

Music moves us. It shapes the world and immortalizes each generation, telling stories in a way that stays with us forever. We are tapping the power of song from each decade between the 1950s-1990s. This is a reference sheet only; check the Season Themes page on GoHavok.com to verify which months are open for submissions and which are closed.

The '50s

The music of the 1950s blended prewar big band, gospel, blues, and country/western. It birthed Rock & Roll as we know it, but how well do we know those hits that our parents and grandparents lived and died by?

Great Balls of Fire: a Hollywood man meets a fire witch and explores the darker side of 1950s

Tinseltown? What if Elvis heard about an actual police *Hound Dog* that tripped and slobbered and bumbled its way through a hilarious manhunt?

The '60's

Emerging from post-WW2 patriotism and optimism into distrust and restlessness, the 1960s underwent some of the biggest social changes the United States has ever seen. Maybe *The Sound of Silence* was warning us of a virtual reality world where we seek simulated happiness and false gods to the point of our own destruction. *Sugar, Sugar* was almost certainly about an eccentric-but-lonely candy maker who built his own wife, right?

The 70's

Ah, the 70s. You don't have to stretch your imagination to create mysterious, wacky, and out-of-this-world stories from these songs! *Bohemian Rhapsody*: a Spanish girl journeys to Hades to save her poor boyfriend, who died at her mother's hand. *Stairway to Heaven*: the path back to the real world for a kid who tumbles into a wonderland. Or join two friends in their ridiculous *Kung Fu Fighting* video game as they race to battle the final boss before dinner!

The 80's

Some of history's best science fiction came from this era, and music was the sounding board of the culture. *Blue Monday*: a desperate cyborg would rather sink into the ocean than remain under the control of his oppressive creator. *Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go*: Dr. Jekyll's serenade to his own Jitterbug serum. An ancient relic known as the *Eye of the Tiger* grants its owner untold power but leaves him with a deadly desire to possess it forever.

The 90's

Whatever. Who wants to be cool, anyway? Our parents don't understand, the government doesn't understand, and our teachers don't understand. The 1990s had all the social unrest of the '60s, but they were too cool to admit it. *Hey Man, Nice Shot*: the story of a world-famous sniper who sacrificed himself to save a young private from a horde of approaching enemies. *Good Riddance*: the last words of a woman from the distant, dying future, spoken to the time traveler she fell in love with when he leaves her to save his own life. What if a werewolf escapes her curse when she discovers a mystical symbol, but when she tries to show *The Sign* to her lover, he refuses to open up his eyes?

Open Mic Night

Let's finish 2019 with a bang! Any song, any era. Broadway musicals, TV theme songs, nursery rhymes, or if you just missed your chance earlier in the year, our Open Mic theme has got you covered.

Using the Season Themes to inspire you, send us a story that fits any of the following Daily Flash genres:

MYSTERY MONDAY: From cozy to crime scene, start your week off with a bit of mystery. Creep through downtown foggy London Town, spy on secret agents at a midnight meeting, catch up with an old friend who may or may not be a cat burglar, or just figure out who stole your homework before the last bell rings. No matter the mystery, there's no case Havok can't solve from the comfort of your own bed.

Sub-genres: Amateur sleuth (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), cozy/whodunit (Agatha Christie), crime (*The Departed*), legal/medical (*A Few Good Men*), noir (*Blade Runner*), police procedural (*Silence of the Lambs*), professional sleuth (Sherlock Holmes), supernatural (*The Woman in Black*)

TECHNO TUESDAY: As your week hits its stride, don't be afraid to ask, "What if..." What if NASA really is covering for the aliens? What if your new cell phone comes with a free brain implant? What if a radioactive spider gives you super powers? What if time travel vacations are a thing of the past? With Havok, even the mysteries of the universe aren't too great to explore over your morning cup of coffee.

Sub-genres: Hard sci-fi (*The Martian*), soft sci-fi (*Spider-Man*), military (*Starship Troopers*), space opera (*Dune*), steampunk (*The Time Machine*), cyber/bio/nanopunk (*The Matrix*), voyages extraordinaire (Jules Verne), gothic (*Frankenstein's Monster*), dystopian (*The Hunger Games*)

WACKY WEDNESDAY: Halfway done, and who couldn't use a little humor over their lunch break? Well, embrace the lighter side of Havok as you laugh your stress away, 1,000 words at a time. Whether you're running alongside a hilariously unfortunate private eye, hitching a ride across the galaxy, helping a kid defend his home from Christmas burglars, enjoying a "sick day" with a high school adventurer, or going on an epic quest to find a holy grail, you can rest assured that your adventure will be anything but serious.

Sub-genres: Forget 'em! What would Wacky Wednesday be with a bunch of rules? If it's funny, light-hearted, and downright entertaining, you're hitting the mark.

THRILLER THURSDAY: As your week races to a close, get caught up in some heart-pumping excitement. Run down a terrorist before time runs out. Infiltrate a secret society before they collect the last relic. Untangle a sociopath's plot before he pins the whole thing on you. Take down a crime boss before he takes you down. And do it all before your kids wake up from their afternoon nap.

Sub-genres: Action (*James Bond*), adventure (*Indiana Jones*), conspiracy (*The Da Vinci Code*), crime (*Die Hard*), medical (*Outbreak*), man vs. nature (*Jaws*, *Twister*), psychological (*The Shining*)

FANTASY FRIDAY: TGI fantasy! Now, sit back and drift into another world filled with high elves, amateur wizards, magic wardrobes, suave vampires, and gun-slinging monster hunters. With Havok, there's no limit to how far the story will take you as you kick your feet up and usher in another fantastic weekend.

Sub-genres: Fairy tales (*Cinderella*), horror (*Dracula*), high fantasy (*The Lord of the Rings*), low fantasy (*Harry Potter*), magical realism (*Midnight in Paris*), medieval (*A Game of Thrones*), portal (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), urban/paranormal (*The Dresden Files*)

At first glance, our combination of season themes and daily genres might seem confusing. But like a new video game controller, it won't take long for you to get the hang of it. Below are some examples of how Season Two's "Stories That Sing" theme can be combined with some of the daily genres. In case you're wondering, these story ideas are absolutely up for grabs. If an example sparks your imagination, run with it!

MYSTERY MONDAY + 1950's: A mystery can be found in any genre. Whenever something is missing and needs to be found. Wherever something weird is going on and someone needs to figure it out. When someone is hiding and we don't know why or where.

Examples: Recount the events leading up to the *Folsom Prison Blues*. What's causing Little Susie to keep falling asleep (*Wake Up, Little Susie*)? Who is the mysterious, lovely woman who saved his life (*Earth Angel*)?

TECHNO TUESDAY + 1990's: Put on your science hat and look for ways to include a little "what if?"

Examples: The red swirls of Jupiter are caused by the massive magnetic fields surrounding alien creatures who live there (*Opposites Attract*). Scientists investigate mysterious tremors 100 kilometers from the Antarctic research station, finding a species of mushroom that smells like bacon and kills with a touch (*Ice Ice Baby*).

WACKY WEDNESDAY + 1970's: Put a funny spin on any song by giving us the absurd, the quirky, the unexpected. JUST MAKE US LAUGH.

Examples: What if *The Devil Went Down to Georgia* to steal enough souls to make his rent? Take us to the sedate museum fundraiser that ended with everybody *Kung Fu Fighting*.

THRILLER THURSDAY + 1980's: While songs are often about angst, beauty, or romance, there's no lack of adventure and suspense when you look for it.

Examples: An up-and-coming rock star tries to flush out her obsessive fan in *Every Breath You Take*, only to find that it's her washed-up mentor. A struggling actress stumbles into the Hollywood Forever Cemetery and has to fight for her life to escape the serial killer known as the Midnight Reaper (*Thriller*). An undercover agent discovers he's fallen in love with a terrorist but isn't ready to turn her in (*Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go*).

FANTASY FRIDAY + 1960's: Throw in a mythical creature, a magical item, set your story in a fantasy world, turn a fantasy trope upside down, and you may catch the attention of our Friday editors.

Examples: *For What Its Worth* may be about the spark that lit the fire of war between the elves and dwarves of New Amsterdam. Follow a paranormal bounty hunter to an underground club for vampires and werewolves (*Monster Mash*). Have a young girl try to tame a unicorn (*Born to Be Wild*). A shy young rock troll asks a river troll out in a sweet cross-cultural romance (*I Want To Hold Your Hand*).

These songs are just suggestions. Use your own favorites or do an internet search for "top songs" of any decade and then scan the list for suggestive titles. Lookup lyrics for even more ideas. immortalize in story an already immortal song!

1950's: *Fly Me To The Moon, Blue Suede Shoes, Great Balls of Fire, Earth Angel, Jailhouse Rock, Walkin' After Midnight, Wake up, Little Susie, Splish Splash, Folsom Prison Blues, Twelfth of Never, Sleep Walk, Strangers in the Night, Good Golly, Miss Molly, Who's Sorry Now?, Hard-Headed Woman, Mystery Train, Istanbul (Not Constantinople), Hey, Porter, Day-O (The Banana Boat Song), I Don't Care If The Sun Don't Shine, Sh-Boom, School Days, Shake, Rattle & Roll, Mister Sandman, Under The Sea, Everyday, Mack The Knife, In The Still of the Night, That's Amore, The Girl Can't Help It, Tequila, Got My Mojo Working, The Great Pretender, Back in the USA, Rockin' Robin, La Bamba, I Put a Spell On You, Rave On*

1960's: *Monster Mash, The Sound of Silence, The House of the Rising Sun, Wild Thing, Revolution, Born to Be Wild, Blowin' in the Wind, Yellow Submarine, Stand By Me, (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction, The Twist, I Get Around, Good Vibrations, Space Oddity, I'm A Believer, I Heard It Through The Grapevine, Tainted Love, Everlasting Love, I'm Your Puppet, You'll Never Walk Alone, The Lion Sleeps Tonight, Surfin' USA, Ring of Fire, Aquarius Let the Sunshine In, Hold On I'm Coming, Ain't No Mountain High Enough, Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head, Big Bad John, Hey Joe, Under the Boardwalk, Georgy Girl, California Dreamin', The End of the World, I Fought the Law, The Pink Panther, People Are Strange*

1970's: *The Ballroom Blitz, Dancing Queen, Dream Weaver, Riders on the Storm, Have You Ever Seen The Rain?, Rocket Man (I Think It's Going To Be A Long Long Time), Killing Me Softly, Another Brick In The Wall, Comfortably Numb, Hotel California, Lean On Me, Sweet Home Alabama, I Will Survive, Bohemian Rhapsody, Kung Fu Fighting, The Devil Went Down to Georgia, Stayin' Alive, Superstition, Come and Get Your Love, Stairway to Heaven, Rhinestone Cowboy, Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, Summer Nights, (They Long to Be) Close To You, The Candy Man, Anarchy in the U.K., One Way or Another, Crocodile Rock, I Can See Clearly Now, Midnight Train to Georgia, Take Me Home, Country Roads, American Woman*

1980's: *Walking on Sunshine, In the Air Tonight, We Didn't Start The Fire, Uptown Girl, Summer of 69, Everybody Wants To Rule The World, Eye of the Tiger, Living on a Prayer, Girls Just Want To Have Fun, The Final Countdown, Blue Monday, Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go, Walk Like an Egyptian, Take My Breath Away, Thriller, Never Gonna Give You Up, Every Breath You Take, Rockin' in the Free World, Super Freak, Time After Time, Rock Me Amadeus, Wicked Game, Nikita, If I Could Turn Back Time, Don't Worry, Be Happy, Endless Love, Owner of a Lonely Heart, Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For, Rebel Yell*

1990's: *The Sign, Mr. Jones, U Can't Touch This, Livin' la Vida Loca, Barbie Girl, Istanbul (Not Constantinople), (Everything I Do) I Do It For You, One Sweet Day, Truly Madly Deeply, Black Hole Sun, MMBop, Smells Like Teen Spirit, Hey Man, Nice Shot, Good Riddance, Gangsta's Paradise, Under The Bridge, Man, I Feel Like A Woman, The Power, Runaway Train, Say You'll Be There, Quit Playing Games (With My Heart), All Star, Kiss From A Rose, Smooth, Streets of Philadelphia, Waterfalls, Frozen, Thunderstruck, I Believe I Can Fly, I Swear, End of the Road, Circle of Life, Hero, Vogue*