

Mapping Steely Dan Songs to Shakespeare Plays and Soliloquies

Here are the top 5 Steely Dan songs mapped to Shakespeare plays and/or particular soliloquies:

1. "Deacon Blues" and Macbeth (Act 1, Scene 7: "If it were done when 'tis done")

The song's themes of disillusionment and the search for meaning are mirrored in Macbeth's soliloquy, where he grapples with the moral implications of his actions. Both the song and the soliloquy explore the complexities of human nature and the consequences of one's choices.

2. "Peg" and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Act 2, Scene 2: "I know a bank where the wild thyme blows")

The song's dreamy, jazzy quality and its exploration of desire and infatuation are reminiscent of the enchanted forest in Shakespeare's play. The song's protagonist is drawn to Peg, much like the lovers are drawn to each other in the play, often with unpredictable consequences.

3. "Hey Nineteen" and Twelfth Night (Act 3, Scene 1: "If music be the food of love, play on")

The song's themes of nostalgia and longing are echoed in the play's exploration of love, identity, and the power of music. The song's protagonist is drawn to a younger woman, much like the characters in the play navigate complex relationships and desires.

4. "Reelin' in the Years" and Hamlet (Act 3, Scene 1: "To be, or not to be")

The song's themes of disillusionment and introspection are mirrored in Hamlet's famous soliloquy, where he grapples with the meaning of life and death. Both the song and the soliloquy explore the complexities of human existence and the search for answers.

5. "Aja" and Othello (Act 3, Scene 3: "O, beware, my lord, of jealousy")

The song's complex, jazzy arrangement and its exploration of themes such as love, desire, and betrayal are reminiscent of the play's tragic exploration of jealousy and deception. The song's protagonist is drawn to Aja, much like Othello is drawn to Desdemona, with devastating consequences.