

Love songs...I've never been one to love the sap and the schmaltz of, well...love. It's a good thing too, because the first and the last time my husband ever bought me flowers was following one of the first times he made me cry. I sat down to think about my favorite "love songs" and all of a sudden I was back in the orthodontist's chair—Denver's most popular 'Adult Contemporary' radio station cheering away over the speakers with 80's harmonies and periodic bouts of Gloria Estefan, between grunts of the doctor trying to slice a molar bracket into place.

That is not to say I don't have favorite love songs—my mind just goes down a different path than the one that leads me to a bearskin rug in front of a fireplace where I am to wear gold heart-shaped loop earrings and sip champagne with Tom Selleck. Nor is my mind going to take the easy way out and mention anything about a Delilah, or even pull from the *Grey's Anatomy* soundtrack.

I'm going to kick things off with *Into the Night* by Benny Mardones. This is a favorite love song for the Lolita/Anne Rampling's Belinda/50 Shades set. If you are a middle aged man and a very young woman engaged in some kind of taboo tryst on Valentine's Day, this is your song! Although I, personally, have to turn the station every time it gets to the end and oh Benny sounds like he's putting his last dying efforts into making the song long enough for radio play with his extended "AhhHhhHhhH".

Wait—did you say, favorite love song that you can DANCE to?—for those with ants in their pants on Valentine's Day, there is no better song than Uniting Nations' *You and Me*. The lyrics are simple and inspirational, able to pull your relationship up from the doldrums with the motivational "baby we could make it/we could make it together". Just pay no mind to the video—which includes imagery of one young man and a roomful of sexy secretary-types, if you're seeking this song as a twosome. If you're a single gal, the video is its own valentine straight to your valentine box as Mr. Uniting Nations throws one charming smile after another to the camera—making you feel like you're one of his sexy secretaries.

Time to throw this 'love song' idea a bone—if I WERE to find myself on a bearskin rug sipping champagne with Tom Selleck (or maybe this one is more for me and Luther Vandross), oft-overlooked hit by Atlantic Starr *Masterpiece* is what I might play. Rich with warm overtones, but just enough dissonance to keep it interesting—this is definitely an Adult Contemporary song that I would have wanted turned up, sitting in the orthodontist's chair. Unfortunately Phil Collins' *Hold on my Heart* was on heavier rotation, but it means that *Masterpiece* remains as a gift of chocolate and roses to my soul.