

PARODY

COVER OF A *GRAMOPHONE* by Alton Thompson

(Sung to the tune of “Cover of *The Rolling Stone*” by any combination of divas, maestri, castrati, three tenors, and bassi profondi.)

We're all classical musicians
who paid big tuitions
and played gigs in some coffee shop.
Now we do masterworks
like *The Song of the Earth*
for thirty thousand dollars a pop.
Now it's all designed
to sound sublime,
but a sublime we've never known
is the “sublime” that'll hitcha
when you get your picture
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

Gram-o-phone . . .
Wanna see my picture on the cover
'phone . . .
Wanna brag to my significant other
'phone . . .
Wanna see my smiling face
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

(*dude*) Had a teacher high-rated
with a name hyphenated
who now irons out my tie and tails.
(*chick*) Now my first music theory instructor
manicures my fingernails.
(*tutti*) We're off to Montréal
to fill a concert hall
but one trip we've never flown

is the trip that'll getcha
when you get your picture
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

Gram-o-phone . . .

What? Another Simon Rattle?

'phone . . .

A Colin Davis and a Kathleen Battle!

'phone . . .

Wanna see my smilin face
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

We get our beta blockers
from bohemian doctors
who prescribe it by the jar.
Got us a genuine New York agent
pourin our Pinot Noir.
We're takin all kindsa pills
to chill our onstage thrills
but one thrill we've never known
is the thrill that'll hitcha
when you get your picture
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

Gram-o-phone . . .

What? Mitsuko Uchida?!

'phone . . .

Another Manny Ax and Yo-Yo Ma!

'phone . . .

When will they put my smilin face
on the cover of a *Gramophone?*

We got us world renownment
and a national endowment
givin us dough to be spent.
We got a genuine musicologist
who show us how to ornament.

Now all this goes
to earn us standin Os–
but the “O” we’ve never known
is the “O” that’ll hitcha
when you get your picture
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

Gram-o-phone . . .
Another interview with Hilary Hahn?
‘phone . . .
Another fond look back at Herbie Karajan!
‘phone . . .
They ought to put my smilin face
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

Gram-o-phone . . .
Another closeup shot of Bryn Terfel?
‘phone . . .
Another archive shot of Alma Mahler Werfel!
‘phone . . .
They need to put my smilin face
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

Gram-o-phone . . .
Here’s Anne Akiko and Yvgeny Kissin!
‘phone . . .
I say–these Brits just don’t know what they’re missin!
‘phone . . .
They oughtta put my smilin face
on the cover of a *Gramophone!*

(Repeat ad infinitum a la “Neptune” from *The Planets*, and fade.)

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