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On Darwin's iPod: The Ultimate Evolutionary Playlist

From a singing Orangutan to Chopin; what might Darwin have had on his iPod? This eclectic playlist is the ultimate musical guide to Evolution, taken from The Rough Guide to Evolution, published in January.

Although Darwin did once draw up his list of musical favourites, this has been lost to posterity. However, something of Darwin's musical tastes as a student can be gleaned from his autobiography, and as an adult from the reminiscences of his son Francis, who often heard him hum the Welsh song '*Ar hyd y nos*'.

So here's a creative guess at what Darwin might have had on his iPod, with a couple of Evolution-influenced tunes that he may, or may not, have been proud to be associated with. To download the list, visit iTunes and search under [iMix](#) for the Rough Guide to Evolution playlist.

The Rough Guide to Evolution Playlist

Charles Robert Darwin, Artichoke

No need to read any biographies, this track summarises the great man's life in song

Ar Hyd Y Nos

Darwin's favourite Welsh song, sung in a traditional arrangement by Bryn Terfel

Part Man, Part Monkey, Bruce Springsteen

A song about the 'Scopes monkey trial' that went on to become the song of the Dover trial

Zadok the Priest, Choir of King's College Cambridge

A stirring piece Darwin could have heard in Cambridge, sung here by the King's College Choir

Monkey to Man, Elvis Costello & The Imposters

Elvis Costello expresses a disapproving view of the monkey-to-man transition

Scatterlings of Africa, Johnny Clegg & Savuka

South African anthropologist-turned-musician creates uplifting world music from the out-of-Africa hypothesis

I Wanna Be Like You, Louis Prima & Phil Harris

A singing orangutan gives voice to some species envy in the cartoon movie of The Jungle Book

Dance Like a Monkey, New York Dolls

A deliciously ironic song and the video is a must have:
featuring Darwin, Dick Cheney, Pat Robertson and the flying spaghetti monster

Do The Evolution, Pearl Jam

"...I'm a man, I'm the first mammal to wear pants..."
A great song with a disturbing view of where evolution has taken us

Nocturne No.8 in D Flat Minor, Roger Woodward

Emma Darwin studied under Chopin, and might have played this to her husband

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Rough Guide to Evolution by Mark Pallen
ISBN: 9781858289465 • £10.99 • Out now!

The Rough Guide to Evolution also features lists of **evolution-influenced films, literature, poetry, cult TV** and a pithy **one-page summary of The Origin of Species** alongside a detailed analysis of the evidence for evolution. The perfect primer and an accessible introduction to an idea that changed the way we think of life on Earth.

Playlist is not ranked

Author Mark Pallen is available for interview

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