

**Ezra Koenig: Indie Rock's biggest Jewish influence?  
Dan Heller, Limmud Festival 2019**

**Listening material here!**

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3FvgTwpnML721HaajlufC4>

**Harmony Hall  
Vampire Weekend, 2019**

We took a vow in summertime  
Now we find ourselves in late December  
I believe that New Year's Eve  
Will be the perfect time for their great  
surrender  
But they don't remember

**Anger wants a voice, voices wanna sing  
Singers harmonize till they can't hear  
anything  
I thought that I was free from all that  
questionin'  
But every time a problem ends, another  
one begins**

And the stone walls of Harmony Hall bear  
witness  
Anybody with a worried mind could never  
forgive the sight  
Of wicked snakes inside a place you thought  
was dignified  
**I don't wanna live like this, but I don't  
wanna die**  
Ooh, ooh, ooh  
I don't wanna live like this, but I don't wanna  
die

Within the halls of power lies a nervous  
heart that beats  
Like a Young Pretender's  
**Beneath these velvet gloves I hide  
The shameful, crooked hands of a  
moneylender  
'Cause I still remember**

**Anger wants a voice, voices wanna sing  
Singers harmonize till they can't hear  
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**Finger Back  
Vampire Weekend, 2013**

**Bend my finger back, snap! Wrap it in a  
paper towel  
Break a twig in half and set it straight  
Hit me with a wood bat, hit me with a  
canister  
That's fired while the soldiers drive away  
Bend my finger back, snap  
On and on and on and on for days  
Hit me with a wood bat, hit me like a  
Yankee  
Like a son of freedom, never as a slave**

It's etiquette, you idiot, spend time behind  
the line  
Show sympathy to LA where the sun don't  
ever shine  
Everybody wants you, but baby, you are  
mine  
And baby, you're not anybody's fool

Bless me with a heart attack, a real crise  
cardiaque  
And show me where to find the surgeon's  
knife  
Eviscerate me now, hack! Take me to my  
punishment  
The punishment I've needed all my life  
Bend my finger back, snap!  
On and on and on and on with strife  
Listen to my bum rap, listen to the evidence  
Exonerating me from being right

It's etiquette, you idiot, spend time behind  
the line  
Show sympathy to LA where the sun don't  
ever shine  
Everybody wants you, but baby, you are  
mine  
And baby, you're not anybody's fool

You know that I've been wicked and the  
road to hell is wide  
Cursed by curiosity that made us go inside  
Everyone was charming but we took us for a  
ride  
Baby, you're not anybody's fool  
Bend my finger back, snap! Wrap it in a  
paper towel  
Break a twig in half and set it straight  
Hit me with a wood bat, hit me with a  
canister  
That's fired while the soldiers drive away

Bend my finger back, snap!  
On and on and on and on for days  
Hit me with a wood bat, hit me like a Yankee  
Like a son of freedom, never as a slave

It's etiquette, you idiot, spend time behind  
the line  
Show sympathy to LA where the sun don't  
ever shine  
Everybody wants you, but baby, you are  
mine  
And baby, you're not anybody's fool

**The harpsichord is broken and the  
television's fried  
The city's getting hotter like a country in  
decline  
Everyone's a coward when you look them  
in the eyes  
But baby, you're not anybody's fool**

**Sing "Next Year in Jerusalem"  
You know, the one at 103rd and  
Broadway?  
'Cause this Orthodox girl fell in love  
With the guy at the falafel shop  
And why not? Should she have averted  
her eyes  
And just stared at the laminated poster of  
the Dome of the Rock?**

**And then blood, blood, blood, blood,  
blood, blood, blood  
And then blood, blood, blood  
And then blood, blood, blood, blood,  
blood, blood, blood  
And then blood, blood, blood, blood,  
blood**

**Remembrances of holy days in  
Tarrytown and Rye  
I don't wanna live like this, but I don't  
wanna die  
Condolences to gentle hearts who  
couldn't bear to try  
I don't wanna live like this, but I don't  
wanna die  
Remembrances of holy days in Tarrytown  
and Rye  
I don't wanna live like this, but I don't wanna  
die**

**Ya Hey**  
**Vampire Weekend, 2013**

Oh, sweet thing  
**Zion doesn't love you**  
**And Babylon don't love you**  
But you love everything  
Oh, you saint  
America don't love you  
So I could never love you  
In spite of everything

In the dark of this place  
There's the glow of your face  
There's the dust on the screen  
Of this broken machine  
And I can't help but feel  
That I've made some mistake  
But I let it go  
Ya Hey

**Through the fire and through the flames**  
**You won't even say your name**  
Through the fire and through the flames  
You won't even say your name  
**Only "I am that I am"**  
**But who could ever live that way?**  
**Ut Deo, Ya Hey**  
**Ut Deo, Deo**

Oh, the motherland don't love you  
The fatherland don't love you  
So why love anything?  
Oh, good God  
The faithless they don't love you  
The zealous hearts don't love you  
And that's not gonna change

**All the cameras and files**  
**All the paranoid styles**

**All the tension and fear**  
**Of a secret career**  
**And I can't help but think**  
**That you've seen the mistake**  
**But you let it go**  
**Ya Hey**

Through the fire and through the flames  
You won't even say your name  
Through the fire and through the flames  
You won't even say your name  
You say "I am what I am"  
But who could ever live that way?  
Ut Deo, Ya Hey  
Ut Deo, Deo

Outside the tents, on the festival grounds  
As the air began to cool, and the sun went  
down  
My soul swooned, as I faintly heard the  
sound  
Of you spinning "Israelites"

Into "19th Nervous Breakdown"  
Through the fire and through the flames  
You won't even say your name  
Through the fire and through the flames  
You won't even say your name  
Only "I am what I am"  
But who could ever live that way?  
Ut Deo, Ya Hey  
Ut Deo, Deo

Through the fire and through the flames  
You won't even say your name  
Only "I am that I am"  
But who could ever live that way?  
(Ya Hey)  
Ut Deo, Ya Hey  
Ut Deo, Deo

**Everlasting Arms**  
**Vampire Weekend, 2013**

I took your counsel and came to ruin  
Leave me to myself, leave me to myself  
I took your counsel and came to ruin  
Leave me to myself, leave me to myself

Oh I was made to live without you  
But I'm never gonna understand, never understand  
Oh I was born to live without you  
But I'm never gonna understand, never understand

Hold me in your everlasting arms  
Looked up, full of fear, trapped beneath a chandelier that's going down

**I thought it over and drew the curtain**

**Leave me to myself, leave me to myself**  
**I hummed the "Dies Irae" as you played the Hallelujah**  
**Leave me to my cell, me to my cell**

**If you'd been made to serve a master**  
**You'd be frightened by the open hand, frightened by the hand**  
**Could I be made to serve a master?**  
**Well, I'm never gonna understand, never understand**

Hold me in your everlasting arms  
Looked up, full of fear, trapped beneath a chandelier that's going down  
Hold me in your everlasting arms  
Looked up, full of fear, trapped beneath a chandelier that's going down

Hold me in your everlasting arms

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**Jerusalem, New York, Berlin**  
**Vampire Weekend, 2019**

I know I loved you then  
I think I love you still  
But this prophecy of ours  
Has come back dressed to kill  
Three stones on a mountain  
Three small holes in a field  
You've given me the big dream  
But you can't make it real

O, wicked world  
Just think what could have been  
Jerusalem, New York, Berlin  
All I do is lose, but baby  
All I want's to win  
Jerusalem, New York, Berlin

A hundred years or more  
It feels like such a dream  
An endless conversation  
Since 1917  
Now the battery is too hot  
It's burning up in its tray

Young marriages are melting  
And dying where they lay

O, wicked world  
Just think what could have been  
Jerusalem, New York, Berlin  
All I do is lose, but baby  
All I want's to win  
Jerusalem, New York, Berlin

Our tongues will fall so still  
Our teeth will all decay  
A minute feels much longer  
With nothing left to say  
So let them win the battle  
But don't let them restart  
That genocidal feeling  
That beats in every heart

O, wicked world  
Just think what could have been  
Jerusalem, New York, Berlin  
All I do is lose, but baby  
All I want's to win  
Jerusalem, New York, Berlin

## **Horchata Vampire Weekend, 2010**

In December, drinking horchata  
I'd look psychotic in a balaclava  
Winter's cold is too much to handle  
Pincher crabs that pinch at your sandals

In December, drinking horchata  
Look down your glasses at that Aranciata  
With lips and teeth to ask how my day went  
Boots and fists to pound on the pavement

Here comes a feeling you thought you'd  
forgotten  
Chairs to sit and sidewalks to walk on

**You'd remember drinking horchata  
You'd still enjoy it with your foot on  
Masada**  
Winter's cold is too much to handle  
Pincher crabs that pinch at your sandals

Here comes a feeling you thought you'd  
forgotten  
Chairs to sit and sidewalks to walk on  
Oh, you had it but oh, no, you lost it  
Looking back, you shouldn't have fought it

In December, drinking horchata  
I'd look psychotic in a balaclava  
Winter's cold is too much to handle  
Pincher crabs that pinch at your sandals  
Years go by and hearts start to harden  
Those palms and firs that grew in your  
garden  
Are falling down and nearing the rosebeds  
The roots are shooting up through the tool  
shed  
Those lips and teeth that asked how my day  
went  
Are shouting up through cracks in the  
pavement

Here comes a feeling you thought you'd  
forgotten  
Chairs to sit and sidewalks to walk on  
Oh, you had it but oh, no, you lost it  
You understood so you shouldn't have  
fought it  
Here comes a feeling you thought you'd  
forgotten  
Chairs to sit and sidewalks to walk on  
Here comes a feeling you thought you'd  
forgotten  
Chairs to sit and sidewalks to walk on

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Further reading:

<https://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/music/143898/vampire-weekend-perplexed>

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/the-semi-charmed-life-of-vampire-weekend-237587/>

<https://www.heyalma.com/the-new-vampire-weekend-music-video-starring-jerry-seinfeld-is-an-ode-to-the-jewish-deli/>

<https://www.heyalma.com/vampire-weekends-this-life-video-features-a-passover-seder/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2019/jun/27/vampire-weekend-ezra-koenig-who-knows-when-youll-turn-a-corner-and-feel-really-happy>

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/australia-culture-blog/2014/feb/03/vampire-weekend-interview>

<https://www.theic.com/judaism/features/hannah-the-heroine-of-rosh-hashanah-1.58001>

This Life - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwkrrU2WYKg>

Sunflower - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKDesEcDrcc>