

Music from Tales of the City

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

Song and Chapter	Tours of the Tales
<hr/> <p>“It Never Rains in Southern California” by written by Albert Hammond and Mike Hazelwood Chapter Name: Miss Singleton Dines Alone</p> <p>It’s Sunday night and after returning from their tryst in Mendocino, Beauchamp dropped Mary Ann off at her apartment. Mary Ann is unpacking and, torn by her confusion over Beauchamp, the blues are starting to set in. As she eats a pork chop accompanied by cottage cheese and chives, “It Never Rains in Southern California” plays on KCBS-FM.</p>	<hr/> <p>Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill</p>
<hr/> <p>“Cherchez la Femme” – Written by Stony Browder Jr and August Darnell (Dr Buzzard’s Original Savannah Band) Chapter Name: The Winner’s Circle</p> <p>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.</p> <p>He also lost Jon when Dr Fielding walked into the End Up during Michael’s performance.</p>	<hr/> <p>Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market)</p>

“Tales of the City” (the miniseries)

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 Son I Bei Momenti” Aria from Marriage of Figaro

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

Episode 2

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

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

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.

“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.

“Sittin’ By the Dock of the Bay”

Tour #3, Telegraph Hill and Back to Fisherman’s Wharf

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.

“You Sexy Thing” – performed by Rick James

The song is playing at the End Up when Michael enters it and meets Chuck. In *Tales of the City*, Michael meets...and picks up Chuck at the Twin Peaks.

Tour #9, SOMA
(South of Market) /
Tour #8, The Castro
and Noe Valley

“Cry Me a River” – performed by Julie London *

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.

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

“That Lady” – performed by Isley Brothers *

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.

“Love to Love You, Baby” by Donna Summer *

OR

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

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.

(Thank you, Randy M. for catching this discrepancy!)

Episode 3

“*San Francisco – Finale*” – performed by the cast of Beach Blanket Babylon

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

Tour #2, North Beach

<p>“Don’t Take Away the Music” by Tavares *</p> <p>The song is briefly heard from a radio or record player as are Mona and Michael walk along a street discussing their financial situation (24th Street in Noe Valley).</p>	<p>Tour #8, The Castro and Noe Valley</p>
<p>“Show Me the Way” – performed by Peter Frampton</p> <p>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 <i>Tales of the City</i>?</p>	<p>Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill</p>
<p>“Turn the Beat Around” – performed by Vicki Sue Robinson</p> <p>Michael and Mona are entering the End Up for Michael’s participation in the Mr End Up Contest.</p>	<p>Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market) /</p>
<p>“Cherchez la Femme” – performed by Dr Buzzard’s Original Savannah Band</p> <p>This song is playing in the disco (The End UP) as Michaels emerges from the women’s room after stripping down to his white jockeys.</p>	<p>Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market)</p>
<p>“Never Can Say Good-Bye” – performed by Gloria Gaynor *</p> <p>Michael dances to this song in the End Up Dance Contest.</p>	<p>Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market)</p>
<p><i>Episode 4</i></p>	
<p>“I Am Blue” – performed by Bette Midler</p> <p>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-woopie” music. Meanwhile, Anna Madrigal sneaks Edgar Halcyon into her apartment.</p>	<p>Tour #1, In the Beginning: Aquatic Park and Russian Hill</p>

“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 Baths/Sanctuary).

Tour #9, SOMA (South of Market)

“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”.

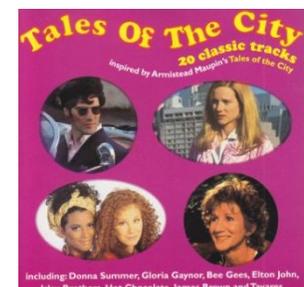
“Dirty Claus Rag” – performed by Country Joe McDonald

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 –



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

Updated: 4 November 2016