

## I Contain Multitudes

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Today and tomorrow and yesterday too  
The flowers are dying like all things do  
Follow me close, I'm going to Bally-na-Lee  
I'll lose my mind if you don't come with me  
I fuss with my hair and I fight blood feuds  
I contain multitudes

Got a tell-tale heart like Mr. Poe  
Got skeletons in the walls of people you know  
I'll drink to the truth and the things we said  
I'll drink to the man that shares your bed  
I paint landscapes and I paint nudes  
I contain multitudes

Red Cadillac and a black moustache  
Rings on my fingers that sparkle and flash  
Tell me what's next, what shall we do?  
Half my soul, baby, belongs to you  
I rollick and I frolic with all the young dudes  
I contain multitudes

I'm just like Anne Frank, like Indiana Jones  
And them British bad boys, the Rolling Stones  
I go right to the edge, I go right to the end  
I go right where all things lost are made good again

I sing the songs of experience like William Blake  
I have no apologies to make  
Everything's flowing all at the same time  
I live on a boulevard of crime  
I drive fast cars and I eat fast foods  
I contain multitudes

Pink pedal pushers, red blue jeans  
All the pretty maids and all the old queens  
All the old queens from all my past lives  
I carry four pistols and two large knives  
I'm a man of contradictions, I'm a man of many moods  
I contain multitudes

You greedy old wolf, I'll show you my heart  
But not all of it, only the hateful part  
I'll sell you down the river and put a price on your head  
What more can I tell ya? I sleep with life and death in the same bed

Get lost, madam, get up off my knee  
Keep your mouth away from me  
I'll keep the path open, the path in my mind  
I'll see to it that there's no love left behind  
I play Beethoven's sonatas, Chopin's preludes  
I contain multitudes

## False Prophet

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Another day that don't end, another ship goin' out  
Another day of anger, bitterness, and doubt  
I know how it happened; I saw it begin  
I opened my heart to the world and the world came in

Hello Mary Lou, hello Miss Pearl  
My fleet-footed guides from the underworld  
No stars in the sky shine brighter than you  
You girls mean business and I do too

Well I'm the enemy of treason, a enemy of strife  
I'm the enemy of the un-lived meaningless life  
I ain't no false prophet, I just know what I know  
I go where only the lonely can go

I'm first among equals, second to none  
The last of the best, you can bury the rest  
Bury 'em naked with their silver and gold

Put 'em six feet under and pray for their souls

What are you lookin' at, there's nothing to see?  
Just a cool breeze that's encircling me  
Let's go for a walk in the garden, so far and so wide  
We can sit in the shade by the fountain-side

I search the world over for the Holy Grail  
I sing songs of love, I sing songs of betrayal  
Don't care what I drink, I don't care what I eat  
I climbed a mountain of swords on my bare feet

You don't know me darlin', you never would guess  
I'm nothing like my ghostly appearance would suggest  
I ain't no false prophet, I just said what I said  
I'm just here to bring vengeance on somebody's head

Put out your hand, there's nothing to hold  
Open your mouth, I'll stuff it with gold  
Oh, you poor devil look up if you will  
The city of God is there on the hill

Hello stranger, hello and goodbye  
You rule the land but so do I  
You lusty old mule, you got a poisoned brain  
I'll marry you to a ball and chain

You know darlin', the kind of life that I live  
When your smile meets my smile, something's got to give  
I ain't no false prophet, no I'm nobody's bride  
Can't remember when I was born and I forgot when I died

## My Own Version of You

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All through the summers into January  
I've been visiting morgues and monasteries  
Lookin' for the necessary body parts  
Limbs and livers and brains and hearts  
I'll bring someone to life is what I wanna do  
I wanna create my own version of you

Well it must be the winter of my discontent  
I wish you'd have taken me with you wherever you went  
They talk all night, and they talk all day  
Not for a minute do I believe anything they say  
I'm going to make some other life, someone I've never seen  
You know what I mean, you know exactly what I mean

I'll take the Scarface Pacino and the Godfather Brando  
Mix it up in a tank and get a robot commando  
If I do it up right and put the head on straight  
I'll be saved by the creature that I create

I'll get blood from a cactus, gunpowder from ice  
I don't gamble with cards, and I don't shoot no dice  
If you look at my face with your sightless eye  
Can you cross your heart and hope to die?  
I'll bring someone to life, someone for real  
Someone who feels the way that I feel

I study Sanskrit and Arabic to improve my mind  
I want to do things for the benefit of all mankind  
I say to the willow tree, don't weep for me  
I'm saying to hell to all things that used to be

Well I get into trouble, then I hit the wall  
No place to turn, no place at all  
I pick a number between one and two  
And I ask myself what would Julius Caesar do?  
I will bring someone to life, in more ways than one  
Don't matter how long it takes, it'll be done when it's done

I'm gonna make you play the piano like Leon Russell  
Like Liberace, like St. John the Apostle  
I'll play every number that I can play  
I'll see you maybe on Judgment Day

After midnight, if you still want to meet  
I'll be at the Black Horse tavern on Armageddon Street  
Two doors down, not that far to walk  
I'll hear your footsteps, you won't have to knock  
I'll bring someone to life, balance the scales  
I'm not gonna get involved in any insignificant details

You can bring it to St Peter, you can bring it to Jerome  
You can bring it all the way over, bring it all the way home  
Bring it to the corner, where the children play  
You can bring it to me on a silver tray  
I'll bring someone to life, spare no expense  
Do it with decency and common sense

Can you tell me what it means; to be or not to be?  
You won't get away with foolin' me  
Can you help me walk that moonlight mile?  
Can you give me the blessings of your smile?  
I'll bring someone to life, use all of my powers  
Do it in the dark, in the wee, small hours

I can see the history of the whole human race  
It's all right there, it's carved into your face  
Should I break it all down, should I fall on my knees  
Is there light at the end of the tunnel, can you tell me please?

Stand over there by the cypress tree  
Where the Trojan women and children are sold into slavery  
Long before the first crusade  
Way back 'fore England or America were made

Step right into the burning hell  
Where some of the best-known enemies of mankind dwell  
Mr. Freud with his dreams, Mr. Marx with his axe  
See the rawhide lash rip the skin from their backs

Got the right spirit, you can feel it you can hear it  
You got what they call the immortal spirit  
You can feel it all night, you can feel it in the morn'  
It creeps in your body the day you are born

One strike of lightning is all that I need  
And a blast of 'lectricity that runs at top speed  
Shimmy your ribs, I'll stick in the knife  
Gonna jump-start my creation to life  
I wanna bring someone to life, turn back the years  
Do it with laughter and do it with tears

#### I've Made Up My Mind to Give Myself to You

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I'm sitting on my terrace, lost in the stars  
Listening to the sounds of the sad guitars  
Been thinking it all over, and I thought it all through  
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

I saw the first fall of snow  
I saw the flowers come and go  
I don't think that anyone ever else ever knew  
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

I'm giving myself to you, I am  
From Salt Lake City to Birmingham  
From East LA to San Antone  
I don't think I could bear to live my life alone

My eye is like a shooting star  
It looks at nothing here or there, looks at nothing near or far  
No one ever told me, it's just something I knew  
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

If I had the wings of a snow-white dove  
I'd preach the gospel, the gospel of love  
A love so real, a love so true  
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

Take me out travelling, your travelling man

Show me something that I'll understand  
I'm not what I was, things aren't what they were  
I'm going far away from home with her

I travelled the long road of despair  
I've met no other traveller there  
Lotta people gone, a lotta people I knew  
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

Well my heart's like a river, a river that sings  
Just takes me a while to realize things  
I'll see you at sunrise, I'll see you at dawn  
I'll lay down beside you when everyone's gone

I travelled from the mountains to the sea  
I hope that the gods go easy with me  
I knew you'd say yes, I'm saying it too  
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

#### Black Rider

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Black rider, black rider, you been living too hard  
Been up all night, have to stay on your guard  
The path that you're on, too narrow to walk  
Every step of the way, another stumbling block  
The road that you're on, the same road that you know  
Just not the same as it was a minute ago

Black rider, black rider, you've seen it all  
You've seen the great world, and you've seen the small  
You fell into the fire, and you're eating the flame  
Better seal up your lips if you want to stay in the game  
Be reasonable mister, be honest, be fair  
Let all of your earthly thoughts be of prayer

Black rider, black rider, all dressed in black  
I'm walking away, you try to make me look back  
My heart is at rest, I'd like to keep it that way  
I don't want to fight, at least not today  
Go home to your wife, stop visiting mine  
One of these days, I'll forget to be kind

Black rider, black rider, tell me when, tell me how  
If there ever was a time, then let it be now  
Let me go through, open the door  
My soul is distressed, my mind is at war  
Don't hug me, don't flatter me, don't turn on the charm  
I take a sword, and hack off your arm

Black rider, black rider, hold it right there  
The size of your cock won't get you nowhere  
I suffer in silence, I'll not make a sound  
Maybe I'll take the high moral ground  
Some enchanted evening, I'll sing you a song  
Black rider, black rider, you've been on the job too long

#### Goodbye Jimmy Reed

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I live on a street named after a saint  
Women in the churches wear powder and paint  
Where the Jews and the Catholics and the Muslims all pray  
I can tell a party from a mile away  
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, Jimmy Reed indeed  
Give me that old-time religion, it's just what I need

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the Glory  
Go tell it on the mountain, go tell the real story  
Tell it in that straightforward puritanical tone  
In the mystic hours, when a person's alone  
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, God speed  
Thump on the bible, proclaim a creed

You won't amount to much, the people all said  
'Cos I didn't play guitar behind my head

Never pandered, never acted proud  
Never took off my shoes, threw 'em into the crowd  
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and good night  
Put a jewel in your crown and I'll put out the light

They threw everything at me, everything in the book  
I had nothing to fight with but a butcher's hook  
They had no pity, they never lent a hand  
I can't sing a song that I don't understand  
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and good luck  
I can't play the record 'cos my needle got stuck

Transparent woman in a transparent dress  
Suits you well I must confess  
I break open your grapes, I suck out the juice  
I need you like my head needs a noose  
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and so long  
I thought I could resist her, but I was so wrong

God be with you, brother dear  
If you don't mind me asking, what brings you here?  
Ah nothing much, I'm just looking for the man  
Came to see where he's lying in this lost land  
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, and everything within you  
Can't you hear me calling from down in Virginia

#### Mother of Muses

---

Mother of muses sing for me  
Sing of the mountains and the deep dark sea  
Sing of the lakes and the nymphs of the forest  
Sing your hearts out, all ye women of the chorus  
Sing of honour and faith, and glory be  
Mother of muses, sing for me

Mother of muses, sing for my heart  
Sing of a love, too soon to depart  
Sing of the heroes, who stood alone  
Whose names are engraved on tablets of stone  
Who struggled with pain so the world could go free  
Mother of muses, sing for me

Sing of Sherman, Montgomery and Scott  
And of Zhukov, and Patton, and the battles they fought  
Who cleared the path for Presley to sing  
Who carved the path for Martin Luther King  
Who did what they did and they went on their way  
Man, I could tell their stories all day

I'm falling in love with Calliope  
She don't belong to anyone, why not give her to me?  
She's speaking to me, speaking with her eyes  
I've grown so tired of chasing lies  
Mother of muses, wherever you are  
I've already outlived my life by far

Mother of muses, unleash your wrath  
Things I can't see, they're blocking my path  
Show me your wisdom, tell me my fate  
Put me upright, make me walk straight  
Forge my identity from the inside out  
You know what I'm talking about

Take me to the river, release your charms  
Let me lay down once in your sweet lovin' arms  
Wake me, shake me, free me from sin  
Make me invisible like the wind  
Got a mind to ramble, got a mind to roam  
I'm travelling light, and I'm a-slow coming home

#### Crossing the Rubicon

---

I crossed the Rubicon on the 14th day  
Of the most dangerous month of the year

At the worst time, at the worst place that's all I seem to hear  
I got up early so I could greet the Goddess of the dawn  
I painted my wagon, abandoned all hope  
And I crossed the Rubicon

Well, the Rubicon is a red river  
Going gently as she flows  
Redder than your ruby lips  
And the blood that flows from the rose  
Three miles north of purgatory  
One step from the great beyond  
I prayed to the cross, I kissed the girls  
And I crossed the Rubicon

One of these dark days I'll see  
In this world so badly bent  
How can I redeem the time?  
The time so idly spent?  
How much longer can it last, how long can it go on?  
I embraced my love, put down my head  
And I crossed the Rubicon

I can feel the bones beneath my skin  
And they're trembling with rage  
I'll make your wife a widow  
You'll never see old age  
Show me one good man in sight  
That the sun shines down upon  
I pawned my watch, I paid my debts  
And I crossed the Rubicon

I put my hide up on the hill  
Where some happiness I learned  
If I survive then let me love  
Let the hour be mine  
Take the high road, take the low  
Take any one you're on  
I poured the cup, I passed it along  
And I crossed the Rubicon

Well you defiled the most lovely flower  
In all of womanhood  
Others can be tolerant  
Others can be good  
I'll cut you up with a crooked knife  
Lord, and I'll miss you when you're gone  
I stood between heaven and earth  
And I crossed the Rubicon

You won't find any happiness here  
No happiness or joy  
Go back to the gutter, try your luck  
Find you some nice pretty boy  
Tell me how many men I need  
And who can I count upon  
I strapped my belt, I buttoned my coat  
And I crossed the Rubicon

I feel the Holy Spirit inside  
See the light that freedom gives  
I believe it's in the reach of  
Every man who lives  
Keep as far away as possible  
It's darkest 'fore the dawn (O Lord)  
I turned the key then broke it off  
And I crossed the Rubicon

Mona, baby, are you still in my mind?  
I truly believe that you are  
Could it be anybody else but you?  
Who's come with me this far  
The killing frost is on the ground  
And the autumn leaves are gone  
I lit the torch, I looked to the East  
And I crossed the Rubicon

## Key West (Philosopher Pirate)

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McKinley hollered; McKinley squalled  
Doctor said McKinley, death is on the wall  
Say it to me, if you got something to confess  
I heard all about it, he was goin' down slow  
I heard it on the wireless radio  
From down in the boondocks, way down in Key West

I'm searching for love, for inspiration  
On that pirate radio station  
Coming out of Luxembourg and Budapest  
Radio signal's clear as can be  
I'm so deep in love that I can hardly see  
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to be  
If you're looking for immortality  
Stay on the road, follow the highway sign  
Key West is fine and fair  
If you lost your mind, you'll find it there  
Key West is on the horizon line

I was born on the wrong side of the railroad track  
Like Ginsberg, Corso and Kerouac  
Like Louis, and Jimmy and Buddy and all the rest  
Well, it might not be the thing to do  
But I'm sticking with you through and through  
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

I got both my feet planted square on the ground  
Got my right hand high, with the thumb down  
Such is life, such is happiness  
Hibiscus flowers, they grow everywhere here  
If you wear one, put it behind your ear  
Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to go  
Down by the Gulf of Mexico  
Beyond the sea, beyond the shifting sands  
Key West is the gateway key  
To innocence and purity  
Key West, Key West is the enchanted land

I've never lived in the land of Oz  
Or wasted my time with an unworthy cause  
It's hot down here, and you can't be overdressed  
Tiny blossoms on a toxic plant  
They can make you dizzy, I'd like to help you but I can't  
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

Well the fishtail ponds, and the orchid trees  
They can give you that bleeding heart disease  
People tell me I ought to try a little tenderness  
On Newton Street, Bayview Park  
Walking in the shadow after dark  
Down under, way down in Key West

I play gumbo limbo spirituals  
I know all the Hindu rituals  
People tell me that I'm truly blessed  
Bougainvillea blooming in the summer, in the spring  
Winter here is an unknown thing  
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

Key West is under the sun  
Under the radar, under the gun  
You stay to the left, and then you lean to the right  
Feel the sunlight on your skin  
And the healing virtues of the wind  
Key West, Key West is the land of light

Wherever I travel, wherever I roam  
I'm not that far from the convent home  
I do what I think is right, what I think is best  
History Street off of Mallory Square

Truman had his White House there  
Eastbound, Westbound, way down in Key West

Twelve years old, they put me in a suit  
Forced me to marry a prostitute  
There were gold fringes on her wedding dress  
That's my story, but not where it ends  
She's still cute, and we're still friends  
Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

I play both sides against the middle  
Trying to pick up that pirate radio signal  
I heard the news, I heard your last request  
Fly around my pretty little Miss  
I don't love nobody, give me a kiss  
Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to be  
If you're looking for immortality  
Key West is paradise divine  
Key West is fine and fair  
If you lost your mind, you'll find it there  
Key West is on the horizon line

## Murder Most Foul

---

'Twas a dark day in Dallas, November '63  
A day that will live on in infamy  
President Kennedy was a-ridin' high  
Good day to be livin' and a good day to die  
Being led to the slaughter like a sacrificial lamb  
He said, "Wait a minute, boys, you know who I am?"  
"Of course, we do, we know who you are!"  
Then they blew off his head while he was still in the car  
Shot down like a dog in broad daylight  
Was a matter of timing and the timing was right  
You got unpaid debts, we've come to collect  
We're gonna kill you with hatred, without any respect  
We'll mock you and shock you and we'll put it in your face  
We've already got someone here to take your place  
The day they blew out the brains of the king  
Thousands were watching, no one saw a thing  
It happened so quickly, so quick, by surprise  
Right there in front of everyone's eyes  
Greatest magic trick ever under the sun  
Perfectly executed, skillfully done  
Wolfman, oh Wolfman, oh Wolfman, howl  
Rub-a-dub-dub, it's a murder most foul

Hush, little children, you're gonna stand  
The Beatles are comin', they're gonna hold your hand  
Slide down the banister, go get your coat  
Ferry 'cross the Mersey and go for the throat  
There's three bums comin' all dressed in rags  
Pick up the pieces and lower the flags  
I'm goin' to Woodstock, it's the Aquarian Age  
Then I'll go over to Altamont and sit near the stage  
Put your head out the window, let the good times roll  
There's a party going on behind the Grassy Knoll  
Stack up the bricks, pour the cement  
Don't say Dallas don't love you, Mr. President  
Put your foot in the tank and then step on the gas  
Try to make it to the triple underpass  
Blackface singer, whiteface clown  
Better not show your faces after the sun goes down  
Up in the red-light district, they've got cop on the beat  
Living in a nightmare on Elm Street  
When you're down on Deep Ellum, put your money in your shoe  
Don't ask what your country can do for you  
Cash on the barrelhead, money to burn  
Dealey Plaza, make a left-hand turn  
I'm going down to the crossroads, gonna flag a ride  
The place where faith, hope, and charity died

Shoot him while he runs, boy, shoot him while you can  
See if you can shoot the invisible man  
Goodbye, Charlie! Goodbye, Uncle Sam  
Frankly, Miss Scarlett, I don't give a damn  
What is the truth, and where did it go?  
Ask Oswald and Ruby, they ought to know  
"Shut your mouth," say the wise old owl  
Business is business, and it's a murder most foul

Tommy, can you hear me? I'm the Acid Queen  
I'm riding in a long, black Lincoln limousine  
Ridin' in the back seat next to my wife  
Heading straight on into the afterlife  
I'm leaning to the left, got my head in her lap  
Oh Lord, I been led into some kind of a trap  
Well, we ask no quarter and no quarter do we give  
We're right down the street, from the street where you live  
They mutilated his body and they took out his brain  
What more could they do? They piled on the pain  
But his soul was not there where it was supposed to be at  
For the last fifty years they've been searchin' for that  
Freedom, oh freedom, freedom over me  
I hate to tell you, mister, but only dead men are free  
Send me some lovin', tell me no lie  
Throw the gun in the gutter and walk on by  
Wake up, little Susie, let's go for a drive  
Cross the Trinity River, let's keep hope alive  
Turn the radio on, don't touch the dial  
Parkland Hospital, only six more miles  
You got me dizzy, Miss Lizzy, you fill me with lead  
That magic bullet of yours has gone to my head  
I'm just a patsy like Patsy Cline  
Never shot anyone from in front or behind  
Got blood in my eye, got blood in my ear  
I'm never gonna make it to the new frontier  
Zapruder's film, I've seen that before  
Seen it thirty-three times, maybe more  
It's vile and deceitful, it's cruel and it's mean  
Ugliest thing that you ever have seen  
They killed him once and they killed him twice  
Killed him like a human sacrifice  
The day that they killed him, someone said to me, "Son  
The age of the Antichrist has just only begun"  
Air Force One coming in through the gate  
Johnson sworn in at 2:38  
Let me know when you decide to throw in the towel  
It is what it is, and it's murder most foul

What's new, pussycat? What'd I say?  
I said the soul of a nation been torn away  
And it's beginning to go into a slow decay  
And that it's thirty-six hours past Judgment Day  
Wolfman Jack, he's speaking in tongues  
He's going on and on at the top of his lungs  
Play me a song, Mr. Wolfman Jack  
Play it for me in my long Cadillac  
Play me that "Only the Good Die Young"  
Take me to the place Tom Dooley was hung  
Play "St. James Infirmary" and the Court of King James  
If you want to remember, you better write down the names  
Play Etta James, too, play "I'd Rather Go Blind"

Play it for the man with the telepathic mind  
Play John Lee Hooker, play "Scratch My Back"  
Play it for that strip club owner named Jack  
Guitar Slim going down slow  
Play it for me and for Marilyn Monroe

Play "Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood"  
Play it for the First Lady, she ain't feeling too good  
Play Don Henley, play Glenn Frey  
Take it to the limit and let it go by  
Play it for Carl Wilson, too  
Looking far, far away down Gower Avenue  
Play "Tragedy", play "Twilight Time"  
Take me back to Tulsa to the scene of the crime  
Play another one and "Another One Bites the Dust"  
Play "The Old Rugged Cross" and "In God We Trust"  
Ride the pink horse down that long, lonesome road  
Stand there and wait for his head to explode  
Play "Mystery Train" for Mr. Mystery  
The man who fell down dead like a rootless tree  
Play it for the reverend, play it for the pastor  
Play it for the dog that got no master  
Play Oscar Peterson, play Stan Getz  
Play "Blue Sky," play Dickey Betts  
Play Art Pepper, Thelonious Monk  
Charlie Parker and all that junk  
All that junk and "All That Jazz"  
Play something for the Birdman of Alcatraz  
Play Buster Keaton, play Harold Lloyd  
Play Bugsy Siegel, play Pretty Boy Floyd  
Play the numbers, play the odds  
Play "Cry Me a River" for the Lord of the gods  
Play Number nine, play Number six  
Play it for Lindsey and Stevie Nicks  
Play Nat King Cole, play "Nature Boy"  
Play "Down in the Boondocks" for Terry Malloy  
Play "It Happened One Night" and "One Night of Sin"  
There's twelve million souls that are listening in  
Play "Merchant of Venice", play "Merchants of Death"  
Play "Stella by Starlight" for Lady Macbeth  
Don't worry, Mr. President, help's on the way  
Your brothers are coming, there'll be hell to pay  
Brothers? What brothers? What's this about hell?  
Tell them, "We're waiting, keep coming," we'll get them as well  
Love Field is where his plane touched down  
But it never did get back up off the ground  
Was a hard act to follow, second to none  
They killed him on the altar of the rising sun  
Play "Misty" for me and "That Old Devil Moon"  
Play "Anything Goes" and "Memphis in June"  
Play "Lonely at the Top" and "Lonely Are the Brave"  
Play it for Houdini spinning around in his grave  
Play Jelly Roll Morton, play "Lucille"  
Play "Deep in a Dream", and play "Driving Wheel"  
Play "Moonlight Sonata" in F-sharp  
And the "Key to the Highway" for the king on the harp  
Play "Marching Through Georgia" and "Dumbarton's Drums"  
Play darkness and death will come when it comes  
Play "Love Me or Leave Me" by the great Bud Powell  
Play "The Blood-Stained Banner", play "Murder Most Foul"