic identity, symbolizing his ability to combine pop music with profound thematic content.

Influence on Future Artists and Genres

Bowie's innovative approach to music and storytelling has inspired generations of artists:

- Alternative and indie musicians cite Bowie as a major influence
- The blending of theatricality and social commentary in "Life on Mars?" set a precedent for concept albums
- His cosmic themes paved the way for other space-inspired works in music and art

Bowie's legacy demonstrates how a single song can encapsulate a broader artistic vision—combining societal critique, cosmic curiosity, and poetic lyricism.

Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of "Life on Mars"

"David Bowie life on mars" is more than just a song; it is a cultural phenomenon that encapsulates Bowie's artistic genius and his ability to challenge societal norms through music. Its poetic lyrics, innovative arrangement, and cosmic themes continue to inspire and resonate with audiences worldwide.

The song's exploration of societal disillusionment, combined with its fascination with space and the cosmos, underscores Bowie's unique ability to merge the earthly and the extraterrestrial—making "Life on Mars?" a timeless reflection on human curiosity, societal critique, and the quest for meaning beyond our world.

Whether appreciated for its musical innovation or its lyrical depth, "Life on Mars" remains a testament to David Bowie's legacy as a pioneering artist who dared to dream beyond the stars.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the meaning behind David Bowie's song 'Life on Mars?'

Many interpret 'Life on Mars?' as a critique of media, fame, and society's obsession with superficial entertainment, portraying a sense of disillusionment and longing for genuine human connection.

When was 'Life on Mars?' released and on which album?

'Life on Mars?' was released in 1971 as part of David Bowie's album 'Hunky Dory.'

What inspired David Bowie to write 'Life on Mars?'

Bowie was inspired by the surreal and contrasting images from popular culture and films, as well as his own experiences with fame and societal expectations, aiming to create a poetic commentary on modern life.

How has 'Life on Mars?' influenced popular culture?

'Life on Mars?' has become one of Bowie's most iconic songs, inspiring covers, references in movies and TV shows, and being celebrated for its lyrical depth and musical uniqueness.

What are some notable covers or renditions of 'Life on Mars?'?

Notable covers include versions by artists like Grace Jones, Michael Stipe, and David Bowie himself during live performances, each bringing their own interpretation to the song.

Why is 'Life on Mars?' considered a classic in rock history?

The song is praised for its innovative composition, poetic lyrics, and Bowie's distinctive vocal delivery, solidifying its status as a timeless piece that captures the essence of 1970s rock and glam music.

Additional Resources

David Bowie's "Life on Mars" stands as one of the most iconic and enigmatic tracks in rock history. Released in 1971 on his album Hunky Dory, the song has captivated listeners for decades with its surreal lyrics, lush arrangements, and Bowie's distinctive vocal delivery. As a quintessential example of Bowie's artistry and storytelling prowess, "Life on Mars" continues to inspire musicians, critics, and fans alike. In this article, we will explore the song's origins, lyrical themes, musical composition, cultural impact, and its enduring legacy.

Introduction to "Life on Mars" and Its Significance

"Life on Mars" is often heralded as Bowie's masterpiece—a song that blends glam rock, cinematic grandeur, and poetic introspection. Its complex lyrics and rich instrumentation create a tapestry that invites multiple interpretations. The track is renowned not only for its musical craftsmanship but also for its commentary on media, celebrity, and societal disillusionment during the early 1970s.

The Origins and Context of the Song

The Creative Genesis

David Bowie wrote "Life on Mars" during a period of prolific creativity. Inspired by the cultural upheaval of the late 1960s and early 1970s, Bowie sought to craft a song that encapsulated the disillusionment of youth, the spectacle of media, and the search for meaning in an often superficial world.

The Cultural and Musical Landscape of 1971

- The rise of glam rock and theatricality in music.
- The influence of American cinema and pop culture.
- The societal tensions and political unrest of the era.

Bowie's environment at the time was ripe with experimentation, and "Life on Mars" reflects this vibrant atmosphere.

Lyrical Themes and Interpretations

Analyzing the Lyrics

The lyrics of "Life on Mars" are famously cryptic, packed with vivid imagery and cultural references. Some key themes include:

- Media and Consumer Culture: The opening lines evoke a young girl watching a film, symbolizing the influence of media on youth.
- Escapism and Disillusionment: The song portrays a longing for meaning in the chaos of modern life.
- Celebrity Culture: References to Hollywood and fame highlight the allure and emptiness of celebrity obsession.
- Societal Critique: The song critiques superficiality and the loss of innocence.

Notable Lyrics and Their Possible Meanings

- "It's a god-awful small affair, to the girl with the mousy hair": Possibly referencing the mundane or overlooked individuals in society.
- "Sailors fighting in the dance hall": Could symbolize chaos, conflict, or societal struggles.

- "Mickey Mouse has grown up a cow": A critique of commercialization and the dilution of innocence.
- "Life on Mars?": An open-ended question inviting listeners to consider the existence of a different, perhaps better world.

Multiple Interpretations

Some critics view the song as a satire of American culture, while others see it as a reflection on personal alienation. Its ambiguity allows listeners to project their own experiences and insights.

Musical Composition and Arrangement

Structure and Style

"Life on Mars" is characterized by its cinematic orchestration, blending rock, piano balladry, and orchestral elements. The song's structure features:

- An evocative piano intro.
- A crescendo of strings and backing vocals.
- A soaring chorus with a memorable melody.

Key Musical Elements

- Chord Progressions: The song employs complex chords that evoke a sense of drama and grandeur.
- Instrumentation: Rich layers of strings, piano, acoustic guitar, and drums contribute to its theatrical soundscape.
- Vocal Delivery: Bowie's expressive vocals range from whispering to powerful, conveying emotion and narrative depth.

Notable Musicians

- Mick Ronson on guitar.
- Rick Wakeman on piano.
- The session orchestra arranged by Mick Ronson.

Production and Recording

Studio Environment

Recorded in 1971 at Trident Studios in London, the production aimed to create a lush, cinematic feel. Bowie's vision was to craft a song that felt like a mini-movie.

Production Techniques

- Use of layered instruments and overdubs.
- Dynamic shifts to heighten emotional impact.
- Incorporation of orchestral arrangements to enhance the grandeur.

Cultural Impact and Legacy

Critical Reception

Initially met with mixed reviews, "Life on Mars" has since been hailed as a classic. Its innovative approach influenced countless artists across genres.

Influence on Music and Pop Culture

- Inspired cover versions by artists like David Garrett and Madonna.
- Featured in films, commercials, and TV shows.
- Cited by musicians such as Lady Gaga and Muse as a pivotal influence.

The Song's Enduring Appeal

Its timeless quality lies in its ability to resonate with themes of alienation, hope, and critique of superficiality—universal concepts that remain relevant.

"Life on Mars" in Live Performances and Media

Live Renditions

Bowie performed "Life on Mars" numerous times, often extending the song with improvisations and theatrical staging. The song became a staple in his live sets and a showcase of his evolving artistry.

Film and Media Appearances

- Featured prominently in the 2006 film *The Devil Wears Prada*.
- Used in advertisements and documentaries exploring Bowie's legacy.

Cover Versions and Tributes

Many artists have paid homage to "Life on Mars," each bringing their own interpretation:

- David Bowie (live performances): Variations and emotional renditions.
- Patti Smith: A heartfelt cover emphasizing lyrical depth.
- Guns N' Roses: A rock-infused reinterpretation.
- Classical renditions: Orchestral covers highlighting its cinematic

qualities.

Why "Life on Mars" Remains a Cultural Touchstone

The song's layered complexity, poetic lyrics, and innovative arrangement continue to captivate audiences. It encapsulates Bowie's unique ability to blend storytelling with musical innovation, making it a timeless piece that challenges and inspires listeners.

Conclusion: The Legacy of "Life on Mars"

In exploring David Bowie's "Life on Mars," we see a song that transcends its era to become a symbol of artistic daring and societal reflection. Its poetic ambiguity invites endless interpretation, while its musical grandeur sets a high watermark for songwriting. As Bowie once said, the song is about "trying to make sense of a world that is rapidly changing," a sentiment that still resonates today. Whether as a critique, a celebration, or a question mark, "Life on Mars" remains an essential part of Bowie's immortal legacy and a testament to the power of music as a mirror to society.

Further Reading and Resources:

- Bowie's autobiography, "Bowie: Starman"
- Documentaries like "David Bowie: The Last Five Years"
- Cover versions and live recordings available on streaming platforms
- Articles and essays analyzing Bowie's songwriting and impact

[David Bowie Life On Mars](#)

david bowie life on mars: David Bowie and the Art of Music Video Lisa Perrott, 2023-07-27

The first in-depth study of David Bowie's music videos across a sustained period takes on interweaving storyworlds of an iconic career. Remarkable for their capacity to conjure elaborate imagery, Bowie's videos provide fascinating exemplars of the artistry and remediation of music video. When their construction is examined across several years, they appear as time-travelling vessels, transporting kooky characters and strange story-world components across time and space. By charting Bowie's creative and collaborative process across five distinct phases, *David Bowie and the Art of Music Video* shows how he played a vital role in establishing music video as an artform. Filling a gap in the existing literature, this book shines a light on the significant contributions of directors such as Mick Rock, Stanley Dorfman and David Mallet, each of whom taught Bowie much about how to use the form. By examining Bowie's collaborative process, his use of surrealist strategies and his integration of avant-garde art with popular music and media, the book provides a history of music video in relation to the broader fields of audiovisual media, visual music and art.

david bowie life on mars: David Bowie and the Moving Image Katherine Reed, 2022-12-15

The central image of David Bowie's "Life on Mars?" could have been ripped from his own experience: a child sits "hooked to the silver screen," reliving fantastical scenes played out on film. Throughout his life, Bowie was similarly transfixed by the power of film. From his first film role in *The Image* to his final music video before his death, "Lazarus," Bowie's musical output has long been intrinsically linked to images. Analyzing Bowie's music videos, planned film projects, acting roles, and depictions in film, *David Bowie and the Moving Image* provides a comprehensive view of Bowie's work with film and informs our understanding of all areas of his work, from music to fashion to visual art. It enters the debate about Bowie's artistic legacy by addressing Bowie as musician, actor, and auteur.

david bowie life on mars: David Bowie and Transmedia Stardom Ana Cristina Mendes, Lisa

Perrott, 2020-05-21 Addressing the interart, intertextual, and intermedial dimensions of David Bowie's sonic and visual legacy, this book considers more than five decades of a career invested with a star's luminosity that shines well beyond the remit of pop music. The book approaches the idea of the star David Bowie as a medium in transit, undergoing constant movement and change. Within the context of celebrity studies, the concept of stardom provides an appropriate frame for an examination of Bowie's transmedial activity, especially given his ongoing iconic signification within the celestial realm. While Bowie has traversed many mediums, he has also been described as a medium, which is consistent with the way he has described himself. With contributions from a wide range of disciplinary areas and countries, each chapter brings a fresh perspective on the concept of stardom and the conceptual significance of the terms 'mediation' and 'navigation' as they relate to Bowie and his career. Containing a multitude of different approaches to the stardom and mediation of David Bowie, this book will be of interest to those studying celebrity, audio and visual legacy, and the relationships between different forms of media. It was originally published as a special issue of *Celebrity Studies*.

david bowie life on mars: The Complete David Bowie (Revised and Updated 2016

Edition) Nicholas Pegg, 2016-12-06 The biggest edition yet - expanded and updated with 35,000 words of new material Critically acclaimed in its previous editions, *The Complete David Bowie* is widely recognized as the foremost source of analysis and information on every facet of Bowie's career. The A-Z of songs and the day-by-day dateline are the most complete ever published. From the 11-year-old's skiffle performance at the 18th Bromley Scouts' Summer Camp in 1958, to the emergence of the legendary lost album *Toy* in 2011, to his passing in January 2016, *The Complete David Bowie* discusses and dissects every last development in rock's most fascinating career. * The Albums - detailed production history and analysis of every album from 1967 to the present day. * The Songs - hundreds of individual entries reveal the facts and anecdotes behind not just the famous recordings, but also the most obscure of unreleased rarities - from 'Absolute Beginners' to 'Ziggy Stardust', from 'Abdulmajid' to 'Zion'. * The Tours - set-lists and histories of every live show. * The Actor - a complete guide to Bowie's career on stage and screen. * Plus - the videos, the BBC radio sessions, the paintings, the Internet and much more.

david bowie life on mars: The Television Genre Book Glen Creeber, 2015-08-16 Genre is

central to understanding the industrial context and visual form of television. This new edition of the key textbook on television genre brings together leading international scholars to provide an accessible and comprehensive introduction to the debates, issues and concerns of the field. Structured in eleven sections, *The Television Genre Book* introduces the concept of 'genre' itself and how it has been understood in television studies, and then addresses the main televisual genres in turn: drama, soap opera, comedy, news, documentary, reality television, children's television, animation and popular entertainment. This third edition is illustrated throughout with case studies of classic and contemporary programming from each genre, ranging from *The Simpsons* to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and from *Monty Python's Flying Circus* to *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*. It also features new case studies on contemporary shows, including *The Only Way Is Essex*, *Homeland*, *Game of Thrones*, *Downton Abbey*, *Planet Earth*, *Grey's Anatomy* and *QVC*, and new chapters

covering topics such as constructed reality, travelogues, telefantasy, stand-up comedy, the panel show, 24-hour news, Netflix and video on demand.

david bowie life on mars: After Midnight Drew Morton, 2022-10-21 Contributions by Apryl Alexander, Alisia Grace Chase, Brian Faucette, Laura E. Felschow, Lindsay Hallam, Rusty Hatchell, Dru Jeffries, Henry Jenkins, Jeffrey SJ Kirchoff, Curtis Marez, James Denis McGlynn, Brandy Monk-Payton, Chamara Moore, Drew Morton, Mark C. E. Peterson, Jayson Quearry, Zachary J. A. Rondinelli, Suzanne Scott, David Stanley, Sarah Pawlak Stanley, Tracy Vozar, and Chris Yogerst Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons's *Watchmen* fundamentally altered the perception of American comic books and remains one of the medium's greatest hits. Launched in 1986—"the year that changed comics" for most scholars in comics studies—*Watchmen* quickly assisted in cementing the legacy that comics were a serious form of literature no longer defined by the Comics Code era of funny animal and innocuous superhero books that appealed mainly to children. *After Midnight: "Watchmen"* after "Watchmen" looks specifically at the three adaptations of Moore and Gibbons's *Watchmen*—Zack Snyder's *Watchmen* film (2009), Geoff Johns's comic book sequel *Doomsday Clock* (2017), and Damon Lindelof's *Watchmen* series on HBO (2019). Divided into three parts, the anthology considers how the sequels, especially the limited series, have prompted a reevaluation of the original text and successfully harnessed the politics of the contemporary moment into a potent relevancy. The first part considers the various texts through conceptions of adaptation, remediation, and transmedia storytelling. Part two considers the HBO series through its thematic focus on the relationship between American history and African American trauma by analyzing how the show critiques the alt-right, represents intergenerational trauma, illustrates alternative possibilities for Black representation, and complicates our understanding of how the mechanics of the show's production can impact its politics. Finally, the book's last section considers the themes of nostalgia and trauma, both firmly rooted in the original Moore and Gibbons series, and how the sequel texts reflect and refract upon those often-intertwined phenomena.

david bowie life on mars: Rock: The Primary Text Allan Moore, Remy Martin, 2018-09-28 This thoroughly revised third edition of Allan F. Moore's ground-breaking book, now co-authored with Remy Martin, incorporates new material on rock music theory, style change and the hermeneutic method developed in Moore's *Song Means* (2012). An even larger array of musicians is discussed, bringing the book right into the 21st century. Rock's 'primary text' - its sounds - is the focus of attention here. The authors argue for the development of a musicology particular to rock within the context of the background to the genres, the beat and rhythm and blues styles of the early 1960s, 'progressive' rock, punk rock, metal and subsequent styles. They also explore the fundamental issue of rock as a medium for self-expression, and the relationship of this to changing musical styles. *Rock: The Primary Text* remains innovative in its exploration of an aesthetics of rock.

david bowie life on mars: Introduction to Harry Styles Gilad James, PhD, Harry Styles is a English singer, songwriter, and actor, who rose to fame as a member of the boy band One Direction. Born on February 1, 1994, in Redditch, Worcestershire, England, Styles grew up in Holmes Chapel and attended Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School. He started his musical journey in 2010 when he auditioned for the seventh season of the British television show *The X Factor*. Although he was initially eliminated, he was brought back as part of a group which eventually became One Direction. The band's popularity skyrocketed after they signed with Simon Cowell's Syco Records, releasing five albums and amassing a massive fan following worldwide. After the band went on indefinite hiatus in 2016, Styles started his solo career releasing his debut self-titled album in 2017. Styles has been described as a versatile artist who draws inspiration from a wide range of music genres, including classic rock, pop, and folk. His music is often characterized by his soulful vocals, introspective lyrics, and catchy melodies. Styles has also garnered praise for his fashion sense and has become a style icon, frequently appearing in high-end designer clothing and gracing the covers of several fashion magazines. Additionally, he has also delved into acting, making his big-screen debut in Christopher Nolan's 2017 war film *Dunkirk*. Styles continues to be a prominent figure in the music and entertainment industries, and his fans eagerly await his upcoming projects.

david bowie life on mars: *Lucifer's Testimony* Martin Luger, 2018-10-04 Did you ever wish to find meaning and purpose in being human? Have you been looking for a practical and solid understanding of life as a whole? Is there something substantially more accessible to believe in or aim for other than religion? Have you ever wondered whether there is an end goal to ensure that everyone's sacrifice and efforts are not in vain? *Lucifer's Testimony* answers these questions and more, and author Martin Luger will blow your mind and take you on an adventure that is far beyond mainstream human convention. Luger documents his true story to discover his inner nature, revealing that he is himself Lucifer. And with the support of the heroic Nostradamus, he has given explanation to his poetic visions within the perfect instant, which is *tempus temporis*. Nostradamus's prophecies are being revealed, and they speak of a world that you never knew could exist. There will only be one who is the Great Chyren, and he who is known as Lucifer is more than you could ever dare to imagine. Without a hint of a lie, this is indeed Lucifer's testimony—a story that exists to help ensure the preservation of the human race for all eternity.

david bowie life on mars: *The Cinema of Wes Anderson* Whitney Crothers Dilley, 2017-08-08 Wes Anderson is considered one of the most important directors of the post-Baby Boom generation, making films such as *Rushmore* (1998) and *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001) in a style so distinctive that his films are often recognizable from a single frame. Through the travelogue *The Darjeeling Limited* (2007) and the stop-motion animation of *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (2009), his films examine issues of gender, race, and class through dysfunctional family dynamics, with particular focus on masculinity and male bonding. Anderson's auteur status is enriched by his fascination with Truffaut and the French New Wave, as well as his authorship of every one of his screenplays, drawing on influences as diverse as Mark Twain, J. D. Salinger, Roald Dahl, and Stefan Zweig. Works such as *Moonrise Kingdom* (2012) and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014) continue to fascinate with their postmodern, hyper-nostalgic attention to detail. This book explores the filmic and literary influences that have helped make Anderson a major voice in 21st century indie culture, and reveals why Wes Anderson is one of the most inventive filmmakers working in cinema today.

david bowie life on mars: *What is Life? On Earth and Beyond* Andreas Losch, 2017-07-13 Approaches from the sciences, philosophy and theology, including the emerging field of astrobiology, can provide fresh perspectives to the age-old question 'what is life?'. Has the secret of life been unveiled and is it nothing more than physical chemistry? Modern philosophers will ask if we can even define life at all, as we still don't know much about its origins here on Earth. Others regard life as something that cannot simply be reduced to just physics and chemistry, while biologists emphasize the historical component intrinsic to life on Earth. How can theology constructively interpret scientific findings? Can it contribute constructively to scientific discussions? Written for a broad interdisciplinary audience, this probing volume discusses life, intelligence and more against the background of contemporary biology and the wider contexts of astrobiology and cosmology. It also considers the challenging implications for science and theology if extraterrestrial life is discovered in the future.

david bowie life on mars: *Writing and Selling Your Autobiography* ,

david bowie life on mars: *Discover Your Writing Voice* ,

david bowie life on mars: *Lyric Poetry and Space Exploration from Einstein to the Present* Margaret Greaves, 2023-05-23 Poetry and astronomy often travel together in the political sphere, from Milton's meeting with Galileo under house arrest to NASA's practice of launching poems into space. Anchored in the post-war period but drawing on a long history of poetry and science, *Lyric Poetry and Space Exploration from Einstein to the Present* charts the surprising connection between poetry and extra-terrestrial space. In an era defined by the vast scales of globalization, environmental disaster, and space travel, poets bring the small scales of lyric intimacy to bear on cosmic immensity. While outer space might seem the domain of more popular genres, lyric poetry has ancient and enduring associations with cosmic inquiry that have made it central to post-war space culture. As the Cold War played out in space, American institutions and media - from NASA to Star Trek - enlisted poetry to present space exploration as a peaceful mission on behalf of

humankind. Meanwhile, poets from across the globe have turned to the cosmos to contest American imperialism, challenging conventional ideas about lyric poetry in the process. Poets including Elizabeth Bishop, Adrienne Rich, Seamus Heaney, Derek Walcott, Agha Shahid Ali, and Tracy K. Smith invoke the extra-terrestrial to interrogate national histories alongside their craft. Dazzled by the aesthetics of astronomy but wary of its imperial uses, poets employ astronomical figures and methods to imagine how we might care for both ourselves and others on a shared planet.

david bowie life on mars: How to Write Chord Sequences Rikky Rooksby, 2022-12-01

Originally published in 2003, the revised and updated third edition of *The Songwriting Sourcebook* is the third entry in Rikky Rooksby's bestselling *How to Write Songs* series. This easy-to-use book will help you write better songs by explaining the art of writing effective chord sequences. It shows:

- How three and four chords can lay the foundation for a simple song, and how to move on to progressions using five and six chords
- How to give your chord sequences additional color by adding chords that are not strictly in key, including blues chords
- How to write chord sequences for songs in minor keys as well as major keys, and how to take progressions into new territories by changing key
- How to fine-tune the color of your chords by understanding the emotional potential of sevenths, sixths and ninths

All examples come with easy-to-read guitar chord boxes, and the accompanying tracks feature original recordings that illustrate key points made in the book.

david bowie life on mars: Popular Music And Television In Britain Ian Inglis, 2016-04-22

Listening to popular music and watching television have become the two most common activities for postwar generations in Britain. From the experiences of programmes like *Oh Boy!* and *Juke Box Jury*, to the introduction of 24 hour music video channels, the number and variety of television outputs that consistently make use of popular music, and the importance of the small screen as a principal point of contact between audiences and performers are familiar components of contemporary media operation. Yet there have been few attempts to examine the two activities in tandem, to chart their parallel evolution, to explore the associations that unite them, or to consider the increasingly frequent ways in which the production and consumption of TV and music are linked in theory and in practice. This volume provides an invaluable critical analysis of these, and other, topics in newly-written contributions from some of Britain's leading scholars in the disciplines of television and/or popular music studies. Through a concentration on four main areas in which TV organises and presents popular music - history and heritage; performers and performances; comedy and drama; audiences and territories - the book investigates a diverse range of musical genres and styles, factual and fictional programming, historical and geographical demographics, and the constraints of commerce and technology to provide the first systematic account of the place of popular music on British television.

david bowie life on mars: Alma Presses Play Tina Cane, 2021-09-14 A lyrical novel-in-verse that takes us through the journey of coming of age in New York during the 80s. Alma's life is a series of halfways: She's half-Chinese, half-Jewish; her parents spend half the time fighting, and the other half silent; and she's halfway through becoming a woman. But as long as she can listen to her Walkman, hang out with her friends on the stoops of the Village, and ride her bike around the streets of New York, it feels like everything will be all right. Then comes the year when everything changes, and her life is overtaken by constant endings: friends move away, romances bloom and wither, her parents divorce and--just like that--her life as she knew it is over. In this world of confusing beginnings, middles, and endings, is Alma ready to press play on the soundtrack of her life?

david bowie life on mars: American Horror Story and Philosophy Richard Greene, Rachel Robison-Greene, 2017-12-12 In *American Horror Story and Philosophy*, philosophers with varying backgrounds and interests explore different aspects of this popular "erotic thriller" TV show, with its enthusiastic cult following and strong critical approval. The result is a collection of intriguing and provocative thoughts on deeper questions prompted by the creepy side of the human imagination. As an "anthology show," *American Horror Story* has a unique structure in the horror genre because it explores distinct subgenres of horror in each season. As a result, each season raises its own set of philosophical issues. The show's first season, *Murder House*, is a traditional haunted house story.

Philosophical topics expounded here include: the moral issues pertaining to featuring a mass murderer as one of the season's main protagonists; the problem of other minds—when I see an old hag, how can I know that you don't see a sexy maid? And whether it is rationally justified to fear the Piggy Man. Season Two, *Asylum*, takes place inside a mid-twentieth-century mental hospital. Among other classic horror subgenres, this season includes story lines featuring demonic possession and space aliens. Chapters inspired by this season include such topics as: the ethics of investigative reporting and whistleblowing; personal identity and demonic possession; philosophical problems arising from eugenics; and the ethics and efficacy of torture. Season Three, *Coven*, focuses on witchcraft in the contemporary world. Chapters motivated by this season include: sisterhood and feminism as starkly demonstrated in a coven; the metaphysics of traditional voodoo zombies (in contrast to the currently fashionable "infected" zombies); the uses of violent revenge; and the metaphysics of reanimation. Season Four, *Freak Show*, takes place in a circus. Philosophical writers look at life under the Big Top as an example of "life imitating art"; several puzzles about personal identity and identity politics (crystallized in the two-headed girl, the bearded lady, and the lobster boy); the ethical question of honor and virtue among thieves; as well as several topics in social and political philosophy. Season Five, *Hotel*, is, among other disturbing material, about vampires. Chapters inspired by this season include: the ethics of creating vampire progeny; LGBT-related philosophical issues; and existentialism as it applies to serial killers. Season Six, *Roanoke*, often considered the most creative of the seasons so far, partly because of its employment of the style of documentaries with dramatic re-enactments, and its mimicry of *The Blair Witch Project* and *Paranormal Activity*. Among the philosophical themes explored here are what happens to moral obligations under the Blood Moon; the proper role of truth in storytelling; and the defensibility of cultural imperialism.

david bowie life on mars: Text & Presentation, 2007 Stratos E. Constantinidis, 2009-08-11
 Text & Presentation is an annual publication devoted to all aspects of theatre scholarship. It represents a selection of the best research presented at the international, interdisciplinary Comparative Drama Conference. This anthology includes papers from the 31st annual conference held in Los Angeles, California. Topics covered include Chicano theatre, the Vietnam War and 9/11 in the French theatre, actresses and modern Hamlet, Asian theatre, Antigone in pre- and post-communist Germany, adapting an Internet comic strip for the stage, and the future of dramatic literature in the academy, among others.

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