

Music from Tales of the City

Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane (the book)

Song and Chapter

Tours of the Tales

Theme from Elvira Madigan/“Piano Concerto No. 21: Andante” by
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Chapter: The Ad Game

In June 1973, DeDe Halcyon and Beauchamp Day were married on the lawn of Halcyon Hill, DeDe’s family estate in Hillsborough. A string quart played the theme from *Elvira Madigan* while DeDe’s maid of honor recited selections from Kahlil Gibran.

“Try A Little Tenderness” written by Jimmy Campbell, Reg Connelly, and Harry Woods (first recorded by Ray Noble Orchestra and later covered by Otis Redding, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Etta James, Tina Turner, and Three Dog Night...and the list goes on)
Chapter: ...And Many Happy Returns

Tour #11, Union Street/Cow Hollow, The Marina District, and Back to the Beginning...

Oh, she may be weary
Young girls they do get weary
Wearing that same old shabby dress
But when she gets weary
Try a little tenderness

After rolling around together in Connie’s bed, Connie and Brian started a little war of words. Finally, Connie said “I don’t think it’s *abnormal* to require a little tenderness.”

The phrase “a little tenderness” prompted Brian to respond by sarcastically singing the first two lines of “Try a Little Tenderness”.
“She may be weary, women do get weary...”

Brian didn’t know the song’s lyrics as well as he thought.

Brian soon learned that Connie’s moodiness was because it was her birthday and it wasn’t celebrated.

“Close to You” written by Burt Bacharach and Hal David
Chapter: Mrs. Day at Home

Tour #4, Telegraph Hill and Back to Fisherman’s Wharf

Beauchamp is off for the week and DeDe is restless in their penthouse on Telegraph Hill (he’s told her he’s with the Guardsmen on Mount Tam – he’s actually a little further north in Mendocino with Mary Ann). After a bath, DeDe reminisced about a long ago tryst she had with Splinter Riley in a boathouse in Belvedere.

God! She had forgotten none of it. The mingled odors of sweat and Chanel for Men. The scrape of the damp planks against her fanny. The distant strains of Walt Tolleson’s combo playing “Close to You” up on the hillside.

Then she dialed Splinter.

“(Sittin’ on) The Dock of the Bay” written by Otis Redding and Steve Cropper
Chapter: The Chinese Connection

Tour #4, Telegraph Hill and Back to Fisherman’s Wharf

(Continuing the scene from “Close to You” above...)

Splinter Riley did answer the phone but didn’t immediately recognize DeDe’s voice. She gave him a hint, singing, “Sittin’ on the dock of the bay, wastin’ tiiiiime...”

Splinter instantly recognized the caller.

“It Never Rains in Southern California” by written by Albert Hammond and Mike Hazelwood
Chapter: Miss Singleton Dines Alone

Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill

It was Sunday night and after returning from their tryst in Mendocino, Beauchamp dropped Mary Ann off at her apartment. Mary Ann was unpacking and, torn by her confusion over Beauchamp, the blues were starting to set in. Mary Ann ate by candlelight her dinner of a pork chop accompanied by cottage cheese and chives. While she dined, “It Never Rains in Southern California” played on KCBS-FM.

“I Enjoy Being a Girl” from the *Flower Drum Song*, written by Rogers and Hammerstein

Chapter: Romance in the Rink

After Mona caught him in the shower taking a wire brush to the crotch of his Levis, Michael explained to Mona that the jeans had to be perfect that evening. He was going to Gay Night at the Grand Arena roller skating rink in South San Francisco.

Michael arrived late at the Grand Area (8:00 pm). He was stuck renting white, tasseled, women’s pair of skates. As he approached the edge of the rink, he grinned when the recorded organ music played “I Enjoy Being a Girl”. Not long after, Michael met and introduced himself to Jon Fielding. And got a bloody nose for the effort.

“Desiderata” written by Max Ehrmann

Chapter: Bells Are Ringing

Tour #8, The Castro,
Noe Valley, and
Dubose Triangle

Mary Ann arrived at the Bay Area Crisis Switchboard to work her shift. Vincent was on a bummer. Mary Ann convinced Vincent that he should share with her what was bothering him stating it would be good practice for her working the phone. Vincent revealed that his anti-war, pacifist wife had left him, fled the country for Israel, and joined the Israeli Army. He then fled into the bathroom and locked the door.

Then the phone began to ring.

Torn between making sure Vincent was not cutting off another one of his body parts in the bathroom and the ringing phone, a desperate Mary Ann began to spout out the first encouraging words that popped into her mind.

“Vincent, you are a child of the universe! So less than the trees and the stars! You have a right to be here, Vincent! And whether or ... whether or not ... Today is the first day of the rest of your life...?”

The first part of Mary Ann’s recitation is from the *Desiderata* written by Max Ehrmann. The poem was not a song, but it has been recorded by some artists as “spoken word”.

Leonard Nimoy recorded the *Desiderata* in the early 70s and giving the poem the title “Spock Thoughts”. Here’s the audio clip “Spock Thoughts” on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIFzLb9D2fQ>.

“Spock Thoughts” is available through iTunes. Les Crane also recorded the *Desiderata* in the early 1970s as a spoken word with some music. Les Crane’s version of the *Desiderata* is very 1970s in style – perfect for including in your music from *Tales of the City* playlist. This version of the *Desiderata* is also available through iTunes as “Desiderata”.

“Cherchez la Femme” – Written by Stony Browder Jr and August Darnell (Dr Buzzard’s Original Savannah Band)
Chapter: The Winner’s Circle

Tour #9, SOMA
(South of Market)

When Michael climbed up onto the dance platform at the End Up as a contestant in the jockey shorts contest, he quickly lost himself in the music of “Cherchez la Femme” performed by Dr Buzzard’s Original Savannah Dirt band.

He also lost Jon when Dr Fielding walked into the End Up during Michael’s performance.

“Some Enchanted Evening” performed by Jane Olivor on her album *First Night* written by Oscar Hammerstein and Richard Rodgers
Chapter: The News from Home

Tour #1, In the
Beginning: Aquatic
Park and Russian Hill

Before leaving for the Bay Area Crises Switchboard, Mary Ann stopped in at Mona and Michael’s apartment. A crying Michael answered the door. He invited Mary Ann into the “Heartbreak Hotel”. He wanted Mary Ann to listen to the music.

“Sit down and have a good cry. This woman is God’s gift to romantics.” He held up an album cover. Jane Olivor’s *First Night*. “Some Enchanted Evening” was playing on the stereo.’

“Greenback Dollar” written by Hoyt Axton and Kennard Ramsey
Chapter: Nightcap

Tour #1, In the
Beginning: Aquatic
Park and Russian Hill

After discovering that Vincent had died organically at the Bay Area

Switchboard, a shaken Mary Ann was dropped off at Barbary Lane by a young SFPD officer. As she approached her apartment door, she noticed a light on under Brian's door and knocked on it. When half-dressed Brian answered the door, Mary Ann asked if she could take him up on his earlier offer that evening to share a joint.

Brian patiently and supportively listened to Mary Ann's recounting of finding Vincent hanging from Laurel's macramé wall hanging at the Crises Center. Brian then ironically remarked that both she and he had a good day.

Mary Ann asked Brian about his day. He then summed up for Mary Ann his day visiting friends at a house party at Stinson Beach. At one point in his story, Brian mentioned one of the guys at the party grabbed a guitar and started to sing "I don't give a damn about a greenback dollar...".

"San Francisco!" written by Bronislaw Kaper, Walter Jurmann, and Gus Kahn. Tour #2, North Beach

Chapter: The Clue in the Bookshop

Shortly after D'orothea was hired by – and Mona was fired by – Halcyon Communications, D'or and Mona sipped cappuccinos at Malvina's in North Beach. D'or announced to Mona that D'or was finished with New York. D'or wanted San Francisco to be her home again.

Cynically, Mona quipped with a paraphrased line from the song "San Francisco": "Comin' home to go roamin' no more, huh?"

“Tales of the City” (the miniseries)

Here a link to an audio clip of the theme song from “Tales of the City” which can be downloaded and saved: http://www.televisiontunes.com/Tales_of_the_City.html.

Song and Scene

Tours of the Tales

* = These songs are on *Tales of the City* music CD by PolyGram International (see the end of the list of songs)

Episode 1

“Jive Talkin’” – performed by the BeeGees *

This song is playing on Connie Bradshaw’s stereo when Mary Ann first arrives at Connie’s.

Tour #1, In the
Beginning: Aquatic
Park and Russian Hill

“Disco Inferno” – performed by Soul Station

Song is playing as Mary Ann and Connie enter the Disco (this is Dance Your Ass Off in *Tales of the City*)

Tour #1, In the
Beginning: Aquatic
Park and Russian Hill

“Philadelphia Freedom” – performed by Elton John *

The first night in her new apartment, Mary Ann is lining the shelves of her kitchen cabinets with contact paper. Mona enters Mary Ann’s apartment and asks her “You wanna mellow out?”

Tour #1, In the
Beginning: Aquatic
Park and Russian Hill

“Low Rider” – performed by War

The song is briefly heard coming out of Brian’s apartment as Mary Ann descends the steps to join Mrs. Madrigal for dinner. The song appears again in the movie.

Tour #1, In the
Beginning: Aquatic
Park and Russian Hill

“Prelude: Marriage of Figaro”

The Opera’s orchestra is playing this as Edgar and Beauchamp enter the Halcyon’s box at the Opera.

Tour #10, Civic
Center, the *Other*
Edge of the
Tenderloin, and Polk
Street

“Dove Sono I Bei Momenti” Aria from Marriage of Figaro

The role of the Countess Rosina Almaviva is played by Vicki Preston Brown. The Countess’ husband, the Count Almaviva, is a scheming, unfaithful bully.

Dove sono i bei momenti	Where are the lovely moments
Di dolcezza e di piacer?	Of sweetness and pleasure?
Dove andaro i giuramenti	Where have the promises gone
Di quel labbro menzogner?	That came from those lying lips?

As the Countess sings the last two lines, she looks up at the Halcyon’s box in which sit Edgar and Beauchamp.

Tour #10, Civic Center, the *Other* Edge of the Tenderloin, and Polk Street

“Feel-Like-I’m-Fixin’-to-Die Rag” – performed by Country Joe McDonald

On the first night Mary Ann moved into 28 Barbary Lane, Anna Madrigal invited Mary Ann over for dinner. Two of Anna’s friends, Joaquin (played by Joe McDonald) and Laurel, joined them for dinner. Joaquin and Laurel get down with this song in the Anna’s living room while Anna and Mary Ann talk in Anna’s bedroom. Mary Ann learned that Madrigal is an assumed name...and learned very little else that evening about Mrs. Madrigal. In 1961, Joe McDonald co-founded Country Joe & the Fish an anti-war, psychedelic rock band that made “Feel-Like-I’m-Fixin’-to-Die Rag”, written by Joe McDonald, a hit.

Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill

Episode 2

“It’s a Man’s Man’s Man’s World” – performed by James Brown *

Brian is alone in his apartment, lighting up a joint and starting to read a book. He becomes restless moving on to listening to his stereo with headphones and then weight lifting. Eventually looking for company so he goes to Mary Ann’s, but she’s not home. He then heads to a laundromat where he meets and seduces Connie Bradshaw.

Tour #11, Union Street/Cow Hollow, the Marina District, and Back to the Beginning

“MORE, MORE, MORE” – performed by Andrea True Connection *

The song is playing on the portable radio as Mona and Mouse head arrive at the beach.

<p>“Sittin’ By the Dock of the Bay”</p> <p>DeDe calls Splinter to try to hook up with him, but he doesn’t recognize her voice. She then sings the song has a hint. He immediately realizes it is DeDe calling him.</p>	<p>Tour #3, Telegraph Hill and Back to Fisherman’s Wharf</p>
<p>“You Sexy Thing” – performed by Rick James</p> <p>The song is playing at the End Up when Michael enters it and meets Chuck. In <i>Tales of the City</i>, Michael meets...and picks up Chuck at the Twin Peaks.</p>	<p>Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market) / Tour #8, The Castro and Noe Valley</p>
<p>“Cry Me a River” – performed by Julie London *</p> <p>Mona is at Mrs. Madrigal’s talking about Mona’s relationship with Michael. Mona then drops the bomb that she’s been canned by Halcyon Communications.</p>	<p>Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill</p>
<p>“That Lady” – performed by Isley Brothers *</p> <p>Michael walks into the roller rink. When he goes up to rent a pair of size 10 men’s skates, they are out. He ends up renting a pair of woman’s skate in his size: white with pink laces. Once he’s starts skating, he sees a cute man and runs into him...Jon.</p>	
<p>“Love to Love You, Baby” by Donna Summer *</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <p>“Don’t Take Away the Music” by Tavares *</p> <p>Both songs are playing in the roller rink when Michael and Jon are doing the couples skate; however, “Love to Love You, Baby” was played in the VHS release of the mini-series while later it was replaced by “Don’t Take Away the Music” in the DVD release of the mini-series.</p> <p>(Thank you, Randy M. for catching this discrepancy!)</p>	
<p><i>Episode 3</i></p>	
<p>“<i>San Francisco – Finale</i>” – performed by the cast of Beach Blanket Babylon</p>	<p>Tour #2, North Beach</p>

Mrs. Madrigal has purchased two tickets – one for her and the other for Mona – to go see Beach Blanket Babylon. Mrs. Madrigal reminds Mona that it is the third anniversary of Mona’s arrival at 28 Barbary Lane.

“Don’t Take Away the Music” by Tavares *

Tour #8, The Castro and Noe Valley

The song is briefly heard from a radio or record player as Mona and Michael walk along a street discussing their financial situation (24th Street in Noe Valley).

“Show Me the Way” – performed by Peter Frampton

Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill

Michael is sunning himself in the courtyard at 28 Barbary Lane when he is joined by Brian (“Come on in. The water’s fine.”) They formally introduce themselves to each other. Armistead Maupin makes his cameo appearance in this mini-series during this scene. Can you spot him? He is the man seen through the window of a house overlooking the courtyard. He is typing...the next installment of *Tales of the City*?

“Turn the Beat Around” – performed by Vicki Sue Robinson

Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market) /

Michael and Mona are entering the End Up for Michael’s participation in the Mr. End Up Contest.

“Cherchez la Femme” – performed by Dr Buzzard’s Original Savannah Band

Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market)

This song is playing in the disco (The End UP) as Michael emerges from the women’s room after stripping down to his white jockeys.

“Never Can Say Good-Bye” – performed by Gloria Gaynor *

Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market)

Michael dances to this song in the End Up Dance Contest.

Episode 4

“I Am Blue” – performed by Bette Midler

Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill

Michael is listening to this as he’s cleaning the windows in his

apartment and talking to Mary Ann. He tells her this is “washing up”, “post-whoopee” music. Meanwhile, Anna Madrigal sneaks Edgar Halcyon into her apartment.

“Low Rider” – performed by War

After returning home the evening of Vincent’s suicide at the Crises Hotline, Mary Ann knocks on Brian’s door asking if his earlier offer of a joint still stands. The song is playing on Brian’s stereo.

Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill

Episode 5

“Love Will Keep Us Together”

After the preacher (Willy Sessums) at the church finally succeeds in cajoling Mona to shout “Right On!”, the choir breaks into “Love Will Keep us Together”. The drag queen in the prom dress sitting next to Mona asks her if she could just die for the Captain and Tenniel.

Tour #6, Chinatown, Nob Hill, and (Part of) The Tenderloin

“Cocaine” – performed by JJ Cale * overlapped with “Lady Marmalade” – performed by Labelle *

Michael and Brian are performing little tasks in their apartments; the Mary Tyler Moore show is playing on both of their TVs. Both shut off their TV’s at about the same time, walk out the doors of their apartments, and see each other. Brian asks Michael if he’d like to get high together.

Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill

Donizetti’s “Lucia de Lamimoor”

Jon and Peter Cipriani are having dinner at the A-Gay’s

“That’s the Way, I Like It” – performed by KC and the Sunshine Band *

This is playing in the bar (The Stud/Holy Cow) where Brian and Mouse go cruising to break up a straight couple. Brian meets the Coppola Woman...you know, the one wearing the t-shirt with “bitch” stretched across her chest.

Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market)

“Lady Marmalade” – performed by Labelle * (second time in the movie)

This is playing as Jon and Peter Cipriani enter the baths (The Club

Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market)

Baths/Sanctuary).

“Play That Funky Music” – performed by Wild Cherry *

Tour #9, SOMA
(South of Market)

After cruising the disco (apparently with little success), Michael and Brian reconnect with each other back at the disco’s bar. Michael explains the purpose of cock-rings to Brian. (The Stud/Holy Cow)

Episode 6

“Deck the Hall” and “Jingle Bell”

Tour #8, The Castro
and Noe Valley

A “musak” version of these songs are playing when Mary Ann and Michael purchase their Christmas trees. “Deck the Hall” is blaring as they enter the alley to purchase the trees and “Jingles Bell” is blaring as they exit the alley carrying their trees.

“Little Drummer Boy”

Tour #1, In the
Beginning: Aquatic
Park and Russian Hill
/ Tour #2, North
Beach

After his brief confrontation with Anna Madrigal over his past due rent, Norman begins to drunkenly ascend the steps to the pentshack humming “Little Drummer Boy”

“And the Band Played On”

Edgar and Anna are dancing on the stage at the Bohemian Grove as Anna hums “And the Band Played On”.

“Dirty Claus Rag” – performed by Country Joe McDonald

Tour #1, In the
Beginning: Aquatic
Park and Russian Hill

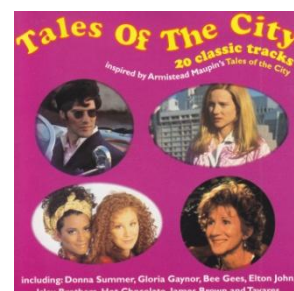
Joaquin and Laura have returned to Anna Madrigal’s for her Christmas Eve fete. They are singing this song on the sofa while the residents of 28 Barbary Lane interact with each other.

About the Tales of the City music CD:

In 1998, Polygram International released a music CD titled Tales of the City. This CD is not a sound track rather it is a compilation of songs from the 1970s “inspired by Armistead Maupin’s Tales of the City”. Of the twenty songs on the CD, only fourteen appeared one or more times –

Music from Tales of the City

Page 11 of 12



however briefly – in the movie. The six songs included in the CD that were *not* in the movie are:

- Ladies Night – performed by Kool and the Gang
- H.A.P.P.Y. Radio – performed by Edwin Starr
- You're the First, the Last, My Everything – performed by Berry White
- I'm Not in Love – performed by 10cc
- Hang on in There Baby – performed by Johnny Bristol

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