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ALL THINGS MUSIC

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MUSIC FOR  
THE WEEK  
p.6

# Moon song lunacy

*The Earth's natural satellite inspires countless songwriters*

BY DAVID JASPER • The Bulletin

**A**s far as heavenly orbs go, the moon gets more than its fair share of tribute from songsmiths. As an inspiring subject matter, it seems to be up there with love. As a symbol used in song, it seems to rival the sun. The moon even manages to wedge itself into songs that mention the sun, a la Love and Rockets' "Earth, Sun, Moon," an acoustic tune from the British trio's 1987 album "Earth Sun Moon." Six years later, Aussie greats Midnight Oil's dropped the full-length "Earth and Sun and Moon." Also replete with a song of the same title, the great Peter Garrett sings in its chorus, "Earth and sun and moon, human tribe, thin blue line / Earth and sun and moon will survive, yeah." So far, so good!

## LET'S GET LITERAL

When you're singing about something as omnipresent as the moon, there's really no need to dress the subject matter up a million different ways. Paul Simon's "Song About the Moon" doesn't mince words. There are two versions of "The Moon Song" from the "Her" soundtrack, so take your pick: Ezra Koenig and Karen O doing the studio version, or Scarlett Johansson and Joaquin Phoenix from the film.

Both Patty Griffin and Phoebe Bridgers have a "Moon Song," with Griffin's having been recorded by the likes of Emmylou Harris. Writer Sam Thomas described Bridgers' "Moon Song" as "one of the saddest songs

I've ever heard."

Here are some more songs exploring the moon:

## BEING THERE

**"Fly me to the Moon (In Other Words)"** — Kaye Ballard, Peggy Lee and, of course, Frank Sinatra all took turns at this light-hearted ditty about love, written in the mid-'50s by veteran songwriter Bart Howard and originally titled "In Other Words."

**"Sail to the Moon," Radiohead** — Thom Yorke and his compatriots in the iconic British band hit a high note with this ethereal tune from 2003's "Hail to the Thief."

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Jeff Tweedy and Wilco are seen performing at Les Schwab Amphitheater in 2015, although probably not the song "Black Moon," which is included in our list of songs about the moon.

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