

"What's Love Got To Do With It?"

The Emotional / Relational World of Pop Songs

Carefully reading the lyrics of popular songs can be a way of understanding how our society perceives love, since most chart songs are concerned with it. Oddly, most of them don't seem to deal with genuine love, but with what might be considered caricatures of it.

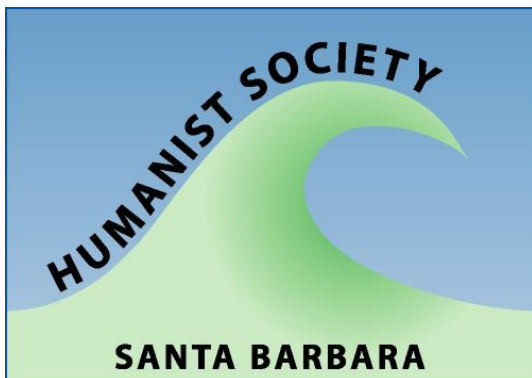
- For the last 80 or so years, the most prevalent love songs involve not required love, but heartbreak.
- Another large category is also about angry quarrels, sexuality without love, or spoofs.
- Next in frequency comes infatuation: being head over heels about someone you hardly know, or don't know at all.
- The smallest category is required love: being in a romantic relationship, although these latter lyrics are usually abstract and idealized.

If heartbreak, infatuation, etc. are not genuine love, what is? Scholars, performing artists and regular citizens have been pondering this question for thousands of years.

UCSB Sociologist Professor Tom Scheff

will lead a discussion and maybe help us understand why our children, friends and neighbors are listening to music we don't like.

Presented by the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara



2:45pm Saturday, January 16th.

\$2 student or \$5 general donations appreciated.

In the Patio Room at Vista del Monte,
3775 Modoc Road, Santa Barbara.

Information phone 805-967-3045
or website <http://sbhumanists.org>