

The Ultimate Evolutionary Playlist

Compiled by Professor Mark Pallen, University of Birmingham

This is a draft version of what will appear in my *Rough Guide to Evolution*, part of the *Rough Guide* series. The book will be published in January 2009, just in time for Darwin's 200th birthday on February 12th 2009. Watch out for news on the Rough Guides web site : <http://www.roughguides.com/>.

- ◆ **PART MAN, PART MONKEY** BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN from TRACKS
"They prosecuted some poor sucker in these United States for teaching that man descended from the apes..." Starts with the Scopes Trial and went on to become *the* song of the Dover trial, with "the Boss" even mentioning the trial during a live performance.
 - ◆ **WE COME FROM MONKEYS** EMERALD ROSE from ARCHIVES OF AGES TO COME
A musical introduction to common descent, with some sideswipes at creationists: "If you can't handle the thought of evolution, you might just call it intelligent design, but if the universe keeps on evolving, then maybe you should just evolve a bigger mind!"
 - ◆ **DANCE LIKE A MONKEY** NEW YORK DOLLS from ONE DAY IT WILL PLEASE US TO REMEMBER EVEN THIS
Deliciously ironic: "You're designed so intelligent; ain't no way that was an accident . C'mon shake your monkey hips my pretty little creationist!" The video is a must-have, featuring Darwin, Dick Cheney, Pat Robertson and the Flying Spaghetti Monster.
 - ◆ **MONKEY MAN** AMY WINEHOUSE from BACK TO BLACK (DELUXE EDITION)
The most recent of a long line of cover versions of an original by Toots and the Maytalls
 - ◆ **DO THE EVOLUTION** PEARL JAM from REARVIEWMIRROR
"I'm ahead, I'm a man, I'm the first mammal to wear pants" A great song, but an even better video; a vividly disturbing dystopic view of where evolution has taken us.
 - ◆ **DARWIN** THIRD EYE BLIND from BLUE
More Spencer than Darwin, but superb anyway: "A chromosome divides, multiply and thrive, and the strong survive"
 - ◆ **CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN** ARTICHOKE from 26 SCIENTISTS, VOL. 1: ANNING – MALTHUS
No need to read any biographies, this track summarizes the great man's life in song: "Darwin grandson of a poet also of a potter was brought up by his sister when his mother was dead", but swallows the Chaga's disease line rather too uncritically.
 - ◆ **SCATTERLINGS OF AFRICA** JOHNNY CLEGG & SAVUKA from PREMIUM GOLD COLLECTION: JOHNNY CLEGG & SAVUKA
South African anthropologist-turned-musician creates uplifting world music from the out-of-Africa hypothesis: "ancient bones from Olduvai, echoes of the very first cry, who made me here and why, beneath the copper sun"
 - ◆ **I WANNA BE LIKE YOU (THE MONKEY SONG)** from DISNEY'S GREATEST HITS 2000
 - ◆ **The Monkey's Uncle**, Funicello and The Beach Boys from DISNEY'S GREATEST HITS 2000
Two unforgettable Disney classics
 - ◆ **MONKEY TO MAN** ELVIS COSTELLO from THE DELIVERY MAN (SPECIAL EDITION)
Costello's disapproving view of the monkey to man transition
 - ◆ **LINE IN THE SAND** MOTÖRHEAD from RAW GREATEST HITS - THE MUSIC
Lemmy gives lessons on the links between macro- and micro-evolution: "Evolution is a mystery, full of change that no one sees"
 - ◆ **EVOLUTION** KORN
Heavy metal meets evolutionary psychology: "And I do not dare deny the basic beast inside; it's right here, it's controlling my mind!" with an amusing video on the stupid-will-outbreed-us theme from social Darwinism
 - ◆ **L'EVOLUZIONE** BANCO DEL MUTUO SOCCORSO from DARWIN!
The ultimate prog-rock celebration of Darwin; a Dante-esque ode to evolution
 - ◆ **NATURAL SELECTION** GENOMIC DUB COLLECTIVE from ORIGIN OF SPECIES IN DUB
Darwin meets dub: vocals by Jamaican scientist Dominic White, music by Garageband (and the author)!
 - ◆ **EVOLUTION** PAUL WELLER from THE BEST OF VOL 2
A mellow instrumental number from one of England's finest songsters to round off the list
-