

# ARE WE THERE YET?

## Songs of Empowerment

A curated compilation of songs by  
exceptional women artists:

Cyndi Lauper, Lesley Gore, Aretha Franklin,  
Gwen Stefani, Madonna, Gloria Gaynor, Dua Lipa,  
& 4 Non Blondes

SORRY,  
WERE MY  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
GETTING IN  
THE WAY  
OF YOUR  
MISOGYNY?



**“We may encounter many defeats,  
but we must not be defeated.”**  
Maya Angelou

Photo by jena Rappolt-Noyes

## Girls Just Wanna Have Fun- Cyndi Lauper (1983)

Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now  
come on...  
Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now

I come home in the morning light  
my mother says when you gonna live your life right  
oh mother dear we're not the fortunate ones  
and girls they want to have fun  
oh girls just want to have fun  
Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now  
come on...

The phone rings in the middle of the night  
my father yells what you gonna do with your life  
oh daddy dear you know you're still number one  
but girls they want to have fun  
oh girls just want to have  
That's all they really want  
some fun  
when the working day is done  
you know girls, they want to have fun

Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now  
come on...  
Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now  
And the boys they wanna have fun  
And the girls they wanna have fun  
And the boys they wanna have fun  
And the girls they wanna have  
Some boys take a beautiful girl  
and hide her away from the rest of the world  
I want to be the one to walk in the sun...

Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now  
come on...  
Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now  
And the boys they wanna have fun  
And the girls they wanna have fun  
And the boys they wanna have fun  
And the girls they wanna have  
Some boys take a beautiful girl  
and hide her away from the rest of the world  
I want to be the one to walk in the sun...

And the boys they wanna have fun  
And the girls they wanna have fun  
And the boys they wanna have fun  
And the girls they wanna have.  
Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now  
come on...  
Hey now, hey now  
What's the matter with you?  
Girls just wanna have fun now...

Source: Musixmatch  
Songwriters: Lolly Vegas / Robert Hazard  
Girls Just Want To Have Fun lyrics © Sony/atv Tunes Llc, Emi Blackwood Music Inc.



Image by freepik

## You Don't Own Me- Lesley Gore (1963)

You don't own me  
I'm not just one of your many toys  
You don't own me  
Don't say I can't go with other boys  
And don't tell me what to do  
Don't tell me what to say  
And please, when I go out with you  
Don't put me on display 'cause  
You don't own me  
Don't try to change me in any way  
You don't own me

Don't tie me down 'cause I'd never stay

I don't tell you what to say  
I don't tell you what to do  
So just let me be myself  
That's all I ask of you  
I'm young and I love to be young  
I'm free and I love to be free  
To live my life the way I want  
To say and do whatever I please  
And don't tell me what to do  
Oh, don't tell me what to say  
And please, when I go out with you  
Don't put me on display  
I don't tell you what to say

Oh, don't tell you what to do

So just let me be myself  
That's all I ask of you  
I'm young and I love to be young  
I'm free and I love to be free

Songwriters: David White / John Madara,  
You Don't Own Me lyrics © BMG Rights Management, Warner  
Chappell Music,



Image by AdobeStock

Songwriters: Otis Redding  
Respect lyrics © Cotillion Music Inc.,  
East Memphis Music Corp.,  
Music Of Ever Hip Hop, O R M Inc

## Respect- Aretha Franklin (1967)

Hey, what you want  
(oo) Baby, I got  
(oo) What you need  
(oo) Do you know I got it?  
(oo) All I'm askin'  
(oo) Is for a little respect when you come home (just a little bit)  
Hey baby (just a little bit) when you get home  
(just a little bit) mister (just a little bit)  
I ain't gonna do you wrong while you're gone  
Ain't gonna do you wrong (oo) 'cause I don't wanna (oo)  
All I'm askin' (oo)  
Is for a little respect when you come home (just a little bit)  
Baby (just a little bit) when you get home (just a little bit)

Yeah (just a little bit)  
I'm about to give you all of my money  
And all I'm askin' in return, honey  
Is to give me my profits  
When you get home (just a, just a, just a, just a)  
Yeah baby (just a, just a, just a, just a)  
When you get home (just a little bit)  
Yeah (just a little bit) Do it for me now, just a little bit  
Ooo, your kisses (oo)  
Sweeter than honey (oo)  
And guess what? (oo)  
So is my money (oo)  
All I want you to do (oo) for me  
Is give it to me when you get home (re, re, re, re)  
Yeah baby (re, re, re, re)

Whip it to me (respect, just a little bit)  
When you get home, now (just a little bit)

R-E-S-P-E-C-T  
Find out what it means to me  
R-E-S-P-E-C-T  
Take care, TCB  
Oh (sock it to me, sock it to me)  
Sock it to me, sock it to me)  
A little respect (sock it to me, sock it to me)  
Sock it to me, sock it to me)  
Whoa, babe (just a little bit)  
A little respect (just a little bit)  
I get tired (just a little bit)  
Keep on tryin' (just a little bit)

You're runnin' out of foolin' (just a little bit)  
And I ain't lyin' (just a little bit)  
'spect  
When you come home (re, re, re, re)  
Or you might walk in (respect, just a little bit)  
And find out I'm gone (just a little bit)  
I got to have (just a little bit)  
A little respect (just a little bit)

## I'm just a girl- Gwen Stefani, No Doubt (1995)

Take this pink ribbon off my eyes  
I'm exposed and it's no big surprise  
Don't you think I know exactly where I stand?  
This world is forcing me to hold your hand  
'Cause I'm just a girl, oh, little old me  
Well, don't let me out of your sight  
Oh, I'm just a girl, all pretty and petite  
So don't let me have any rights  
Oh, I've had it up to here  
The moment that I step outside  
So many reasons for me to run and hide  
I can't do the little things I hold so dear  
'Cause it's all those little things that I fear  
'Cause I'm just a girl, I'd rather not be  
'Cause they won't let me drive late at night  
Oh, I'm just a girl, guess I'm some kind of freak  
'Cause they all sit and stare with their eyes  
Oh, I'm just a girl, take a good look at me  
Just your typical prototype  
Oh, I've had it up to here  
Oh, am I making myself clear?  
I'm just a girl  
I'm just a girl in the world  
That's all that you'll let me be  
Oh, I'm just a girl, living in captivity  
Your rule of thumb makes me worrisome  
Oh, I'm just a girl, what's my destiny?  
What I've succumbed to is making me numb  
Oh, I'm just a girl, my apologies  
What I've become is so burdensome  
Oh, I'm just a girl, lucky me  
Twiddle-dum, there's no comparison  
Oh, I've had it up to  
Oh, I've had it up to  
Oh, I've had it up to here

Songwriters: Gwen Stefani / Thomas Dumont  
Just a Girl lyrics © Kobalt Music Publishing



image by freeoik

## I Will Survive- Gloria Gaynor (1978)

At first I was afraid, I was petrified  
Thinking I could live without you by my side  
And after spending nights  
Thinking how you did me wrong  
I grew strong  
And I learned how to get along  
Now you're back  
From outer space  
And I find you here  
With that sad look upon your face  
I should've changed that stupid lock  
Or made you leave your key  
If I'd've known for a second  
You'd be back to bother me  
Go on, go, walk out the door  
Turn around now  
You're not welcome anymore  
You're the one who tried to hurt me with goodbye  
Think I'd crumble?  
You think I'd lay down and die?  
No, not I, I will survive  
Long as I know how to love  
I know I'll stay alive  
I've got my life to live  
And all my love to give and  
I will survive  
I, I, I will survive

Songwriters: Frederick J. Perren / Dino Fekaris  
I Will Survive lyrics © Beyonce Publishing,  
Universal Polygram Int. Publishing Inc.,  
Perren-vibes Music Inc.

But now I hold my head up high  
And you see me, somebody new  
I'm not that lonely little person  
Still in love with you  
Now you come droppin' in  
Expectin' me to be free  
Now I'm saving my lovin'  
For someone who's loving me  
Go on and go, walk out the door  
Turn around now  
You're not welcome anymore  
You're the one who tried to hurt me with goodbye  
Thinkin' I'd crumble  
Did you think I'd lay down and die?  
No, not I, I will survive  
Long as I know how to love, I know I'll stay alive  
I've got my life to live, and all my love to give  
And I will survive  
Go on, go, walk out the door  
Turn around now  
You're not welcome anymore  
You're the one who tried to hurt me with goodbye

Express Yourself- Madonna (2009)

Hoo! Hoo!  
Come on girls  
Do you believe in love?  
'Cause I got something to say about it  
And it goes something like this

Don't go for second best, baby  
Put your love to the test  
You know, you know, you've got to  
Make him express how he feels  
And maybe then you'll know your love is real

You don't need diamond rings  
Or eighteen karat gold  
Fancy cars that go very fast  
You know they never last, no no  
What you need is a big strong hand  
To lift you to your higher ground  
Make you feel like a queen on a throne  
Make him love you 'til you can't come down  
You'll never come down

Don't go for second best, baby  
Put your love to the test  
You know, you know, you've got to  
Make him express how he feels  
And maybe then you'll know your love is real

Long-stem roses are the way to your heart  
But he needs to start with your head  
Satin sheets are very romantic  
What happens when you're not in bed?  
You deserve the best in life  
So if the time isn't right, then move on  
Second best is never enough  
You'll do much better, baby, on your own  
Baby, on your own

Don't go for second best, baby  
Put your love to the test  
You know, you know, you've got to  
Make him express how he feels  
And maybe then you'll know your love is real

Express yourself  
You've got to make him express himself  
Hey, hey, hey, hey  
So if you want it right now  
Make him show you how  
Express what he's got  
Oh baby, ready or not  
And when you're gone he might regret it  
Think about the love he once had  
Try to carry on, but he just won't get it  
He'll be back on his knees  
To express himself  
You've got to make him express himself  
Hey hey

What you need is a big strong hand  
To lift you to your higher ground  
Make you feel like a queen on a throne  
Make him love you 'til you can't come down  
You'll never come down

And when you're gone he might regret it  
Think about the love he once had  
Try to carry on, but he just won't get it  
He'll be back on his knees, so please  
Don't go for second best, baby  
Put your love to the test  
You know, you know, you've got to  
Make him express how he feels  
And maybe then you'll know your love is real

Express yourself  
You've got to make him express himself  
Hey, hey, hey, hey  
So if you want it right now  
Make him show you how  
Express what he's got  
Oh baby, ready or not

Express yourself  
(You've got to make him)  
So you can respect yourself  
Hey, hey  
So if you want it right now  
Make him show you how  
Express what he's got  
Oh baby, ready or not  
Express yourself

Writer(s): Stephen Pate Bray, Madonna L. Ciccone  
Warner Bros.



Me, expressing myself  
Photo by D. Noyes

Boys Will Be Boys- Dua Lipa (2020)

It's second nature to walk home before the sun goes down  
And put your keys between your knuckles when there's boys around  
Isn't it funny how we laugh it off to hide our fear?  
When there's nothing funny here  
Sick intuition that they taught us so we won't freak out  
We hide our figures doing anything to shut them out  
We smile, a way to ease the tension so it don't go south  
But there's nothing funny now  
When will we stop saying things  
'Cause they're all listening?  
No, the kids ain't alright  
Oh, and they do what they see  
'Cause it's all on TV  
Oh, the kids ain't alright  
Boys will be, boys will be  
Boys will be, boys will be boys  
But girls will be women  
Boys will be, boys will be  
Boys will be, boys will be boys  
But girls will be women  
I'm sure if there's something that I can't find the words to say  
I know that there will be a man around to save the day  
And that was sarcasm, in case you needed it mansplained  
I should've stuck to ballet  
When will we stop saying things  
'Cause they're all listening?  
No, the kids ain't alright  
Oh, and they do what they see  
'Cause it's all on TV  
Oh, the kids ain't alright  
Boys will be, boys will be  
Boys will be, boys will be boys  
But girls will be women  
Boys will be, boys will be  
Boys will be, boys will be boys  
But girls will be women  
If you're offended by this song  
You're clearly doing something wrong  
If you're offended by this song  
Then you're probably saying  
Boys will be, boys will be  
Boys will be, boys will be boys  
But girls will be women  
When will we stop saying things  
'Cause they're all listening?  
No, the kids ain't alright  
Oh, and they do what they see  
'Cause it's all on TV  
Oh, the kids ain't alright  
Boys will be, boys will be  
Boys will be, boys will be boys  
But girls will be women  
Boys will be, boys will be  
Boys will be, boys will be boys  
But girls will be women  
But girls will be women



Image by Freepick

Songwriters: Jason Gregory Evigan  
/ Justin Drew Tranter / Dua Lipa /  
Kennedi  
Boys Will Be Boys lyrics © Justin's  
School For Girls,  
Tap Music Publishing Ltd.,

What's Up- 4 Non Blondes (1992)

Twenty-five years and my life is still  
Trying to get up that great big hill of hope  
For a destination  
I realized quickly when I knew I should  
That the world was made up of this brotherhood of man  
For whatever that means

And so I cry sometimes  
When I'm lying in bed  
Just to get it all out  
What's in my head  
And I, I am feeling a little peculiar  
And so I wake in the morning  
And I step outside  
And I take a deep breath and I get real high  
And I scream from the top of my lungs  
What's going on?  
And I say, hey hey hey hey  
I said hey, what's going on?  
And I say, hey hey hey hey  
I said hey, what's going on?

Ooh, ooh ooh...  
And I try, oh my god do I try  
I try all the time  
In this institution  
And I pray, oh my god do I pray  
I pray every single day  
For a revolution

And so I cry sometimes  
When I'm lying in bed  
Just to get it all out  
What's in my head  
And I, I am feeling a little peculiar  
And so I wake in the morning  
And I step outside  
And I take a deep breath and I get real high  
And I scream from the top of my lungs  
What's going on?

And I say, hey hey hey hey  
I said hey, what's going on?  
And I say, hey hey hey hey  
I said hey, what's going on?

And I say, hey hey hey hey  
I said hey, what's going on?  
And I say, hey hey hey hey  
I said hey, what's going on?

Written by: Linda Perry  
Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Ooh, ooh ooh...  
Twenty-five years and my life is still  
Trying to get up that great big hill of hope  
For a destination

01 **Cyndi Lauper** Girls Just Wanna Have Fun 4:26

02 **Lesley Gore** You Don't Own Me 2:30

03 **Aretha Franklin** Respect 2:30

04 **Gwen Stefani** *with No Doubt* i'm just a girl 3:29

05 **Gloria Gaynor** I Will Survive 3:14

06 **Madonna** Express Yourself 4:15

07 **Dua Lipa** Boys Will Be Boys 2:46

08 **4 Non Blondes** What's Up 4:52



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