BRUCE’S TOP TRACKS, 2000-2009

1. **Steve’s Last Ramble** by Steve Earle, w/m Steve Earle (*Transcendental Blues*, 2000). Recorded in Ireland, this track fuses Earle’s growling Texas accent with a group of Irish musicians led by Sharon Shannon on accordion.

2. **Lonesome Day Blues** by Bob Dylan, w/m Bob Dylan (*Love and Theft*, 2001). Lengthy song blending a pounding blues beat, Dylan’s gravelly voice, and one of the greatest exhibitions of free-associative songwriting ever.

3. **The Snow is Gone** by Josh Ritter, w/m Josh Ritter (*Hello Starling*, 2003). Ritter skillfully weaves a celebration of springtime with a complaint about unrequited love, which complaint in the springtime becomes something of a celebration, too.

4. **I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow** by the Soggy Bottom Boys, traditional arr. Carter Stanley (*Soundtrack to “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”*, 2000). Dan Tyminski of Union Station is lead vocalist on this traditional song, performed in an infectiously uptempo style.

5. **Ae Ae** by Angelique Kidjo, w/m Angelique Kidjo, Jean Hebrail and Joao Mota (*Djin Djin*, 2007). Ebullient lead-off track to Kidjo’s 12th album, done in African choral style, calling for hope and a future for Africans, particularly youth. She is a native of Benin.

6. **Jerusalem** by Steve Earle, w/m Steve Earle (*Jerusalem*, 2002). Earle challenges conventional wisdom that groups who hate each other, especially religious groups, will continue to hate and fight without cause for hope. Without hope where are we?

7. **Stay on the Ride** by Patty Griffin, w/m Patty Griffin (*Children Running Through*, 2007). Song imagines life as a bus ride, with an unknown direction or destination. The weird little old man recommends it, though.

8. **Home** by Marc Broussard, w/m Marshall Altman, Marc Broussard, Ted Broussard, Drew Ramsey and Shannon Sanders (*Carencro*, 2004). I found this song, of all places, when it was used during the 2006 baseball season as the theme song for Kernels infielder Dallas Morris.

9. **Better Way** by Ben Harper, w/m Ben Harper (*Both Sides of the Gun*, 2006). Harper celebrates the joys of standing for something... would make a great theme song for a conviction politician. Starts off the rocking side of an album divided into two halves.

10. **Don’t You Wish It Was True** by John Fogerty, w/m John Fogerty (*Revival*, 2007). Jaunty song describing Fogerty’s dream of paradise starts off an album of songs done in the style of Fogerty’s former group, Creedence Clearwater Revival.
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<th>Song</th>
<th>Artist</th>
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<td>I and Love and You</td>
<td>Avett Brothers (2009)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Thistle in the Wind</td>
<td>Glenn Lonsdale and Carlis Faurot (2002)</td>
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<td>In These Shoes?</td>
<td>Kirsty MacColl (2001)</td>
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<td>Girl in the War</td>
<td>Josh Ritter (2007)</td>
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<td>I’m a Worried Man</td>
<td>Willie Nelson with Toots Hibbert (2005)</td>
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<td>Eggs of Your Chickens</td>
<td>Flatlanders (2004)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>You’re Famous Baby</td>
<td>Nicholas Tremulis Orchestra (2003)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>The Last DJ</td>
<td>Tom Petty (2002)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Air</td>
<td>Erin McKeown (2005)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>We Can’t Make It Here</td>
<td>James McMurtry (2005)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>(Somebody Give Me a Flower) I’m a Robot</td>
<td>Kev Russell’s Junker (2002)</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Love is Free</td>
<td>Sheryl Crow (2008)</td>
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<td>Singer Songwriter</td>
<td>Okkervil River (2008)</td>
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<td>Underwear Goes Inside the Pants</td>
<td>Lazyboy (2005)</td>
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<td>Falling Slowly</td>
<td>Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova (2006)</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Wonderwheel</td>
<td>Dan Zanes and Friends (2000)</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>One Cold Street</td>
<td>Elliott Murphy and Iain Mathews (2001)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Hey There Delilah</td>
<td>Plain White T’s (2005)</td>
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<td>Sausalito</td>
<td>Conor Oberst (2008)</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Grace Kelly</td>
<td>Mika (2007)</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>A Lot Like Life</td>
<td>Rumble Bees (2006)</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Life With You</td>
<td>Proclaimers (2007)</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>O Mary Don’t You Weep</td>
<td>Bruce Springsteen (2006)</td>
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<td>The Same River Twice</td>
<td>Tom Paxton (2002)</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>Thrills (2004)</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Your Love is My Rest</td>
<td>Jimmie Dale Gilmore (2000)</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Love is My Religion</td>
<td>Ziggy Marley (2006)</td>
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<td>Jade</td>
<td>Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros (2009)</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>To a Hammer</td>
<td>Erin McKeown (2009)</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Red Hair</td>
<td>Annie Gallup (2001)</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>Lloyd I’m Ready to Be Heartbroken</td>
<td>Camera Obscura (2004)</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>Soak Up the Sun</td>
<td>Sheryl Crow (2002)</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Jockey Full of Bourbon</td>
<td>John Hammond (2001)</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>I Like to Move It</td>
<td>Sasha Baron Cohen (2005)</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>I Envy the Wind</td>
<td>Lucinda Williams (2001)</td>
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25 MORE, BY WAY OF HONORABLE MENTION:

2000
Keys to the Kingdom, Nields
The Pearl, Emmylou Harris

2003
Born to Hum, Erin McKeown
Chain Around My Neck, Dan Bern
I Want to Know, Mavericks
Talkin’ Al Kida Blues, Dan Bern
Trickle Down, Laura Love

2004
The Absence of God, Rilo Kiley
Alone Again Or, Calexico
The Ashgrove, Dave Alvin
Come to Jesus, Mindy Smith
Starfish and Coffee, Matt Nathanson

2005
Detox, Drew Hayward
Glory of True Love, John Prine

2006
I Don’t Feel Like Dancin’, Scissor Sisters
Let’s Impeach the President, Neil Young
Put Your Records On, Corinne Bailey Rae
Trudy, Dan Bern

2007
Spirit Road, Neil Young

2008
Valley Winter Song, Fountains of Wayne
White Winter Hymnal, Fleet Foxes

2009
French Navy, Camera Obscura
Sticky Sweet, Erin McCarley
Welcome to Suburbia, Jeremy Messersmith
When I Think of Angels, Bop Ensemble
NOW AND THEN: THE DECADES

1960s

FAVORITE TRACK: “The Weight” by The Band, w/m Jaime Robbie Robertson (Music from Big Pink, 1968). The Band emerged from under the wing of Bob Dylan to create a number of late 60s classics; this one evokes insouciance in a frightened, compulsive world.

OTHER TOP TRACKS:
2 You Can’t Always Get What You Want, Rolling Stones
3 A Whiter Shade of Pale, Procul Harum
4 Highway 61 Revisited, Bob Dylan
5 Ring of Fire, Johnny Cash
6 A Day in the Life, Beatles
7 Down on the Corner, Creedence Clearwater Revival
8 Questions 67 & 68, Chicago
9 Spanish Harlem, Aretha Franklin
10 Sin City, Flying Burrito Brothers

WHAT I LIKED THEN:
? ? ? ? ? (I probably couldn’t have even named ten songs in 1969)

1970s

FAVORITE TRACK: “Rocky Mountain High” by John Denver, w/m John Denver with Mike Taylor (Rocky Mountain High, 1972). John Denver’s voice rang into my junior high school gymnasium, prophesying of better places and better states of mind.

OTHER TOP TRACKS:
2 Like a Hurricane, Neil Young
3 Baker Street, Gerry Rafferty
4 Sultans of Swing, Dire Straits
5 Uncle John’s Band, Grateful Dead
6 No Woman No Cry, Bob Marley
7 Margaritaville, Jimmy Buffett
8 Della and the Dealer, Hoyt Axton
9 Idiot Wind, Bob Dylan
10 C’est La Vie, Emmylou Harris

WHAT I LIKED THEN:
1-Uncle Albert/Admiral Halsey, Paul & Linda McCartney
2-Rocky Mountain High, John Denver
3-Hello Old Friend, Eric Clapton
4-Candida, Dawn
5-Calypso, John Denver
6-Convoy, C.W. McCall
7-Bohemian Rhapsody, Queen
8-Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, Elton John
9-Ride Captain Ride, Blues Image
10-I’d Love You to Want Me, Lobo
**1980s**

FAVORITE TRACK: “Touch of Grey” by the Grateful Dead, w/m Jerry Garcia and Robert Hunter (*In the Dark*, 1987). The long-legendary Dead expanded their circle of Deadheads with this popular album; the song is defiant, in a good-natured way.

**OTHER TOP TRACKS:**

1. Sunshine on Leith, Proclaimers
2. Enjoy Yourself, Specials
3. Wasted on the Way, Crosby Stills & Nash
4. You Can Call Me Al, Paul Simon
5. Tower of Song, Leonard Cohen

**WHAT I LIKED THEN:**

1. Rock n Roll Dreams Come Through, Jim Steinman
2. Romeo’s Tune, Steve Forbert
3. Touch of Grey, Grateful Dead
4. Love Over and Over, Kate & Anna McGarrigle
5. Longer, Dan Fogelberg

**1990s**


**OTHER TOP TRACKS:**

1. Paul Cezanne, Five Chinese Brothers
2. Natural Beauty, Neil Young
3. Let’s Get Married, Proclaimers
4. Walt Whitman’s Niece, Billy Bragg & Wilco
5. Oregon Hill, Cowboy Junkies
6. Pack up Your Sorrows, Loudon Wainwright & Iris Dement
7. Babylon, David Gray
8. Oregon Hill, Cowboy Junkies
9. Follow That Road, Anne Hills
10. Shimmering Star, Marcia Griffiths

**WHAT I LIKED THEN:**

1. Oregon Hill, Cowboy Junkies
2. Follow That Road, Anne Hills
3. Natural Beauty, Neil Young
4. All Souls Night, Loreena McKennitt
5. The Christians and the Pagans, Dar Williams
6. The Poet Game, Greg Brown
7. Green Grow the Rushes Oh, Cherish the Ladies
8. Matapedia, Kate & Anna McGarrigle
9. Mississippi by Twilight, Gayla Drake Paul
10. Democracy, Leonard Cohen