



The Malcolm Garrett Collection Playlist #11

understated

Compiled on 17 April 2020

Posted on what would have been his 65th birthday, this is a selection from Pete Shelley expressing the disorientation, loneliness and isolation felt by us all in what Pete might have described as "these times of contention... "

This collection also recalls the 'understated' exhibition which celebrated Pete's life and creativity at [The Turnpike](#) gallery in his hometown of Leigh in Lancashire last year.

It is a short list, with just seven songs from a portfolio of over 130, but I think it concisely captures Pete's unique strengths as a lyricist and a melodic genius. Like many of his songs they embrace fundamental existential themes, expressing the mundane and the trials of everyday life and relationships with startling poignancy and deceptive charm.

It was difficult to narrow down to just seven songs as there were so many that almost demanded inclusion, not least the magnum opus 'I Believe' from 'A Different Kind of Tension'. A personal favourite, along with 'What Do I Get?' (which I *have* included here), this song is arguably Pete's most heartfelt and certainly most heart-rending lyric but as it is already included in my earlier '[TOO YOUNG TO DIE](#)' selection, I was able to focus on others.

In the final count it seemed obvious to open with...

Something's Gone Wrong Again

followed by ...

Real World

Get On Our Own

E.S.P.

What Do I Get?

Nostalgia

and inevitably finish up with the joyfully ironic...

Everybody's Happy Nowadays

I hope you enjoy listening as much as I enjoyed compiling.

The words to all of Pete's songs were published in 'Collected Lyrics – Pete Shelley' by Eyewear Publishing in 2017. It is available from the [Eyewear Publishing](#) website.

This playlist also coincides with the publication of Andrew Krivine's book of Punk and Post-Punk posters 'TOO FAST TO LIVE TOO YOUNG TO DIE', published by [Pavilion Books](#) in April 2020.

A special edition of the book, with a signed, print of the images from 'Love You More' is available from [toofasttolivebook.com](#).