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OPEN MIKE

FACE THE MUSIC

I HAVE a sneaky suspicion that all of us who value sports secretly wish that they could have partnered up with Ruth Roberts and Bill Katz.

Who are Ruth Roberts and Bill Katz, you ask?

They wrote "Meet the Mets."

Theirs was a songwriting collaboration that produced many other tunes, some of which you may also know — notably "I Love Mickey," Teresa Brewer's ode to Mickey Mantle, which was all the rage in the summer of 1957. But it was "Meet the Mets" that made them immortal.

*Meet the Mets, meet the Mets
Step right up and greet the Mets
Bring your kiddies, bring your wife
Guaranteed to have the time of your life ...*

Sure, maybe "The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan," released a few weeks after "Meet the Mets" in March 1963, was a more serious and contemplative piece of art. But I defy you to tell me that, say, "Talkin' World War III Blues" is catchier.

More to the point, it made every fan of every team wonder: Why can't we have something like that. It may be shocking to you, but the Yankees' equally earworm-worthy anthem, "Here Come the Yankees," (written by Bob Bundin and Lou Stallman) didn't come along until four years later (even though some just assume the crowds at Hilltop Park hummed it for Wee Willie Keeler).

It certainly made Dave Jay Gerstein feel that way, growing up in Flushing and then in Jersey, a kid who loved football and rock and roll, and often wondered: "Why don't the Jets have an anthem?"

So Gerstein took that as a lifetime



Dave Jay Gerstein

Jets should embrace theme song by local artist

challenge and a life's work as he built a musical career for himself, mostly with his band The Sound of Monday — with whom he's written thousands of songs and recorded hundreds, many for his own indie label, Insightful Entertainment.

He has, in fact, written a few of them specifically for the Jets — and I'm here to tell you: They're good! Mostly, they're fun. Have a listen for yourself: <https://orcd.co/jetstreams> or <https://orcd.co/jetstreamsvol2/>. And though we forget about this

sometimes, isn't sports supposed to be fun?

Yes, even rooting for the Jets?

"I'm generally a positive person," Dave says.

Even rooting for the Jets?

"Sure, I get jaded. But I also remember vividly being at Shea Stadium in 1981, when Richard Todd hit Jerome Barkum for a game-winning TD against Miami, and how the stadium shook — literally shook."

His songs befit the kind of aspira-

tions fans have for their teams.

There's "Playing Like A Jet":

*"Doesn't get better/When you're playing like a Jet
"J-E-T-S Jets! Jets! Jets! J-E-T-S Jets! Jets! Oh yeah!"*

There's "Jet Up":

*"Jet up/Jet up and go right now!
"Get up/Jet up never say die!
Go green and white!"*

You know what gives him the most credibility, to me? It isn't all rah-rah. Dave has written one song called "Same Old Jets." In a pique of frustration, he also tossed off one called "Sell the Team." But I'm here to tell Woody Johnson: Don't hold that against Dave Jay Gerstein. Hire Dave Jay Gerstein. Commission one of these songs. Play them incessantly at home games.

(I mean if "Let's Go/Mets Go" could become a local radio sensation in 1986, why can't "Jet Up" in 2026?)

Gerstein isn't some fly-by-nighter, either. Much of his day hours are spent entertaining residents of assisted-living facilities, and he's had other breakthroughs. He won a contest on "The View" a few years ago and got to sing for Barbara Walters. Sound of Monday has a Christmas song that is ubiquitous in doctor's offices. He's played his Jets song on "Good Day New York."

And, again: Do yourself a favor. Listen to these songs. Go to the link. Go to YouTube. Go to Spotify. See if you can keep yourself from tapping your toes. This is an idea — and these are songs — whose time has come. Let's close with this, from a song called "Jets Fanfare":

*"The triumphs and the setbacks
We've all been through
But we still keep rootin'
'Cuz that's what Jets fans do ...
Hire this man, Woody!"*