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“Tunes” For Comfort or Distraction When Isolated.

With concerns about the Wuhan Flu keeping so many isolated, there has been a considerable reduction in the time wasted in commuting. The following “tunes” include sad and bluesy songs in keeping with today’s concerns. There are some “remedy” songs as well. Also, there is a selection from an album called *Vintage Songs of Sex, Drugs & Cigarettes*. No prudery here.

The first “tune” is: *The Commuter Blues*, by the Ray Charles Singers. There is no connection to the blues-popular singer Ray Charles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IicoerP2T9U>

The next one is by the Count Basie Trio, *Blues in the Alley*. Written by Basie it exemplifies his very simple but effective style.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQHfV4v6Le0>

As the saying goes **“There are only two kinds of music – Country and Western”**. And the following by Crystal Gayle is about as wistful as it gets.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8V9B0BycvY>

All selections are from Bob’s library which was downloaded years ago. From the “Blues and Sad” file, which seems appropriate. *Down the Street, 'Round the Corner Blues* is by Lawrence Brown who played trombone mainly with Ellington from 1932 to 1970. Brown could also be doing the vocal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tN3mYqFgxwY>

Of course, some have livened up being at home with some refreshments. This first one in this section is a favorite by the UB40 group:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXt56MB-3vc>

Then there is something more colorful from an album called *Vintage Songs of Sex, Drugs & Cigarettes: That Cat is High* is by the “Ink Spots”, who were widely popular in the 1940s.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCMxGHEm_6I

Erskine Hawkins played trumpet and fronted a band under his name from 1936 until 1993, when he passed away. His best known composition is the jazz standard *Tuxedo Junction*. However, the following *After Hours* has a lot going for it. Particularly, the pianist Avery Parrish, who also wrote it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-7mp8-cDw8>

The next tune for our entertainment while isolated series is the classic *Cocktails for Two*. It's for those with a partner. Written in 1934 to celebrate the end of Prohibition, the 1961 version by Betty Carter includes a vocal group as well as Ray Charles, himself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3qHzLWBYIQ>

And this list would not be complete without *Scotch and Soda*. This is the original by the Kingston Trio in their first album "The Kingston Trio" released in 1958. Bob Shane carries the vocal and he passed away in January.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKw_2wbMmpU

The next song is for those who may be isolated in one place, with their "sweetie" somewhere else. The saddest of circumstances. *Blue Fantasia* by Johnny Hodges, fronting his own band in the number. He plays alto sax with remarkable confidence and spent most of his career with Ellington.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szVDTP0vhmo>

But Where are You with words and music by Irving Berlin dates to 1936 and really is a lonely song. This version is by Harriet Hilliard and for those who are interested it would be worthwhile checking her out in "Wiki".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6CBjNsVpec>