

## Living (La Vida) Lyrically

Andrew Hall

OLLI Summer 2026

5 weeks (May 26 – June 23)

MAB 2

Tuesdays, 10:45am – 12:15pm

Contact: [Hallowayjoe@gmail.com](mailto:Hallowayjoe@gmail.com)

In this class we look mainly at the poetry of the lyrics rather than focusing on the musical aspects although they are interconnected. When available we may watch lyric videos and look at lyrics on the web.

The syllabus is descriptive rather than prescriptive. We can always change it up depending on class consensus. Since time is limited, we may not be able to cover all requests.

While we will engage in our nostalgia

We will also reflect on meaning, change, philosophy, joys and pangs, thinking about the earworms and ditties that got stuck in our brains and the poetry that remains.

We will survey pop music lyrics including Rock, rap, blues and country and more.

We look at the lyrics, listen to the songs, discuss them....

We got the funk, country rock metal and punk

Progressive rock, reggae, ska, polka world beat New Wave and Glam and glam metal,

Hip hop, alternative rock, back to Pop, retro, roots of rock: blues rhythm and blues county

Rock of the '50s and 60s, classical, showtunes, Soul music Motown, The folk pop revival, classical, easy listening, new age, bluegrass, house, disco, EDM, etc.

### Proposed itinerary:

#### **May 26**

The Fab 50s and Prefab:

Tin Pan Alley,

Brill Building, Vaudeville

Teenage rebellion

Jazz and folk revival

Key songs -1950s and before:

Strange Fruit

As Time Goes By

This Land Is Your Land

Please Send Me Someone To Love

School Daze

## **June 2**

The Fab 60s

Social rebellion, Motown, folk rock, British invasion

Some key songs:

The Times They Are a Changing-(snippet of early version /Whitehouse version)

Eleanor Rigby

In My Life

Sympathy For The Devil

A Change is a Gonna Come

America

Say It Loud

## **June 9**

Springsteen, Bowie, Joni, disco, glam, punk, metal, pop, folk,funk

The Fab 70s

American Pie

Imagine

Taxi

The World is a Ghetto

Bohemian Rhapsody

Your Move (all good people)

Born to Run

Big Yellow Taxi

Staying Alive

Stairway to Heaven

## **June 16**

The Fab 80s

New Year's Day

REM (It's the end of the world as we know it and I feel fine)

Touch of Grey

Hallelujah

The Message

Road to Nowhere

Redemption Song

## **June 23**

The Current Era

The Fab 90s

American Music

Smells Like Teen Spirit

Under The Bridge

Paranoid Android

Keiko and Lavender Moon

Taylor Swift lyric (TBD)

Wake Up

Empire State Of Mind