

Example 1: John Trudell's 'Baby Boom Ché'. Words by John Trudell, music by Jesse Ed Davis. Permission to quote lyrics requested.

[Guitar intro – 'I Want You I Need You I Love You' intro; segues into: organ 'Love Me Tender' background]

You wanna know what happened to Elvis?  
I'll tell ya what happened.  
I oughta know, man, I was one of his army.  
I mean, man, I was on his side,  
He made us feel all right.

We were the first wave in the post war baby boom.  
The generation before had just come out of the great depression  
and World War Two,  
You know, heavy vibes for people to wear,  
So much heaviness  
Like some kind of voiding of the emotions.

Their music,  
You know, the songs life always carries.  
You know, every culture has songs?  
Well, anyway, their music was restrained emotion,  
You know, like you didn't wanna dance  
If you didn't know how,  
Which says something strange.

Well, anyway, Elvis came along about ten years after the nuke  
When the only generals America had and the only army she had  
Were Ike and Mac  
And stupor hung over the land,  
A plague where everyone tried to materially free themselves,  
Still too shell-shocked to understand  
To feel what was happening.

[...]

[instrumental break – organ: 'Love me Tender'; lead guitar:  
'I Want You I Need You I Love You' variation]

The first wave rebelled,  
I mean, we danced even if we didn't know how,  
I mean Elvis made us move.  
Instead of standing mute he raised our voice  
And when we heard ourselves something was changing,  
You know, like for the first time we made a collective decision  
About choices.

America hurriedly made Pat Boone a general  
In the army they wanted us to join

But most of us held fast to Elvis and the commandants around him  
Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly,  
Little Richard, Bo Diddley, Gene Vincent,  
You know, like a different Civil War all over again

I mean, you take 'Don't Be Cruel', 'I Want You I Need You I Love You'  
And 'Jailhouse Rock',  
Or you take Pat and his white bucks singing love letters in the sand,  
Hell, man, what's real here?  
I mean, Pat at the beach in his white bucks,  
His ears getting sunburned,  
Told us something about old wave delusion.

[...]

Then before long Elvis got assassinated in all the fame,  
Taking a long time to die.  
Others seized control while Elvis rode the needle out  
Never understanding what he done.

It's like we were the baby boom because life needed a fresher start,  
I mean, two world wars in a row is really crazy man  
And Elvis, even though he didn't know he said it,  
He showed it to us anyway  
And even though we didn't know we heard it,  
We heard it anyway

Man, like he woke us up  
And now they're trying to put us back to sleep.  
So we'll see how it goes,  
Anyway, look at the record, man,  
Rock 'n' roll is based on revolutions  
Going way past 33½  
You gotta understand, man,  
He was America's baby Boom Ché.  
I oughta know man,  
I was in his army.

[guitar outro: 'I Want I Need You I Love You' variation]