

David Heetderks: Absent-Tonic Choruses in 1960-1990 Popular Song  
Texas Society for Music Theory, 4 March 2022

Score Examples

1. Martha and the Vandellas, "I'm Ready for Love" (1966)

Verse 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

As I stand al one on this moon ful night, for the first time I feel al one in life. As I watch

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

the moon kiss the star lit sky, I feel the need for your lips to press close to mine. For so

Prechorus 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

long I've been af raid to love, but right now, I feel the need for love. And

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

you, you have the love the love I need, oh to com fort me. Ooh, and I'm

Chorus 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

ready for love. I'm tru ly ready for love, yourwonder fulsweet, sweet love. Rightnow I'mready for love.

2 2. The Dramatics, "Hey You! Get Off My Mountain" (1973)

1 Verse 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

bring me down. And you laugh in my face. Make me feel like a clown. Ba by, I think I better put you in your place.

9 Prechorus 10 11 12

That kind of action I don't need. (that kind of action.) That kind of heartache I can't use. (that kind of heartache)

13 14 15 16

That kind of love in' I can do without, so go and play your game with someone new. Oh, hey

17 Chorus 18 19 20

Hey you! you! Get off my mountain. Hey you! Get off my cloud. Hey

21 22 23 24

Hey you! you! get off my mountain. You're just trying to You're just trying to

25 26 strings 27 28

You're just trying to bring me down.

## 3. Tina Turner, "We Don't Need Another Hero (Thunderdome)" (1985)

1 Verse 2 3 4 5

Out of the ru ins, out from the wreck age, can't make the same

6 7 8 9 10

mis take this time. We are the chil dren,

11 12 13 14 15

the last ge ner a tion. We are the ones they left be hin'.

16 17 Prechorus 18 19

And I won der when we are ev er gon na change,

20 21 22 23 24 25 **Chorus**

liv ing un der the fear 'til noth ing else re mains. We don't need an oth er he ro.

toms

26 27

We don't need to know the way home.

toms

28 29 30 31

All we want is life be yond the Thun der dome.

toms