

Michael T. Thieme

love, politics, religion



1

| 6 songs about love | 3 songs about politics | 3 songs about religion |
| Acknowledgements | Notes |

Songs

| love | 1 | Music Man 2 | Molly and Leopold 3 | What You Just Said 4 | Long Gloves and Leather 5 | Lev and Kitty 6 | Daisy Daisy
| politics | 7 | I'm Not Proud 8 | Replacement Theory 9 | The Truth
| religion | 10 | I'm Here 11 | White Knuckle Ride 12 | Even Now

| love |

1 | Music Man

You know I married pretty
early for a
Music man
Music man
Music man
Music sham
What I am

And I admit I traffic in
perverse
Humility
Playing down ability
Courting anonymity

Don't worry
It's okay
You and me
We're ordinary

Do what you can
My music man

You know I wake up pretty
early for a
Music man
Music man
Solid man
Dependable
A working hand

And every day I make my
money
Working for the man
For the man
Promises
Mortgages
A pension plan

Don't worry
It's okay
You and me

We're nothing
special

Do what you can
My music man
I'll take your hand
My music man

You know I never played the
field
like a
Music man
Music man
A music man

But that was easy
All I had to do was
Look at you
Look at you
I always knew
Always knew
It's only you

Only you
You and me
One true thing
We both believe in

Do what you can
My music man
I'll take your hand
My music man

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2 | Molly and Leopold

Take me back to Gibraltar
Won't you take me at four
O'clock this afternoon
Leave my soul at the altar
Will you, fuck if I knew my life
Would end so soon

*Molly we're still young
We talk past each other
with
Salted tongues our*

*Spirits broke but our
days aren't done
Our days aren't done*

La di dah
La di dah
Our days aren't done

Keep your secrets and I'll
Keep mine
Yes both of us know exactly
Who we are
Save me Jesus if I see
Signs yes residue left
beneath an Evening star

*Molly I know you
The inside the outside
the
False and true our
Spirits broke but what
can we do
What can we do*

La di dah
La di dah

Make your breakfast we'll see
Then won't we

*Make
Our breakfast and
Open the door*
Maybe you'll make enough to
Keep me here,

*Open the door
to me and you*
But don't expect us to play
our past

It's me and you
Selves, ain't it enough to see
you

*Ain't it enough
Have me near
Yes it's enough*

*Molly you know me
I'm not everything that
you
Dreamed I'd be my*

*Spirit broke but I'm
yours you'll see
I'm yours you'll see*

La di dah
La di dah

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3 | What You Just Said

The way you move your
hands
The crumbs on your sweater
The point just beyond a turn
A path
we missed

You try to connect everything
To everything else
And I've been happy ordinary
But I feel this conversation
changing me

I want to try
To remember
What you just said
Forever
I'm gonna to try
To remember

The words behind your eyes
The language they're
speaking
I can feel it start to change
Into
Our own

We both had to wake up
In a meadow of snow
Before we knew the
Taste of winter
Or that we like the taste of
winter

I feel this conversation
changing me

I want to try
To remember
What you just said
Forever
I'm gonna to try
To remember
What you just said
Forever

And I've made mistakes
before
I know
It's true
But I shouldn't connect
everything
To everything else
Not everything is ordinary
And I feel this conversation
changing me

I'm want to try
To remember
What you just said
Forever

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4 | Long Gloves and Leather

I look at my love
Wearing midnight leather and
long gloves
She asks what I'm scared of
I'm scared mistress of you

She smiles as she leaves me
Obedient I'm down on my
knees
I wait for release
Submissive and subdued

But it's all I can do
To keep my heart from racing
Our game tells a truth
That I've avoided facing
That you and me
Were meant to be

Together forever
As secret as your long gloves
and leather
Blindfold and tether
Giving you control

Tied to the bed base
It's easy to get stuck in my
headspace
But your discipline leaves a
sweet trace
Embodying my soul

And it's all I can do
To keep my heart from racing
Our game tells a truth
I've long avoided facing
That you and me
Were meant to be
Together
Secret as your long gloves
and leather

Oh oh oh yes it's all I can do
To keep my heart from racing
Our game tells a truth
I can't deny embracing
That you and me
Were meant to be
You and me were meant to be

Together forever
Secret as your long gloves
and leather
You know It keeps getting
better
Giving up control

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5 | Lev and Kitty

I can clearly read your face
Infatuation
And though I know it's not my
place
I'm urging caution

He's not anything you're
looking for
Or hoping for
If your answer weren't so
clear
I'd warn you away
He's only in it to play
And here's what I'd want to
say

For me the everything
That's interesting
Is up inside your head
For him the only thing
That's interesting
Is down between your...

So I'll just be on my way
And no more stalling
I don't fit in here anyway
My home is calling

I'm not anything you're
looking for
Or hoping for
It's not possible it
Couldn't be true
I'm never sure what to do

But I can't stop thinking of
you

For me the everything
That's interesting
Is up inside your head
But I can go back home
To be alone
And live with what you've
said

I can fall into work
I can make it zen
Dada dah dada dah dada
datah

Now I hear he broke your
heart
Your sister told me
And though my pride may go
too far
You want to see me

This time what your face is
telling me
So differently
All that's hidden in your heart
We both understand
I take the pen* from your
hand
The letters you comprehend

For me the everything
That's interesting
Is up inside your head
And you can recognize
What's in my eyes
Compares to what I've said

For me the everything
That's interesting
Is up inside your head
And even little things
Are breathtaking
Because I know we'll wed

Da da da dadaht dah da
Dadaht dah

*actually chalk

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6 | Daisy Daisy

There's a flower within my
heart
Daisy, Daisy
Planted one day by a
glancing dart,
A volunteer called Daisy Bell
I don't know if she could love
me
Sometimes it's hard to tell

I'm always looking for a
signal
From the beautiful Daisy Bell

Daisy, Daisy,
Give me your answer, do
I'm half crazy
Crazy in love with you
I don't want a fancy wedding
To register for gifts we're
getting
That we don't need
I hope you see
I don't need a chauffeured
limo
But if there's one thing I know
it's
You'll look sweet
Upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two

We'll go riding when the time
is right,
Daisy, Daisy
Pedaling on down the road of
life
Me and Daisy Bell
When that road is dark and
restless
Or where we're going we
can't tell
I'll trust the bright lights in the
dazzling eyes of beautiful
Daisy Bell

Daisy, Daisy,
Give me your answer, do
I'm half crazy,
All for the love of you
I don't want a fancy wedding
To register for gifts we're
getting
That we don't need
I hope you see
I don't need a chauffeured
limo
But if there's one thing I know
it's
You'll look sweet
Upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two

I'll ride with you in bliss and
woe
Daisy, Daisy
We'll pedal fast, or take it
slow
Beautiful Daisy Bell
You can take the lead my
Daisy
And if I can't follow well
You can squeeze the brakes
then, baby
My beautiful Daisy Bell

Daisy, Daisy,
Give me your answer, do

I'm half crazy
 Crazy in love with you
 I don't want a fancy wedding
 To register for gifts we're
 getting
 That we don't need
 I hope you see
 I don't need a chauffeured
 limo
 But if there's one thing I know
 it's
 You'll look sweet
 Upon the seat
 Of a bicycle built for two

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| politics |

7 | I'm Not Proud

The angel on your shoulder's
 looking
 Weak and weary
 It won't be long before they
 fall asleep
 And the devil's always
 working on a plan
 Your soul to keep

But it's ever been a battle for
 your
 Soul I see now
 A fight between the sacred
 and the truth
 And the sacred always gives
 you leave
 To set your monsters loose

You really set your monsters
 loose

But you know I love you
 And I'll be there for you
 But I'm not proud of you
 When you act this way

And I'm not above you
 I'm still one of you
 But I'm not proud of you
 When you act this way

The angel's immigrating to
 your
 Broken cities
 And working out your messes
 Face to face
 While the devil goes online
 and claims
 Your open country space

And I know you've been
 through darker days
 You've been divided
 The big lies and the stories
 planted seeds
 And the stories grow to give
 your monsters
 All they'll ever need

You give the monsters what
 they need

But you know I love you
 And I'll be there for you
 But I'm not proud of you
 When you act this way

And I'm not above you
 I'm still one of you
 But I'm not proud of you
 When you act this way

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8 | Replacement Theory

August '17
 Little doubt
 It's all about
 The coward
 Sick at heart
 On the march
 In his car

Was his daddy mean
 Did he shout
 Hollow out
 The boy and
 Leave a hole
 Take control
 Break his soul
 And fill the empty with

Replacement theory
 Replacement theory
 Replacement theory
 Replacement theory

Apples falling close
 He will blame
 All his shame on mommy's
 Freedom dance
 Girls in pants
 Camus's France

Haunted by the ghosts
 Fearing change
 Feeling pain
 He's taken in with lies
 Injured cries
 No surprise
 He sets the broken with

Replacement theory
 Replacement theory

Replacement theory
 Replacement theory

Maybe just replace
 Broken ways
 Appropriate
 Take zero-sum away
 Flip the game
 Ease his pain
 Everyone can change

Maybe truth replaces lies
 Maybe trust replaces tribes
 Maybe grace replaces
 blame
 Maybe pride replaces
 shame
 Replacement theory
 Maybe hope replaces fear
 Maybe better days are
 near

Maybe love replaces hate
 Maybe now is not too late
 Replacement theory
 Maybe truth replaces lies
 Maybe trust replaces tribes
 Maybe grace replaces
 blame
 Maybe pride replaces
 shame

Replacement theory
 Maybe hope replaces fear
 Maybe better days are near
 Replacement theory
 Maybe love replaces hate
 Maybe now is not too late

Replacement theory
 Maybe truth replaces lies
 Maybe trust replaces tribes
 Replacement theory
 Maybe grace replaces
 blame

Maybe pride replaces
 shame
 Replacement theory
 Maybe hope replaces fear
 Maybe better days are

near
 Replacement theory
 Maybe love replaces hate
 Maybe now is not too late

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9 | The Truth

Lies
 Lies

Tell the truth or you'll get
 caught
 It's the first thing we're all
 taught
 Tell the truth and you'll go far
 You'll go far

But yell it loud enough
 Repeat it long enough
 And any trash he spews
 Is good and true
 The stable genius
 Can take a third of us
 He pulls it off like
 Con-men always do
 With

Big lies
 Small lies
 If it's all built on lies
 Would he have us
 Eat lies
 Drink lies
 Then we don't have to think

Some lies fit so perfectly
 In this twisted world you see
 Some lies comfort and
 explain
 All your pain

A lie designed to scare
 That anyone can share
 Will hit a billion ears
 And amplify
 And letting fear decide
 Is letting fear divide
 His crooked strategy
 Fully relies on

Big lies
 Small lies
 If it's all built on lies,
 Will he make us
 Eat lies
 Drink lies
 Till we don't have to think

Someone tell me
 If it's built on lies
 If it's all built on
 lies
 Can we all survive
 Can we all
 survive

Is hypocrisy defined
 When morality is blind
 Can the truth ever survive
 In these tribes

And any idiot
 Could ask who benefits
 You'd think we'd want to
 know
 The simple cui bono
 But nothing satisfies
 Like someone to despise
 So if it gets us there
 We're entertained by

Big lies
 Small lies
 If it's all built on lies,

Would he have us
 Eat lies
 Drink lies
 Then we don't have to think
 Big big lies
 Small lies
 If it's all built on lies,
 Will he make us
 Eat lies
 Drink lies
 Till we don't have to think
 If it's all built on lies,
 Will he make us
 Eat lies
 Drink lies
 Till we don't have to think
 If it's all built on lies,
 Lies
 Lies
 Lies
 Lies

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| religion |

10 | I'm Here

I know
 There's nowhere else I'd
 Rather be
 Than sleeping late
 To meet the day

With you
 Your hands are warm and
 Wake my skin
 But don't disturb
 The dream I'm in
 The dream I'm in

Reason circling back
 On me

How do we feel
 If nothing is real
 Peace is shallow
 Respite is brief
 What do we do
 If nothing is true but the
 Suffering that comes
 From our need
 If this the light then
 Better the night for me
 Where I lay with you
 And I make this promise

I'm here
 There's nowhere else I'd
 Rather be

Than in this home and
 In this moment

With you
 Your eyes are warm
 And make me whole
 Like meditation
 For my soul
 For my soul

Reason circling back
 On me

How do we feel
 If nothing is real
 Peace is shallow
 Respite is brief
 What do we do
 If nothing is true but the
 Suffering that comes
 From our need
 If this the light then
 Better the night for me
 Where I lay with you
 And I make this promise

What do we do
 If nothing is true
 It all seems a little strange
 But I'm here
 I'm here

I'm here
 With you
 Your hands are warm and
 Wake my skin
 But don't disturb
 The dream I'm in
 The dream I'm in

Teachings circle back
 On me

How do we feel
 If nothing is real
 Peace is shallow
 Respite is brief
 What do we do
 If nothing is true but the
 Suffering that comes
 From our need
 If this the light then
 Better the night for me
 Where I lay with you
 And I make this promise

I'm here

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11 | White Knuckle Ride

Let's get it on the table
 I don't think it's too much
 To ask you, man-to-god

Or whatever ghost you are

Till death brings us together
 As life blew us apart
 I'll have these questions
 lodged
 Like a bullet near my heart

Bid the holy curtains part
 And let the conversation start

Are you real
 Are you strong
 Are you busy
 Do you see what's going on
 And if you're there
 If you're strong
 Are you evil
 Or are you just hanging on?
 Hanging on

I don't need your intervention
 Some blessing or redemption
 Or solace from despair
 When there's really no one
 there

You might be our invention
 Our agency detection
 Hoping someone cares
 Just in case will you hear my
 prayer

Draw the curtains if you dare
 I can take the truth, I swear

Are you real
 Are you strong
 Are you sleeping
 Can't you see what's going
 on
 If you're there
 If you're strong
 Are you evil
 Or are you just hanging on?
 Hanging on to the white-
 knuckle ride
 Of the world you set in
 motion

Till death brings us together
 As life blows us apart
 I'll have these questions
 lodged
 Like a bullet near my heart

Patriarch of the abattoir
 Have I gone a bit too far

Are you there
 Are you strong
 Are you crazy
 Can't you see what's going
 on
 If you're real
 If you're strong
 Are you evil
 Or are you just hanging on?

Are you there
 Are you strong
 Are you **CRAZY**
 Can't you see what's going
 on
 And if you're real
 If you're strong
 Are you evil
 Or are you just hanging
 Hanging
 Hanging on?

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12 | Even Now

The night is long
 When you're sleepless
 Waiting for the sunrise

The road is hard
 For a weary traveler
 Far from home

The day drags on
 When you're watching
 Empty minutes passing

The pain is strong
 If you don't know when
 Relief will come

And searching the horizon
 from
 The bottom of a hole
 Makes it hard to know that

Even now
 When the sun is rising
 On the road we're taking

Even now
 There's a deeper meaning
 And the fever's breaking

The well is dry
 In the desert
 Hit with drought and famine

The water's high
 In the flooded streets
 After the storm

And searching the horizon
 from
 The bottom of a hole
 Makes it hard to know that

Even now
 When the drought is ending
 And the flood's receding

Even now
 There's a deeper meaning
 And the fever's breaking

The night is long
When you're sleepless
Waiting for the sunrise

The road is hard
For a weary traveler
Far from home

The day drags on
When you're watching
Empty minutes passing

The pain is strong
If you don't know when
Relief will come

And searching the horizon
from
The bottom of a hole
Makes it hard to know that

Even now
When the winter's ending
And our souls are mending

Even now
When the sun is rising
On this road we're taking

Even now
When the drought is ending
And the flood's receding

Even now
There's a deeper meaning
And the fever's breaking

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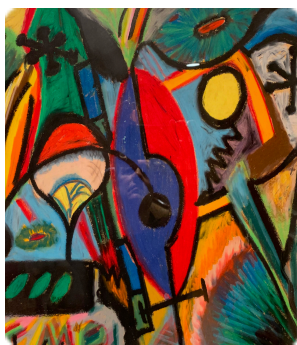
∞ Savannah Thieme and Emmanuelle Thieme bring life to Music Man, Molly and Leopold, and The Truth. Their siren voices are miraculous to me.

∞ Scott Burgess's great guitar work shaped Daisy Daisy and Replacement Theory, and his musical

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Notes

love, politics, religion

is not an album likely to inspire civil conversation at most peoples' family thanksgivings in the usa.

Music Man is the first of the six love songs. It's two people singing about the threads that hold them together - music, work, and love. I've never thought I was doing enough, but my true companion kept me going in this unexpected, wonderful life.

Emmanuelle Thieme - Vocals

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Piano, Keyboard, Synth Programming

Molly and Leopold is a song about what I always hoped was the hidden love story in James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

Savannah Thieme - Vocals
Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Piano, Keyboard, Synth Programming

What You Just Said is about a conversation early in our relationship. We're in a coffee shop on a cold day. I notice crumbs on your sweater, sure there are any number of things about me that might give you pause. I'm super-focusing. Then the thread of the conversation gets lost for awhile. We recover when you connect ideas I've never heard anyone else connect. I'm surprised that the attraction between us is more of a choice — not like the gravity we might have felt when we were less experienced. Some conversations have the power to change us - even as they're happening. We resonate together and the loud coffee shop seems to get quiet. I decide - quickly, certainly - to remember what we talk about. The feeling of it, and maybe a single, unique thing you said in the conversation. It's something I've never done. We move easily through red flags that with someone else would stall the connection. We start creating a new, private sort of language, code words.

I feel this conversation changing me.

There's something romantic about remembering what you just said, exactly the way you said it. It marks in memory the beginning of a string of days built around wanting to know you.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Piano, Guitar, Keyboard, Synth Programming

Long Gloves and Leather, love song 4, is about playing, giving up control, and lowering levels of toxic masculinity.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Guitar, Keyboard, Horn Arr., Synth Programming

Lev and Kitty retells my favorite story line in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Synth Programming

Daisy Daisy is remembering my girl, singing the old song we all know to our baby daughters and realizing how the message is deep and sweet and still so relatable. It's the heart of this new song.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Piano, Synth Programming
Scott Burgess - Acoustic Guitar, Electric (Steel) Guitar, Bass

I'm Not Proud is the 1st of the 3 songs about politics. You can love someone - like your father or mother, husband or wife while not always being proud of them. Even when love is unconditional, pride can be more challenging. You can feel ashamed of someone you love without losing the love for that person. Love and pride are mixed in a complicated stew. But pride disconnected from the truth is hollow. When the truth is gone, only stubborn loyalty keeps pride from wholly slipping away. Pride for one's country is the same. We can love our country and rightly struggle to feel pride for the actions we and our leaders take.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Guitar, Piano, Horn Arr., Synth Programming

Replacement Theory - August 2017 is when the "Unite the Right" march in Charlottesville, VA, happened, where white supremacists chanted "You will not replace us!" I wanted to zoom in - talk about a single person in the mob - the one who deliberately drove a car into a crowd, killing Heather Heyer. What hole is his hate filling? Replacement Theory is a political ploy codified by French extremist, Renaud Camus, that stokes fear in the dominant culture/race, saying it will be

"replaced" and virtually eliminated by external populations immigrating and mixing with it. It's disconnected from the idea of America. It also feeds a twisted rationale for female subjugation for the purposes of increasing the white birth rate. The end of the song suggests replacements of a more hopeful kind.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Guitar, Piano, Keyboard, Synth Programming

Scott Burgess - Electric Guitar

The Truth was inspired by most of the days between 1/20/2017 and 1/19/2021. The days since that period have shown both rays of hope and dark, foreboding clouds.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Synth Programming

Savannah Thieme - Vocals

I'm Here is the 1st of 3 songs about religion. It asks what it means to be in the moment. It struggles with the reasoning Buddhism offers, where the world is not real, is a vast concordance of causes and conditions created by the activities of a delusional mind. The mind is the *source* of creation but it can't seem to get it right. There's a flaw that means both existence and suffering are foundational — one can't exist without the other. Buddhism asks you to seek relief from this flaw by pursuing enlightenment. The first step to enlightenment is, again, believing nothing exists. This may bring some level of fleeting peace to our suffering but it requires a mental leap - like suspending disbelief to enjoy a crazy story. For me, peace can as well come from an experienced and observed presence in the moment when we tell someone we care about "I'm here."

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Piano, Guitar, Piano, Horn Arr., Synth Programming

White Knuckle Ride is asking for straight answers, not for something tangible — like healing a sick child, or relief from worry or suffering or pain. Let's get it all out on the table and talk. I have big questions for an all-powerful god - most of us do. Like could god actually be barely hanging on to a runaway train of their own making? Maybe god isn't "letting" evil happen. Maybe god isn't all-powerful, but just trying to hold on so hard their knuckles are white. A god barely hanging on to a runaway train seems more comforting to me than an awesome and absolute power who creates every minute detail - beautiful or horrific - in this world.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Trumpet, Piano, Guitar, Horn Arr., Synth Programming

Even Now is, despite my questions about Buddhism in **I'm Here**, my favorite Buddhism-inspired thoughts to help get through recent dark times.

Michael T. Thieme - Vocals, Piano, Synth Programming

[love](#), [politics](#), [religion](#)

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