

Got Ya Covered



If you think about it, most classical musicians are cover artists.

Some people can write songs right out of the womb and some people cannot. This does not make these non-songwriters any less of a musician. These people are usually considered cover artists or cover bands. They perform “covers” of music that has already been written and recorded by other performers. They create an elaborate imitation of the original, make it mostly original with a twist, or change it up completely until you almost cannot recognize it as the original. Sometimes these bands start off playing covers until they feel confident enough to release their own original material. If you think about it, most classical musicians are cover artists.

Cover bands are especially popular at events where a background band is needed. This includes weddings, parties, functions or street musicians. When someone walks up to a cover band and asks for a specific song, most of the time, they will be able to accommodate. They are experts in popular music. Some cover bands focus on a specific artist or band and play that material exclusively. An example would be the Dark Star Orchestra who recreate the feel of individual Grateful Dead performances. There are other cover bands that imitate many different artists and put out a CD of “The Top 40” or something similar which contains a collection of the most popular songs of a specific time period. I find them to be the most respectable because it is not easy to imitate many different sounds well.



Some of my favorite covers that I have discovered recently are done by Elton John. I enjoy them because they have a strongly similar sound to the original and an extension to something else making them unique and nothing like the original. As a pianist and technician, I also enjoy how he adds exciting piano parts to songs that did not have them before. Because of who he is, he also has other famous musicians performing covers of his songs along with him. “Sorry Seems to be the hardest Word” featuring Elton and Ray Charles is especially enjoyable.

After delving into all of these cover songs, I decided to write my own. It is a cover of “Pinball Wizard” by The Who which I have renamed “Piano Wizard”. I hope to post a recording of it on YouTube over the next few weeks, so keep your ears open.

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Ever since I was a young boy, I played the ivory keys.
From Jersey to Wisconsin, my fingers move with ease
But I've experienced nothing like him at any music show
That concert technician
Sure tunes a mean piano

He sits like statue, Tunes like a machine
His hammer moves the pins, unisons always clean
He tunes it all by ear. He's always on the go
That concert technician
Sure tunes a mean piano

He's a piano wizard
There's got to be a twist
A piano wizard's
Got such a supple wrist

How do you think he does it? I'm not sure, but I grec says like "this".

He's got such intense focus. Ignores the outside world
Can't even talk to him, as he gives the pins a twirl
Never gets a call back. The pitch sure isn't low
That concert technician
Sure tunes a mean piano

I thought my tuner
Was the best one
But this concert man...
Perfection when he's done

Even on my favorite grand, he can tune it best
I meet him at the door, and he just does the rest
Got unique piano tools. His work has magic flow
That concert technician
Sure tunes a mean piano

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