

our tune with simon bates

Our tune with Simon Bates: A Nostalgic Journey Through a Classic Radio Show

When reminiscing about the golden age of radio, one name that consistently rings a bell is Simon Bates. Known for his distinctive voice and engaging presentation style, Simon Bates became a household name across the UK. Among his many contributions to broadcasting, *Our Tune with Simon Bates* stands out as a beloved segment that captured the hearts of millions. This article explores the history, significance, and lasting legacy of *Our Tune*, offering a comprehensive look at its place in radio history.

The Origins of *Our Tune with Simon Bates*

The Birth of the Segment

Our Tune with Simon Bates first aired in 1976 on BBC Radio 1, quickly becoming a fixture of the station's programming. The segment was designed to be a heartfelt tribute, allowing listeners to share personal stories and dedicate songs that held special significance in their lives. Simon Bates's warm voice and empathetic approach made these emotional stories resonate deeply with audiences.

The Concept Behind *Our Tune*

The core idea was simple yet powerful: listeners would send in personal anecdotes about a song that marked a pivotal moment in their lives—be it love, loss, celebration, or remembrance. In return, Simon Bates would play the song and read the story on air, creating a sense of community and shared experience.

The Evolution of the Segment

Over the years, *Our Tune* evolved from a modest radio feature into a cultural phenomenon. It adapted to changing media landscapes, transitioning from radio to televised segments and even inspiring compilations and books. Despite technological shifts, the emotional core of the segment remained intact, maintaining its popularity into the 21st century.

Significance and Impact of *Our Tune*

Connecting People Through Music

Our Tune became more than just a radio feature; it was a social phenomenon that united people through music and storytelling. The segment provided a platform for ordinary individuals to share extraordinary stories, fostering empathy and understanding.

Emotional Resonance

The stories shared on *Our Tune* often reflected universal themes—love, heartbreak, nostalgia, hope—which contributed to its enduring appeal. Listeners found comfort and companionship in these shared experiences, making the segment a source of solace for many.

Influence on Radio Programming

Our Tune set a precedent for emotionally driven content in radio broadcasting. Its success demonstrated the power of personal storytelling combined with music, influencing subsequent radio shows and media formats that prioritize listener engagement.

The Format of *Our Tune*

How Stories Were Shared

Listeners could submit their stories through various channels:

- Letters: Traditional postal submissions
- Phone-ins: Live stories during certain broadcasts
- Email and Online Forms: Later adaptations for digital audiences

The Dedication Process

Once a story was selected, Simon Bates would:

1. Read the personal story aloud.
2. Play the song associated with the story.
3. Sometimes include additional commentary or reflections.

Typical Structure of an *Our Tune* Segment

1. Introduction by Simon Bates
2. The listener's story read aloud
3. The song performance
4. Closing remarks and well-wishes

Memorable *Our Tune* Stories

Iconic Stories That Touched Thousands

Many stories from *Our Tune* have become legendary, often shared decades later. Some notable examples include:

- A couple's reunion after years apart, symbolized by a particular song
- A tribute to a loved one lost, with a song that encapsulated their relationship
- Celebrations of milestones like marriages or births linked to special tunes

The Power of Personal Narratives

These stories exemplify how music serves as a vessel for memory and emotion. They often evoke a collective sense of nostalgia and connection among listeners.

The Legacy of Simon Bates and *Our Tune*

Simon Bates's Contribution to Broadcasting

Simon Bates's empathetic hosting style and genuine interest in listeners' stories made *Our Tune* a standout segment. His ability to connect emotionally with audiences elevated the platform from mere entertainment to a shared cultural experience.

The Segment's Enduring Popularity

Even after Bates's departure from BBC Radio, *Our Tune* continues to be remembered fondly. Many radio stations and podcasts have paid homage by reviving similar formats, underscoring its lasting influence.

Cultural Impact

Our Tune has been referenced in various media, including documentaries, books, and television programs, highlighting its significance in British pop culture.

How *Our Tune* Influenced Later Media and Personal Storytelling

Inspiration for Modern Podcasts and Radio Shows

Many contemporary programs draw inspiration from *Our Tune*'s format—combining music with personal storytelling to foster community and emotional connection.

The Rise of User-Generated Content

The segment exemplified early user-generated content, encouraging audience participation and personalization—principles that underpin much of today's digital media.

Legacy in Personal Memory Preservation

Our Tune set a precedent for how personal stories and music can preserve memories, influencing areas such as social media storytelling and community broadcasts.

Preserving the Memory of *Our Tune*

Reunions and Reboots

In recent years, there have been efforts to revive *Our Tune* or create similar segments, often through online platforms, allowing a new generation to experience its emotional power.

Archival Collections

Radio enthusiasts and historians have preserved recordings of *Our Tune* episodes, providing valuable cultural archives for future generations.

Personal Collections

Many individuals cherish personal recordings or transcripts of *Our Tune*, viewing them as treasured memories of their lives and loved ones.

Conclusion: The Enduring Spirit of *Our Tune with Simon Bates*

Our Tune with Simon Bates remains a shining example of how music and storytelling can create profound emotional connections. It exemplifies the power of radio to bring people together, share universal human experiences, and preserve memories that transcend time. As media continues to evolve, the legacy of *Our Tune* endures, reminding us of the enduring human desire to connect through music and stories.

Whether as a nostalgic memory or a blueprint for modern storytelling, *Our Tune with Simon Bates* holds a special place in the hearts of many. Its influence persists, inspiring new generations to share their stories and find solace in the melodies that define their lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Our Tune with Simon Bates' about?

'Our Tune with Simon Bates' is a radio segment where Simon Bates shares memorable love stories submitted by listeners, often accompanied by a popular song that relates to the story.

When did 'Our Tune with Simon Bates' originally air?

'Our Tune with Simon Bates' first aired in the late 1970s on BBC Radio 1 and became a beloved feature throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Why did 'Our Tune with Simon Bates' become so popular?

The segment resonated with listeners because it highlighted heartfelt real-life love stories, often evoking nostalgia and emotional connections, along with popular music of the time.

Are 'Our Tune with Simon Bates' stories still being shared today?

While the original broadcasts are no longer ongoing, fans and nostalgic listeners continue to share and discuss classic 'Our Tune' stories on social media and fan forums.

Can I listen to 'Our Tune with Simon Bates' episodes online?

Yes, many past episodes and stories are available on online platforms, radio archives, and YouTube channels dedicated to classic radio shows.

How has 'Our Tune with Simon Bates' influenced modern love story segments on radio and podcasts?

'Our Tune' set a precedent for heartfelt storytelling in radio, inspiring many modern programs and podcasts to adopt similar formats that celebrate personal love stories and emotional music moments.

Additional Resources

Our Tune with Simon Bates: An In-Depth Review of a Nostalgic Radio Classic

In the landscape of classic radio programming, few shows have left as enduring a legacy as Our Tune with Simon Bates. As a nostalgic staple for generations of listeners, the program encapsulates a unique blend of music, storytelling, and personal reflection that resonates across decades. In this article, we delve into the history, format, cultural significance, and modern reception of Our Tune with Simon Bates, offering an expert review that captures its enduring appeal and relevance.

Origins and Historical Context of Our Tune with Simon Bates

The Birth of a Radio Institution

Our Tune was first broadcast in 1976 on BBC Radio 2, a station renowned for its adult contemporary programming and a loyal listener base seeking comfort and familiarity. Simon Bates, a charismatic and experienced radio presenter, was the perfect host to bring this heartfelt segment to life. His warm voice and empathetic storytelling style created an intimate atmosphere that listeners cherished.

The show's initial concept was straightforward yet powerful: to share personal stories submitted by listeners, paired with a song that held special significance to them. This format allowed for a deeply personal connection, transforming the radio into a platform for shared human experiences.

Evolution Over the Years

Over its decades-long run, Our Tune evolved but maintained its core premise. It adapted to changing times by incorporating new musical styles and embracing technological advancements, such as digital broadcasting and online archives. Despite the shifts in media consumption, the program's essence — fostering emotional connections through music and storytelling — remained unchanged.

An interesting aspect of its evolution was the increasing diversity of stories and musical choices, reflecting broader societal changes. From classic ballads to contemporary hits, Our Tune became a mirror of the cultural landscape, making it relevant for multiple generations.

The Format and Structure of Our Tune with Simon Bates

Core Components of the Show

The typical Our Tune episode comprises several key elements that work harmoniously to create an emotionally resonant experience:

- Listener Submissions: The backbone of the show, these are heartfelt stories from individuals sharing a pivotal moment, a cherished memory, or a poignant life event.
- Music Pairings: Each story is paired with a carefully selected song that encapsulates or complements the narrative.
- Narrative Presentation: Simon Bates's soothing narration guides listeners through each story, adding depth and empathy.
- Reflection and Closure: The segment often concludes with a reflection or a final thought, leaving listeners with a sense of closure.

This structure ensures a seamless flow that maintains listener engagement and emotional investment.

Popular Themes and Story Types

Over the years, Our Tune has covered a myriad of themes, including:

- Romantic Memories: First loves, enduring relationships, or lost loves.
- Family Bonds: Recollections of childhood, family reunions, or significant milestones.
- Life Challenges: Overcoming adversity, loss, or personal growth.
- Humorous Anecdotes: Lighthearted stories that bring smiles and laughter.
- Significant Life Events: Weddings, anniversaries, and other celebrations.

The universality of these themes ensures broad appeal, allowing listeners to see reflections of their own lives in the stories shared.

The Cultural Significance and Impact of Our Tune

Creating a Shared Emotional Space

Our Tune has played a pivotal role in shaping the emotional landscape of its audience. By giving voice to personal stories, the show fosters a sense of community and shared experience. Many listeners report feeling comforted, validated, and less alone when hearing stories that mirror their own lives.

Furthermore, the show's format encourages empathy and understanding across diverse backgrounds, promoting social cohesion through shared human experiences.

Influence on Popular Culture and Media

The program's influence extends beyond radio, inspiring similar formats in podcasts, television segments, and online content. Its legacy is evident in the continued popularity of storytelling-driven media that emphasizes authenticity and emotional connection.

Notably, Our Tune has been credited with popularizing the idea that music and personal stories can serve as powerful tools for healing and reflection. Its approach has been adopted by various mental health and wellness initiatives, emphasizing the therapeutic potential of storytelling.

Notable Moments and Memorable Stories

Throughout its history, Our Tune has featured many stories that became iconic in the hearts of listeners. Examples include:

- A war veteran recalling a song that reminded him of loved ones lost in conflict.
- A couple sharing their first dance and the song that marked their wedding anniversary.

- An individual overcoming grief, finding solace in a particular melody.

These stories often become part of the collective memory of the show's audience, cementing its place in cultural history.

The Role of Simon Bates as a Presenter

Charisma and Empathy

Simon Bates's role as the host is central to the show's success. His warm, reassuring tone and genuine empathy create an inviting atmosphere that encourages listeners to open up. Bates's skill in balancing sensitivity with professionalism allows stories to be shared authentically, fostering trust and intimacy.

Storytelling and Presentation Style

Bates's narrative approach is understated yet impactful. He skillfully guides the listener through each story, enhancing emotional depth without overshadowing the storyteller. His timing and tone amplify the sentiments expressed, making each segment memorable.

His ability to connect with a broad audience stems from his relatable persona and an innate understanding of human emotion, which remains a hallmark of Our Tune.

Legacy and Influence

Simon Bates's association with Our Tune has cemented his reputation as a master storyteller and empathetic presenter. His work on the show has influenced countless radio and media professionals, emphasizing the importance of authenticity and emotional intelligence in broadcasting.

Modern Reception and Relevance

Digital Age Adaptations

Despite the rise of digital media, Our Tune continues to resonate with audiences, thanks to

its archival availability and online streaming options. Many nostalgic fans revisit classic episodes, while new listeners discover the show through podcasts and social media.

Some broadcasters have revived the format, integrating listener stories into modern programming, demonstrating its enduring appeal.

Listener Engagement and Community Building

The show's community aspect persists through online forums and social media groups where fans share their own stories and memories. This ongoing engagement underscores the show's relevance in fostering emotional connections in the digital era.

Criticisms and Challenges

While beloved, Our Tune has faced critiques related to its sentimental tone or the potential for stories to be staged or exaggerated. However, its authenticity and the genuine emotion conveyed by both storytellers and Bates generally mitigate these concerns.

Conclusion: Why Our Tune with Simon Bates Remains a Cultural Treasure

Our Tune with Simon Bates stands as a testament to the timeless power of storytelling combined with music. Its enduring appeal lies in its ability to evoke genuine emotion, create shared human experiences, and provide comfort through familiarity. Simon Bates's empathetic hosting and the show's heartfelt format have cemented its place in broadcasting history.

As media continues to evolve, Our Tune exemplifies how traditional formats rooted in authenticity and emotional connection can remain relevant and cherished. For anyone seeking a glimpse into the profound impact of personal stories paired with music, Our Tune with Simon Bates remains a heartfelt, nostalgic journey worth exploring.

In summary, this program is more than just a radio segment; it's a cultural phenomenon that celebrates the universality of human emotion through the simple yet powerful medium of storytelling and song. Whether you're a longtime fan or a newcomer, the show's legacy offers a rich tapestry of memories, emotions, and shared humanity that continues to resonate across generations.

[Our Tune With Simon Bates](#)

our tune with simon bates: Making Sense Martin Stanton, 2019-11-30 A literary masterpiece from world-renowned psychoanalyst and distinguished writer, Professor Martin Stanton that picks up the baton from R. D. Laing. Spanning a novel, travel-guide, documentary, self-help book, play, photo album, film script, and work of art, Making Sense is a cultural phenomenon - a long overdue wake-up call - railing at society's idealisation and narcissism. Martin Stanton has created a guide for a postmodern world that is constructed through social media, and communicates principally through tweets, texts and selfies. Like Homer's Odyssey, this is an epoch-changing classic that takes a timely quantum leap from a cognitive world of straight-line argument and causal interpretation, into a parallel unconscious universe of uncontrolled feeling, which traps fragments of fantasy in the retreating tides of reality. Making Sense collects together a group of major and minor characters, some real, some imaginary, who set out to make sense of life together by opening the social media gate between Reality and Fantasy. A survey of Martin Stanton's own thinking and feeling on his original psychoanalytic odyssey across becalmed seas, random conversations with a therapeutic parrot, stranded for a while with Socrates on the black sandy beach of Paradise, he explores how a bezoar stone, a caddis insect, and a karaoke moment can linger through his life, and make sense for him as a primary source; as unconscious effects which sustain, enlighten, and entertain him through darker times. This book scrawls a message of hope in the sand once the outgoing tide has retreated. 'Enjoy life', it says. 'Celebrate it in yourself and in others.'

our tune with simon bates: The Discourse of Public Participation Media Joanna Thornborrow, 2014-11-20 The Discourse of Public Participation Media takes a fresh look at what 'ordinary' people are doing on air - what they say, and how and where they get to say it. Using techniques of discourse analysis to explore the construction of participant identities in a range of different public participation genres, Joanna Thornborrow argues that the role of the 'ordinary' person in these media environments is frequently anything but. Tracing the development of discourses of public participation media, the book focusses particularly on the 1990s onwards when broadcasting was expanding rapidly: the rise of the TV talk show, increasing formats for public participation in broadcast debate and discussion, and the explosion of reality TV in the first decade of the 21st century. During this period, traditional broadcasting has also had to move with the times and incorporate mobile and web-based communication technologies as new platforms for public access and participation - text and email as well as the telephone - and an audience that moves out of the studio and into the online spaces of chat rooms, comment forums and the 'twitterverse'. This original study examines the shifting discourses of public engagement and participation resulting from these new forms of communication, making it an ideal companion for students of communication, media and cultural studies, media discourse, broadcast talk and social interaction.

our tune with simon bates: Understanding the Media Andrew Hart, 2006-05-23 A guide for teachers to teaching the media. Hart focuses on television, the press, radio and pop music. Addressing familiar problems which teachers encounter, the book provides examples of practical classroom activities.

our tune with simon bates: My Lify Paddy McGuinness, 2021-10-28 Get the kettle on, the biscuits out and settle in for a belting read. Let Paddy McGuinness take you back, far, far away from celebrity land, to a two-up, two-down terrace in 1970s Bolton, where he grew up. They were happy times, but money was tight. Paddy slept on a mattress he dragged in from the street, and at 17 he struggled severely with the stress of juggling a college course and two jobs to support his beloved mum. But while cash may have been short, grit and wit were in over-supply, and this is the improbable true story of the lad who went from kipping in abandoned cars in Bolton to racing supercars on Top Gear, via laying concrete floors in prisons, a lively career in a leisure centre, a showbiz intervention by school pal Peter Kay and eye-popping adventures in the world of teledom. There has been mischief and misadventure, joy and sorry, huge success and unexpected challenges.

It's a life well lived, and an unforgettable personal memoir written from the heart.

our tune with simon bates: *Hello Again* Simon Elmes, 2012-11-15 It's now ninety years since the BBC made its first broadcast and the British love affair with radio began. This book is a journey through that fascinating history and a celebration of the many wonderful voices that were part of it: Marion Cran, who pioneered the first gardening programme in the 1920s; The Goons and Kenneth Horne, comedy greats of the 1950s; John Peel, Alan Freeman, Kenny Everett and other heroes of the pirate stations; all the way up to Eddie Mair, Fi Glover and Danny Baker, the much-loved voices of today. A delightful blend of insight, history and nostalgia, *Hello Again* will appeal to any radio aficionado.

our tune with simon bates: *A Story to Tell; A Secret to Keep* Fiona Rich, 2023-07-21 FAMILY SECRETS ARE NEVER A GOOD THING - OR ARE THEY? *A Story to Tell: A Secret to Keep* is the compelling debut novel by Fiona Rich. This domestic noir is full of emotional depth, that slowly builds suspense leaving the reader hungry to delve deeper into the complex and challenging lives of Tim, Libby and Josh and learn more about the secrets that the family hold. It is a story full of intrigue and plot twists that will keep you guessing until the end. Each of the main characters have faced something traumatic in their lives, they all have their own dark secret that impacts on them psychologically; a secret that could damage the relationships of those closest to them. But will the choices that each of them make to resolve their personal crisis and overcome their psychological traumas release them from their inner turmoil, or lock them in an endless conflict of guilt and deception?

our tune with simon bates: *Us Three* Ruth Jones, 2020-09-03 ***THE INSTANT SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER*** Get ready to fall in love with the funny, feel-good novel and instant Sunday Times bestseller from the author of *Richard and Judy Book Club* pick *Love Untold* and co-creator of *Gavin & Stacey*. 'A touching celebration of the beauty and endurance of female friendship.' DAWN FRENCH 'Heart-warming, entertaining and, at times, deeply moving story' The Observer 'Best book of the year so far. To sum it up I'd say it was bloody lush' 5-star reader review ***** Friends forever is a difficult promise to keep... Meet Lana, Judith and Catrin. Best friends since primary school when they swore an oath on a Curly Wurly wrapper that they would always be there for each other, come what may. After the trip of a lifetime, the three girls are closer than ever. But an unexpected turn of events shakes the foundation of their friendship to its core, leaving their future in doubt - there's simply too much to forgive, let alone forget. An innocent childhood promise they once made now seems impossible to keep . . . Packed with all the heart and empathy that made Ruth's name as a screenwriter and now author, *Us Three* is a funny, moving and uplifting novel about life's complications, the power of friendship and how it defines us all. Prepare to meet characters you'll feel you've known all your life - prepare to meet *Us Three*. Praise for *Us Three*: 'A warm, smart, uplifting tale of true friendship.' BETH O'LEARY, bestselling author of *The Flatshare* 'This novel oozes warmth and honesty. A big-hearted book that provides a cast of characters you'll lose your heart to.' ADELE PARKS, bestselling author of *Just Between Us* 'I loved this brilliantly gripping depiction of the complexities of female friendship over the years. Love, betrayal, comedy and loss - *Us Three* has it all.' FIONA NEILL, bestselling author of *The Haven* Readers love *Us Three*: 'I love the way Ruth Jones writes. The relationship between the 3 friends is perfect and a wonderful book to read about friendship' 'I absolutely loved this so much. There were moments that made me cry and other moments that made me laugh.' 'The most enjoyable book I've read in ages. I laughed and cried, and at one point sobbed, my way through the book' *** RUTH'S NEW NOVEL BY YOUR SIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER***

our tune with simon bates: *Pandamonium!* Simon Williams, 2022-09-01 'Hilarious, heart-wrenching and packed with British music history.' - COLDPLAY A Virgin Radio Book of the Year It's a life-and-near-death story. But whose life? And whose near-death? As a one-time NME journalist, former Xfm radio presenter, toilet-circuit promoter and the founder of enduring homespun British record label Fierce Panda, Simon Williams has been at the cutting, cutting, cutting edge of all things 'indie' for over thirty years. During his tenure as managing director of Fierce

Panda (a role he holds to this day), Simon was responsible for tripping over bands such as Coldplay, Keane, Placebo and countless other acts of independent hue - some of whom have gone on to achieve earth-shattering musical superstardom, while others have merely baffled the crowd at the Bull & Gate in north London on a wet Wednesday evening. Unfiltered and unflinching, *Pandamonium!* is the story of Simon's time at the indie coalface, filled with insider anecdotes to entertain music enthusiasts everywhere - from the origins of a bootlegged Oasis release to Chris Martin's delight at reaching number ninety-two in the charts. But it is also the story of how Simon tried to bring a premature end to proceedings, documenting in blunt, matter-of-fact detail his longstanding mental-health struggles. Yet, despite his raw and often poignant honesty, Simon writes with the warmth, wit, self-deprecation and wide-eyed good fortune of someone who has stared into the abyss and survived, bounding down a few indie rabbit holes along the way.

our tune with simon bates: *Radio in Context* Guy Starkey, 2013-10-09 Now firmly established as one of the leading textbooks in the increasingly popular field of radio studies, *Radio in Context* provides students with a practical, critical and comprehensive understanding of the main principles and techniques used in radio programming. Organized around the most commonly studied radio genres and setting production within a range of different contexts - professional, institutional and historical - the text offers an ideal blend of theory and practical guidance. Readers of this fully updated new edition will continue to benefit from this core text, as it reflects important technological, regulatory and institutional changes since its initial publication in 2004 and expands on key areas such as digital radio, broadcasting over the internet, and the interplay between radio and social media. Supported by a full glossary, tips on getting into radio and exercises to develop practical and critical skills, *Radio in Context* is the ideal companion for anyone studying radio, the media, communications and/or journalism, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as short courses in radio or audio production techniques. Now firmly established as one of the leading textbooks in the increasingly popular field of radio studies, *Radio in Context* provides students with a practical, critical and comprehensive understanding of the main principles and techniques used in radio programming. Organized around the most commonly studied radio genres and setting production within a range of different contexts - professional, institutional and historical - the text offers an ideal blend of theory and practical guidance. Readers of this fully updated new edition will continue to benefit from this core text, as it reflects important technological, regulatory and institutional changes since its initial publication in 2004 and expands on key areas such as digital radio, broadcasting over the internet, and the interplay between radio and social media. Supported by a full glossary, tips on getting into radio and exercises to develop practical and critical skills, *Radio in Context* is the ideal companion for anyone studying radio, the media, communications and/or journalism, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as short courses in radio or audio production techniques.

our tune with simon bates: *Delusions of Grandeur* T Rogalla, 2005-05-05 Talmadge's brave and extraordinarily honest account of life with schizophrenia was written to reveal the inner workings of Schizophrenia. Talmadge Rogalla was born in September 1968 in Edmonton, London. Talmadge was a successful businessman running his own business prior to his descent into illness. His interests vary from science, technology, computers, holistic health, walking, swimming to writing poetry.

our tune with simon bates: *Nirvana* Marc Burrows, 2025-02-10 Nirvana's meteoric rise and tragic end, details their impact on music with a day-by-day account. After Nirvana, everything changed. Kurt Cobain and his band ushered in a new era in music, bringing the authenticity of US underground punk to mainstream rock audiences. Award-winning biographer and music critic Marc Burrows dives into the world of Nirvana, providing an exhaustive day-by-day account of the lifespan of the band, from their early days touring the dive bars of the Pacific North-West through the release of 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' and Nevermind, the dark masterpiece of In Utero and Kurt Cobain's tragic death in 1994. The timeline is augmented by hyper-detailed footnotes, diving deep into the songs and albums, the impact and the fascinating unexplored corners of one of the most exciting and

impactful bands that have ever been.

our tune with simon bates: *The Pools* Bethan Roberts, 2010-09-03 Middle England, mid-1980s. The kind of place where nothing ever happens. Except something has happened. A fifteen year old boy called Robert has been killed, down by the pools. And half a dozen lives will come unravelled. There's Kathryn and Howard, Rob's parents. Kath has been making the best of her second marriage after the love of her life died young. Howard has been clinging onto a family life he hardly expected to have. There's Joanna, the teen queen of nowheresville. She's been looking for a way out, escape from her parents' broken marriage. She thought Rob might take her away from all this, but lately she's started to think Rob might have other plans. And then there's Shane, with the big hands and the fixation on Joanna. Bethan Roberts' strikingly assured debut novel subtly reveals the tensions and terrors that underpin apparently ordinary lives, and can lead them to spiral suddenly out of control.

our tune with simon bates: *An Idiot Abroad* Karl Pilkington, 2010-09-23 Presenting the Travel Diaries of Karl Pilkington: Adventurer. Philosopher. Idiot. Karl Pilkington isn't keen on travelling. Given the choice, he'll go on holiday to Devon or Wales or, at a push, eat English food on a package holiday in Majorca. Which isn't exactly Michael Palin, is it? So what happened when he was convinced by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant to go on an epic adventure to see the Seven Wonders of the World? Travel broadens the mind, right? You'd think so... Find out in Karl Pilkington's hilarious travel diaries. 'He is a moron. A completely round, empty-headed, part-chimp Manc.' RICKY GERVAIS 'He'd have been happier in medieval times in a village where you didn't travel beyond the local community.' STEPHEN MERCHANT

our tune with simon bates: *Cider With Roadies* Stuart Maconie, 2014-09-30 Cider with Roadies is the true story of a boy's obsessive relationship with pop. A life lived through music from Stuart's audience with the Beatles (aged 3); his confessions as a pubescent prog rocker; a youthful gymnastic dalliance with northern soul; the radical effects of punk on his politics, homework and trouser dimensions; playing in crap bands and failing to impress girls; writing for the NME by accident; living the sex, drugs (chiefly lager in a plastic glass) and rock and roll lifestyle; discovering the tawdry truth behind the glamour and knowing when to ditch it all for what really matters. From Stuart's four minutes in a leisure centre with MC Hammer to four days in a small van with Napalm Death it's a life-affirming journey through the land where ordinary life and pop come together to make music.

our tune with simon bates: *Wired for Sound* Tom Bromley, 2012-06-07 The eighties was a golden era for British pop: Radio One served as the soundtrack of the nation; the chart run-down on Sunday evenings was compulsory listening - ditto watching Top of the Pops and reading Smash Hits. It also saw the launch of the Now That's What I Call Music series. In the States, the arrival of MTV helped usher in what became known as the 'Second British Invasion', echoing the success of the Beatles twenty years earlier. *Wired For Sound* tells the remarkable story of the great eighties British bands (and Kajagoogoo) and how their music captured the nation's imagination: the more radical beginnings in the early eighties (the new romanticisms of Duran and Spandau, the 'protest pop' of early Wham!); the full pomp of their mid-eighties success (the worldwide tours, the glamorous video shoots, the ubiquitous 'Choose Life' and 'Relax' T-shirts); and their fall from the top of pop's pedestal (the splitting up of Wham!, Boy George's drug problems). *Wired for Sound* will describe the subsequent descent to Band Aid II (Bros, Wet Wet Wet, Stock, Aitken and Waterman), which bookended the low point of the pop music that followed. *Wired For Sound* will be the affectionate celebration of both a musical youth and the era when young guns went for it. This is a book for anyone who grew up reading Smash Hits, soundtracked their teenage years on C90 cassettes and remembers a time when it really mattered who was number one.

our tune with simon bates: *Teenage Revolution* Alan Davies, 2010-09-09 When Alan Davies was growing up he seemed to drive his family mad. 'What are we going to do with you?' they would ask - as if he might know the answer. Perhaps it was because he came of age in the 1980s. That decade of big hair, greed, camp music, mass unemployment, social unrest and truly shameful

trousers was confusing for teenagers. There was a lot to believe in - so much to stand for, or stand against - and Alan decided to join anything with the word 'anti' in it. He was looking for heroes to guide him (relatively) unscathed into adulthood. From his chronic kleptomania to the moving search for his mother's grave years after she died; from his obsession with joining (going so far as to become a member of Chickens Lib) to his first forays into making people laugh (not always intentionally); Teenage Revolution is a touching and funny return to the formative years that make us all.

our tune with simon bates: All in the Best Possible Taste Tom Bromley, 2010-08-19 Television past, as LP Hartley might have once said, is another country. And, in the early 1980s it certainly was a different beast. There were still only three channels to watch; the evening's programmes finished with the playing of the national anthem; and the biggest prize on TV was not Chris Tarrant's million pounds but a speedboat on Bullseye . . . But as Tom Bromley suggests in this funny and warming memoir, all that was about to change: The 1980s saw the end of the original golden era of television, and the beginnings of TV as we know it today. In 1982, Channel 4 became the first new terrestrial channel for almost twenty years and by the end of the decade, Rupert Murdoch's Sky Television was vying to become Britain's first multi-channel provider. The result of all this was that slowly but surely, British viewers had more choice than ever before and the cost of this choice was the erosion of television as a shared national event. And no-one felt this change more deeply than Tom Bromley. Television played a large part in Tom's childhood. His first word was 'two', as in BBC Two, and his earliest childhood memory is seeing Johnny Ball at a church fete. With great humour and affection, Tom Bromley tells the story of a childhood spent with his three siblings and that other all-important family member; the television set.

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