

Ah, The 80's...

Fellow Tangenteers posted youtube.com videos recently sharing some of their favorite music – that made me think about a country artist from the 80's I used to enjoy named [Sylvia](#). She's come out with recent material, but my favorites of hers were from the early 80's. I was able to find a few of her songs and still enjoy her beautiful voice as an adult (however cheesily 80's some of the lyrics might be), but I'm still looking for the following songs by Sylvia:

So Complete, The Mill Song (Everybody's Got a Dream), Who's Kidding Who, Tonight I'm Gettin' Friendly With The Blues, Gone But Not Forgotten, and Jason.

I was able to find two Sylvia videos on youtube.com – dig the “super-cool” video and sound effects in Snapshot and the totally 80's bopping in “Nobody”. Does anyone else remember Sylvia? I was thinking Mary might even have a cassette tape I can borrow ☐

Snapshot – 1983:

Nobody – 1982:

Salsa and cheese make almost anything better.

I don't think I would try it on ice cream. I picked up some cheap chicken strips last week and the first batch I made I was a bit underwhelmed. Today I loaded them up with melted cheese and Hot Salsa. Much better this time.

But really, I didn't want to talk/write about cooking. Did you ever notice that some things are just better when combined with something else. A warm and sunny day is better than a cold and sunny day. Even though we like the sunny day part, the warmth adds something to it. Add to that a day off and the ability to spend it in the warmth and sun you get something better. Add in some good friends or family. Some fun things to do. You almost have a vacation...

Sometimes adding things doesn't make it better. Sometimes it is worse. (try the salsa with Ice cream and let me know what you think.)

And there are the times you know what you want to add to something, but it just isn't available. Things could be better. So much better. You know it would be, but the situation does not allow the addition of that item.

All this is life. We live with what we have. We take the good and the bad. Try to combine things to make it better. Try to tolerate when things don't go quite right. And hope that we have the combinations that make life better.

Back At EHS

The return of the high school musical. It has been years and long over due! I'm sure there is some talent still in the school. I remember the days when the musical was one of the highlights of the school year! I may only vaguely remember seeing *The Wizard of Oz* back in the late 70s but I don't think I have missed either being an audience member, in the cast, or helping in other regards of all the others. I remember *Carousel* (my favorite Rodgers and Hammerstein show), *Music Man*, *Finian's Rainbow*, and many others.

March 18th-20th, my alma mater will once again present *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. I remember the last time the school performed it. My two oldest brothers were in the chorus. For the new staging, there will be a nostalgic feel. Schroeder's piano is being donated by the person who built it and had the role 25 years ago! The mother of the actor and I reminisced the other day at the store. Her daughter played Peppermint Patty. Maybe would have been nice to have a show never done before at the school but at least the interest is there for the future.

More Than A Christmas Novelty

A few posts ago, I was pondering the popularity of the extremely cool acapella group [Straight No Chaser](#) and came across a website full of information, song samples, and discography. I also discovered that a new song-filled recording is about to drop. And quite remarkably this little group was organized on a college campus just to our west.

Check out this video that brings back great memories of

performing with America's Finest Singing Machine! Just don't ask me if it is better performed by a chorus of 80 or a small ensemble... just a bit biased.

My strange sense of humor strikes again

Ok, some people won't find this funny, but I did. I think my daughter the Star Wars fan should see this one.

[Try this, it won't embed. It is a 5 second film called "Mommy Knows Best"](#)

This was fun too...

<https://youtube.com/embed/MKdGaGuggw0>

So very confused...

When I went to work this morning, I just logged off of a working internet connection. When I got home this evening, the connection no longer worked. After spending quite a bit of time on the phone with my provider, the only solution was to re-install the software. It worked (as you may be able to tell), but I really don't know why it worked. I really don't know why the connection failed in the first place.

It is a Cell Modem. Open it up, dial the number – Name and password are automatic. I can't see what went wrong. Neither could the tech person. I think the software reload was grasping at straws. Anyway, I've updated to the latest version, so I hope it will be good for a few months.

Oh well, I still got my laundry done today.. I just wish I had

self cleaning clothes. And of course permanent press that was actually permanent. Buttons that stayed on new shirts! I wonder why my dark pants (black and blue) seem to shrink more than the browns, tans and beiges. They all started out the same brand and size. For some reason they all seem to shrink in the length.

Happy Birthday, Aunt Carol

Today would have been Carol's 54th birthday. So many wonderful memories. I know the last show she saw me in was *Idol Night at the Karaoke Place* and the character I played which is the same as my blog title. In the show, my best friend sang my favorite inspirational song made famous by my favorite artist. The music and lyrics are just perfection.

So for Carol:

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains.

You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas.

I am strong when I am on your shoulders.

You raise me up to more than I can be.

And yes, Mr. Groban is very high on my ipod shuffle. I would consider it a Christian tune as I would many of my favorite songs by Josh.

Happy birthday to One More Angel in Heaven.

March is here, and I'm starting to think

It is about time to start looking for the signs of spring in the area. I will have to keep an eye out for the early spring flowers. Some of the bulbs my wife planted years ago are due up as soon as the ground gets a little warm. I'm not sure what they all are, but there are some that will bloom when there is still snow on the ground. A little frost is nothing to these very hearty flowers. Then of course there are the crocuses, daffodils, tulips. Spring wild flowers and others.

By mid March we should start to see the return of the Buzzards. There should be a robin or two soon. Of course the early spring peepers (frogs) when the ice melts off the ponds and creeks. Will we see a Maple Syrup Festival in our little town this year? What about returning ducks landing in the flooded fields? Spring is just around the corner and I am

waiting.

Other memories fill my head. Longer days, earlier sunrises are things that make me think of spring. I'll let you know when I see my first sign of spring.

Also a fan of Steampunk...

Yesterday's post on my foil steamed food made me think of other things with steam. I would guess I'm a fan of Steampunk. From reading Verne and Wells as a child, to watching Wild Wild West when it was on TV, I was always interested in 'Advanced technology' in a steam/Victorian setting. I enjoyed the Wild Wild West Movie and League of Extraordinary Gentleman for the same reasons. The old time setting with 'advanced' technology.

One of my favorite comics is [Girl Genius](#), and that is Steampunk through and through. And I really would like [this computer](#). If I could work with brass (time/inclination), maybe I could [make my own](#).

THAT Time Of Year!!

The list of Academy Country Music Award nominees was announced today! And while I'm not entirely in agreement with some of them, that still does not dampen my excitement for the actual awards show – now held in April, which is even earlier than its past May ceremonies. I'm going to wait to give my picks for winners until we get closer to the show – I need some more

time to listen to the artists, their songs, and the buzz surrounding them on country radio. But I can say that I'm not a big fan of Lady Antebellum, a group who leads the pack in number of nominations. Uh, oh... perhaps country music is leaving me behind since I strongly prefer classic country and those modern artists who are seemingly fading into the background such as Alan Jackson, Garth Brooks, Martina McBride, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, George Strait, Reba McEntire, Brooks and Dunn, and Rascal Flatts... I do like Carrie Underwood, but I'm not so crazy for Taylor Swift (cute name though!). All that being said, I still enjoy the annual extravaganza immensely; especially the live performances. I am especially excited that unlike the ACM awards autumn counterpart, the CMA awards which are held on Wednesday nights, the spring ACM awards show is held on Sunday evenings – which means that I don't have to ditch my youth group students, haha! Here's the list of nominees; we will find out who wins on April 18, 2010!

Entertainer of the Year:

• Kenny Chesney • Toby Keith • Brad Paisley • George Strait • Taylor Swift • Carrie Underwood • Keith Urban • Zac Brown Band

Top Male Vocalist:

• Kenny Chesney • Brad Paisley • Darius Rucker • George Strait • Keith Urban

Top Female Vocalist:

• Miranda Lambert • Reba McEntire • Taylor Swift • Carrie Underwood • Lee Ann Womack

Top Vocal Group:

• Lady Antebellum • Little Big Town • Randy Rogers Band • Rascal Flatts • Zac Brown Band

Top Vocal Duo:

• Brooks & Dunn • Joey + Rory • Montgomery Gentry • Steel Magnolia • Sugarland

Top New Solo Vocalist:

- Luke Bryan • Jamey Johnson • Chris Young

Top New Vocal Duo:

- Bomshel • Joey + Rory • Steel Magnolia

Top new Vocal Group:

- Eli Young Band • Gloriana • The Lost Trailers

Album of the Year:

- “American Saturday Night” – Brad Paisley • “Lady Antebellum” – Lady Antebellum • “Play On” – Carrie Underwood • “Revolution” – Miranda Lambert • “The Foundation” – Zac Brown Band

Single Record:

- “Need You Now” – Lady Antebellum • “People Are Crazy” – Billy Currington • “Red Light” – David Nail • “Toes” – Zac Brown Band • “White Liar” – Miranda Lambert

Song:

- “Cowboy Casanova” – Carrie Underwood • “Need You Now” – Lady Antebellum • “People Are Crazy” – Billy Currington • “White Liar” – Miranda Lambert • “You Belong With Me” – Taylor Swift

Video:

- “Boots On” – Randy Houser • “Need You Now” – Lady Antebellum • “Welcome To The Future” – Brad Paisley • “White Liar” – Miranda Lambert • “You Belong With Me” – Taylor Swift

Vocal Event:

- “Hillbilly Bone” – Blake Shelton featuring Trace Adkins • “Honky Tonk Stomp” – Brooks & Dunn featuring Billy Gibbons • “I Told You So” – Carrie Underwood featuring Randy Travis • “I’m Alive” – Kenny Chesney with Dave Matthews • “Seeing Stars” – Jack Ingram featuring Patty Griffin