

# Bringing In The New Year of 2018



Happy New Year 2018

Happy New year of 2018 everyone! We all survived the horrors of 2017, with a promise that 2018 will be a better year for everyone. So, to ring in the new year properly we need a bit of holiday music.

For the new year of 2018, I think this lovely piece of music speaks for hopes of better times ahead.

Believe it or not, this song was released way back in 1976. From the ever-wonderful Wikipedia:

Year of the Cat is the seventh studio album by Al Stewart, released in 1976 and was produced and engineered by Alan Parsons; it is considered his masterpiece [...] While Stewart is known for his guitar virtuosity, the song is recognized for producing amazing interplay of multiple guitars, piano, saxophone, violin, and drums

So here it is, for your start of the new year enjoyment.

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# About Those Heroes



## Music Inside

I have to confess that one of my favorite female singers is the native Welsh wonder [Bonnie Tyler](#). I also enjoy great animation movies (called cartoons for a younger generation, but I remain a kid at heart) and among my top computer-generated animations are the “[Shrek](#)” movies. So when these are put together, I’m hooked.

All the “Shrek” movies are good, some better than others. My favorite in the series is [Shrek 2](#), largely because the movie features the song “[Holding Out for A Hero](#)” (recorded by [Jennifer Saunders](#)) which happens to be one of my favorite Bonnie Tyler pieces. The clip of this song and the companion animation should be considered a music video all by itself.

So tonight, because it’s a cold April Saturday evening and Winnie is out working, I present the wonderful Shrek 2 movie clip of Bonnie Tyler’s song “Holding Out for A Hero” as only CGI animation can produce.

Enjoy!

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# The Presidents Song



## President's Day

Today is a federal holiday celebrating Presidents Day. Here in Washington we're celebrating with another snow shower, which seems to be such a waste of a day off, given that even the hint of snow is enough to shut down the entire Washington metropolitan region. All this following Valentine's Day, so at least we should still be on good terms with our significant other.

For today's special holiday I thought to share a small American history lesson with my many readers. The last time I had any reason to read up on American history was helping Winnie study for her citizenship interview several years back. So, through the ever-wonderful YouTube I present a video clip of "The President's Song," singing all our president's names up to the current occupant of the White House President Barack Obama. I even like the music.

This does make me wonder how the song's authors will add in our next president, whomever that might be...

So happy President's day everyone! Hoping you'all had a nice Valentine's celebration yesterday, and a good day today.

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# A Song For This Winter



## Music Inside

So far this winter has been unusually strange. We went from temperatures so abnormally warm my grass began to grow in late December, to a freezing spell and snowstorm with record-setting accumulations. Then back to warm weather a couple of days after the snowstorm. It's only January and I'm officially over this winter's weather.

Given the level of suckitude (yes, it's a word) of this winter, I've decided there is only one song that appropriately classifies it. I present to my many loyal readers [Frank Zappa](#) and the "Mothers of Invention" band's classic song "Don't Eat the Yellow Snow."

This is the full music suite, because you really need to hear the entire piece to appreciate the pure insane level of genius that went into it. So grab a coffee from Alfonso's Diner, mark the spots of yellow snow in your backyard, and enjoy! Soon enough, this winter will pass.

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# Happy New Year 2016!



New Years!

For my first post of the new year of 2016, I want to wish all my many readers, family and friends a new year of prosperity, good health, and good fortune.

And for those old-timers who need a bit of cheering up this morning, there's a music video on the flip.

I found this on Facebook a few days ago and traced it back to the YouTube source. If you were born well before the 1970's you might recognize the TV shows used in this wonderful music mashup.

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# Happy Thanksgiving 2015!



Happy Thanksgiving

Just a quick post to wish all my family, friends, and many readers a Happy Thanksgiving celebration. May you'all have the chance to enjoy a wonderful meal with family and friends. As part of your celebrations, you might also take a few moments to reflect upon the many blessings of the past year, and to give thanks.

Winnie and I will be having dinner with friends today, and for the second year in a row I will not be cooking the Thanksgiving turkey and hosting the dinner. But that's not what I want to give thanks for, even though it's less work for Winnie and I. I'm thankful that we have local friends who invited us to join them. As these are all Chinese families, I'm also curious to see how they celebrate. They have assured me they eat turkey, unlike Winnie who still doesn't believe that eating turkey on Thanksgiving was part of her American citizenship pledge.

Really.

It's been several years since I've posted things I'm thankful for on Thanksgiving, so here is my long-due list for 2015.

- I'm thankful that Winnie and I are still together. For all our adventures and misadventures since we've first met, we've managed to build a life together and still have a strong marriage.
- I'm thankful that I still have good health. Although

many of my present aches and pains are a result of treating myself as an immortal being when I was younger, I've managed to avoid anything that could have permanently crippled me. Or worse.

- I'm thankful for my family and my friends. Although most are scattered around the country and even across continents, we're still able to keep in contact and be there for each other when needed.
- I'm thankful that I have a good job that pays enough for us to live comfortably and save for my ever-closer retirement. This past year was rocky, with a short period of unemployment, but partly thanks to friends I landed on my feet yet again.
- I'm thankful that Winnie has a good job, working for good people who value her and treat her decent.
- Finally, I'm thankful that for all the chaos in America today, in the great scheme of world events people in this country are far better off than many, many, other people around the world today. If I had a prayer for this Thanksgiving, I would pray that people in this country not forget who we are.

So here we are on another thanksgiving day celebration, a holiday that is unique to America. As a bonus for those who've managed to read all the way down this post, I give you what is considered a seminal moment in television history, with one of the most memorable lines of all time. I present to you the famous "WKRP in Cincinnati" episode of "the turkey drop."

Happy Thanksgiving!

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# Witches Of Halloween Past



Halloween Witch

So today is Halloween, a day for tricks and treaters and candy and costumes. Little kids get to dress in cute little outfits going door-to-door asking for free sugar. Adults lucky enough to get invited to a Halloween party dress up in naughty outfits befitting their age and get free food and booze. All in all, a great day to have a little fun.

Halloween is one of my still-favorite holidays even though I haven't been to a costume party in too many years to think about. But I enjoy seeing little kids coming around for trick and treating and I always have candy to give out. Good stuff like chocolate candy bars, with the ulterior motive being that if we have left-over candy at the end of the night, we can enjoy it ourselves.

There's a lot of great Halloween movies around, as well as even more not-so-great Halloween movies. One of the more enjoyable movies of the past was the Bette Midler movie "Hocus Pocus," released in 1988. It was pure fun and I suspect Bette Midler enjoyed making it as much as people had watching.

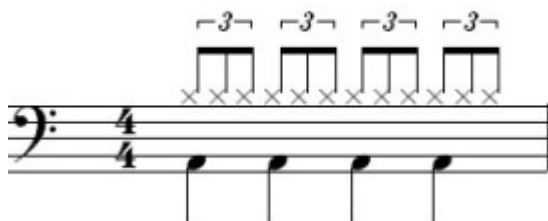
Thanks to the ever wonderful YouTube, I offer a little trick and treating eye-candy of Bette Midler performing the classic "I Cast A Spell On You," in the midst of a pretty wild adult costume party, from "Hocus Pocus."



Happy Halloween everyone!

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## The Competitive Foursome



### Four Beat Music Example

OK, so I've been out of town (again) this week and just catching up on things at home. It's a cold Friday morning here in our nations' capitol. The yard is covered with leaves, meaning at some point I'm going to need to do serious yard work. I think it's it's time for a little morning pick-me-up.

So without further ado, here is a cute YouTube video of four really hot (female) musicians playing around with their music. And having a really good time doing it!

This is a German quartet called "[Salut Salon](#)" and they seem to have [quite a following](#) in Europe. Yeah, I wish I could play any one of these instruments as well as these ladies...

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# For a Dark and Stormy Night



## Music Inside

It's been raining, storming, and even snowing here ever since late Friday night, and I'm way over the bad weather. So for a little pick-me-up, here is a fun little YouTube video.

In case my many readers are wondering; this took place in [Sabadell](#), a town on the south-eastern side of Spain. I think that having the lead Cellist wait for someone to put a tip in his hat before stating the performance is a really nice touch.

At least, this video got me smiling and almost forgetting the miserable weather. 😊

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## Now Where is Matt?



## Music Inside

I've been following a man named Matt Harding, aka "Matt," for about six years now on YouTube. Matt has got to be one of the luckiest people alive. You see, Matt has managed to make a living out of traveling around the world to dance with people on someone else's dime.

I first stumbled across the YouTube videos "Where the Hell is Matt" about six years ago, just as Matt released his second video in 2008. The two videos featured clips of Matt in various locations around the world dancing a crazy little jig. In many of his clips he had people from his location dancing with him. It was impossible for me to watch without smiling, and without feeling serious jealousy that this guy was able to do something so cool. In reading up on Matt, I learned that although he paid for all his travel for the first video produced in 2006, his second video was sponsored by a chewing gum company. No strings other than putting their name in his credits.

This morning I found Matt's third dancing around the world video titled "Where the Hell is Matt 2012?" His dances and the overall production is much more elaborate than his previous videos, but still very, very, cool. I present it here to give my loyal viewers something to smile about on this cold winter's day.

I continue to be very jealous of Matt, and hope he continues to make these wonderful videos.