

Why are teenagers on TikTok obsessed with an eerie 1950s song

TikTok can make unknown tracks go *stratospheric*; Yet the app also uses its hit-making powers to give random songs a second life: decade-old singles, such as Mariah Carey's Obsessed and Jay Sean's Ride It, have both enjoyed massive popularity *spikes* thanks to tie-in TikTok dance challenges.

stratospheric 平流层的

spike 细高跟; 刺穿

But they are far from the strangest songs to have been *resurrected*. Take for example, *Spooky Scary Skeletons*, a 1996 Halloween children's song by Golden Girls theme writer Andrew Gold. A remix of this novelty number currently soundtracks 2.6m TikTok videos thanks to, you guessed it, a viral dance challenge. Or even odder, the popularity of Tonight You Belong to Me, an *eerily twee unrequited*-love song made famous by sister act Patience and Prudence in 1956.

resurrection 复活; 复兴

spooky 幽灵的

scary 可怕的

skeleton 骨骼; 骷髅

eerie 可怕的; 怪异的

twee 矫情的

unrequited 无汇报的; 单相思的

newfangled 新型的; 流行的

To the casual observer, it may seem as if these old songs have been plucked from the internet's infinite music catalogue by the modern future-humans of Gen Z, who have identified some exciting and mysterious lure *inaudible* to anyone over the age of 21. The truth is far less strange: TikTok is simply echoing existing success stories. Spooky Scary Skeletons was already a massive hit on YouTube, thanks to a 2010 video that paired it with a *vintage* Disney animation.

inaudible 听不见的

vintage 经典的; 古老的

In fact, TikTok's *penchant* for *excavating* vintage tunes can be rather comforting: The global, never-ending talent show that is TikTok teenagerdom might seem horrifyingly *newfangled*, but it feels like a relief to know this tomorrow's world can't quite leave the past behind.

penchant 嗜好; 倾向

excavate 挖掘; 发掘