

Musical and other clips used in [“Walking Backwards into the Future”](#)

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Before writing a “why-use-music” introduction for this, I searched for why people use humour in presentations. I have a feeling that both, or a combination of both, can work in a very similar way. Moreover, I have a lot of fun weaving musical snippets into my narratives and its somewhere my imagination just likes to go.

So why do people use humour? It can create a bond with the audience. From [here](#) ... “A speaker who uses humour well comes across as more human, more likeable. This puts an audience at ease and makes people more receptive to your ideas. As British comedian John Cleese has said, ‘If I can get you to laugh with me, you like me better, which makes you more open to my ideas.’” It energizes people and keeps them engaged. It can provide emotional relief for the audience. It can lighten up a difficult subject or situation, calm your nerves, and capture your audience’s attention. From [here](#), humour helps learning and memory – we remember things that are interesting and quirky. So worth a try for music as well ??!!

The following is the clips in the talk in the order in which they were used.

OPENING sequence (10 mins)

From Simon and Garfield’s “The Sounds of Silence”

*Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again*

*And the sign said, "The words of the prophets
Are written on the subway walls*

Opening strains of Richard Strauss’s “Also Sprach Zarathustra” (Berliner Philharmoniker)

From Queen’s “Who Wants to Live Forever”

Who wants to live forever ...

From Ella Fitzgerald singing George Gershwin’s “Summertime”

Summertime ...

From Jon Bon Jovi’s “Blaze Of Glory”

... down in a blaze of glory ...

From “Hamlet” (1990, spoken by Ian Holm as Polonius)

To thine own self be true ...

From Lou Reed’s “Walk on the Wild Side”

*Take a walk on the wild side ...
(Repeated)*

From Tiësto's, "The Business"

So let's get down, let's get down to business ...

From Māori official welcome and Karakia beginning the Opening Ceremony of the 2011 Rugby World Cup (~16 secs)

From Richard Burton's reading of "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas

To begin at the beginning ...

From Pink Floyd's "Great Gig in the Sky" off "Dark Side of the Moon"

(vocal histrionics by Clare Torry)

From Bachman Turner Overdrive's "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet"

You ain't seen nothing yet ...

From Simon and Garfield's "The Boxer"

*All lies and jest
Still a man hears what he wants to hear
And disregards the rest*

From Pink Floyd's "Welcome To The Machine"

Welcome to the machine ..

From Edvard Grieg's: "Peer Gynt - Morning Mood" with birds singing

From Pink Floyd's "Time"

*And then one day you find ten years have got behind you
No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun*

From Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth"

*Stop now, what's that sound
Everybody look what's going down*

More of the opening passage of Richard Strauss's "Also sprach Zarathustra" (Berliner Philharmoniker)

From the Beatles, "Day in the Life"

"I read the news today, oh boy..."

From Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth"

*There's something happening here
But what it is ain't exactly clear ...*

From Pink Floyd's "Careful With That Axe, Eugene"

*Careful with that axe, Eugene ...
(then screaming ...)*

A few bars of Penderecki's "Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima" (used for dystopian future)

From Leonard Cohen's "Everybody Knows" (2nd & 3rd lines also used many times as an "punctuator")

*Everybody knows, everybody knows
That's how it goes
Everybody knows*

From Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (written by Dorothy Fields and Cy Coleman)

*And you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'*

BODY OF TALK

From Barbra Streisand's "Where Am I going?"

*Where am I going?
And what will I find?*

From Renaissance's "Can You Understand"

*Can you understand, you understand
Can you understand, you understand*

From Cat Stevens' "Wild world"

Oh, baby, baby, it's a wild world ...

From Leonard Cohen's "Democracy"

*From the fires of the homeless
From the ashes of the gay
Democracy is coming ...*

From Leonard Cohen's "Everybody Knows"

*The poor stay poor, the rich get rich
That's how it goes
Everybody knows*

From "As Time Goes By" (from soundtrack of the 1940s film "Casablanca")

*You must remember this ...

The fundamental things apply
As time goes by*

From Pink Floyd's "Us and Them"

Us (us, us, us, us) and them (them, them, them, them) ...

From Richard Wagner's "Ride of The Valkyries" (~13 secs)

From David Bowies' "Heroes"

We can be heroes, just for one day

From Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven"

And she's buying a stairway to Heaven ...

FINALE

From Simon and Garfield's "The Sounds of Silence"

*And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains*

Should probably have used more of it ...

*Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains*

From Barbra Streisand, "Where Am I going?"

*Where am I going?
And what will I find?*

From Monty Python (Eric Idle) "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life"

*Always look on the bright side of life
Always look on the light side of life*

From Destiny's Child's "Survivor"

*I'm a Survivor
I'm not gon' give up
I'm not gon' stop
I'm gon' work harder
I'm a Survivor*

From Kasabian's "Fire" (official song of the English Premier League 2010 – 2013)

I'm on fire ...

From "You'll never walk alone" (Rodgers and Hammerstein) sung by Gerry and the Pacemakers (1963) and played ever since as the anthem of Liverpool F.C. accompanied by mass singing from the crowd

*Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone*

From Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah"

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

From The Doors' "The End"

*This is the end
my only friend, the end
of our elaborate plans, the end*

*of everything that stands, the end
(omitted line)
I'll never look into your eyes again*

From Leonard Cohen's "Bird on the Wire" (for the video I had to cut the 1st two lines so I didn't fall afoul of YouTube's copyright checks)

*Like a bird on the wire
Like a drunk in a midnight choir
I have tried in my way to be free*

REGRET

Sadly, forgot to include, from Pet Shop Boys' "Being Boring" (great for a teaching talk!)

*And we were never being boring
We were never being bored
'Cause we were never being boring
We were never being bored*