

### Final Project Step Three – Song Histories

1. When was the music composed?

**“Rodeo Clowns”**: Released on Jack Johnson’s second album, “On and On,” in Spring of 2003. One of Jack’s earlier tracks while he was still becoming well known. Produced with artists “G. Love” and “Special Sauce,” as they helped him get his music career up and going. Other notable compositions from this album include “Taylor” and “Wasting Time.” This song basically talks about a fun night out in the club, dancing, and having a good time. Instrumentation mostly includes guitar and drums.

**“Never Know”**: Released on Jack’s third album, “In Between Dreams in 2005. Jack was fairly well known at this time, but this album helped him become mainstream and as popular as he is today. At this time, Jack was at the peak of his career, producing with his self-made record label, Brushfire Records. From the lyrics, I concluded that this theme of this song is about how life has many uncertainties and although we’ll continue to learn and grow, there are many things we will never know. Includes guitar, bass, maracas, and drums.

**“You and Your Heart”**: Released in 2010 on one of his more recent albums “To The Sea.” Released through Universal Republic Records and Brushfire Music Group. Although not his most popular album, hit tracks like “You and Your Heart” and “To the Sea” helped gain recognition. Album kind of represents Jack’s love for the sea and surfing. This particular song includes electric guitar, something new compared to his previous albums.

**“Washing Dishes”**: From Jack’s most recent album, “From Here to Now to You,” released in Fall of 2013. Produced in his home state, Hawaii, in order to allow him to spend more time with his family and enjoy the things he loves, like the outdoors and surfing. Other hit tracks from this album include “I Got You” and “Radiate.” As with most of his songs, this song uses acoustic guitar, drums, and bass guitar.

2. How was this music received by the public?

**“Rodeo Clowns”**: since this song was from one of his earlier albums, it wasn’t a huge hit, but it definitely helped him gain recognition. Album was number 3 on Billboard 200, and also number 3 on Top Internet Albums in 2003.

**“Never Know”**: from Jack’s most popular album which received several awards including number 2 on Billboard 200 in both 2005 and 2006, number 3 on Top Canadian Albums, and number 2 on Top Internet Albums.

**“You and Your Heart”**: not Jack’s most well known song, but one of the more popular ones from the album. Did rank high on several charts, though, including Billboard 200 and UK Albums Chart.

**“Washing Dishes”**: song is from his most recent album “From Here to Now to You” which also received number 1 Billboard 200 rankings and several other chart rankings.

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### Period 1

3. **“Rodeo Clowns”** and **“Never Know”**: song meanings already described in step part one.

**“You and Your Heart”**: the main thing I got from this song is that you should do what feels right to your heart, and not have your personality/behaviors be separate.

**“Washing Dishes”**: I’m not quite sure what the specific meaning is to this song, but I’m guessing it’s just about the typical day-to-day jobs and tasks we are faced with, like washing dishes and gardening.

4. **“Rodeo Clowns”**: although it’s from one of Jack’s earlier albums, I hadn’t heard this song until about four months ago when my friend showed it to me. This is one of my favorite songs from Jack’s early career, and while not as well known, I picked it because of the happy, upbeat tune it has.

**“Never Know”**: I probably first heard this song about 3-4 years ago, but it wasn’t until about a year ago that I started liking it. This was one of the more popular songs from the album, and I chose it because I enjoy and can relate to the lyrics.

**“You and Your Heart”**: I remember hearing this song right when it came out in 2010. I included this song because it was one of the first songs I listened to when I started enjoying Jack Johnson.

**“Washing Dishes”**: I also heard this song right when it came out because I was anticipating the date of release of the new album. I like this song because it reminds me of summer days spent outside, enjoying the little things in life.

5. Much of what other artists and critics have to say about these songs/albums are reflected by their popularity and awards. Jack’s earlier albums were well-liked by many, and although **“In Between Dreams”** was the most popular album, it also had mixed reviews because many believed Jack had kept a similar style and wasn’t changing as his continued his career.

6. In conclusion, here are a few of some of my favorite Jack Johnson songs, along with their history, descriptions, my personal opinion, and outside critic and artist opinions.