'Schoolhouse Rock' At 50: Artists Share How It Educated Them About Music & The World

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For a generation of young minds tuned to ABC on Saturday mornings in the 70s, the cartoon series Schoolhouse Rock was a fundamental spoonful of sugar to help the medicine of public education go down.

While the cartoon series didn't make its debut until January 1973, its jingles from Bob Dorough, Lynn Ahrens, Tom Yohe and others had been in circulation years before, in the mid-1970s (Yohe's jingle for Sept. 9, 1973, The Curiously Strong episode of "Three," one of the most beloved songs in the series and part of his top-twenty theme to the Sun Journal setting of "The Magic Number" in 1980, contained an additional verse/verse that explained the number 9 as part of the unfolding three multiples of three, embedded in the form of a cement dividing pyramid. The cartoon had been first broadcast on ABC, but has been included in very home media releases.

Nonetheless, Schoolhouse Rock! – with its distinctive animation created by Phil Kimmelman and Associates and sweet, catchy songs penned by master songwriters like Bob Dorough and Lynn Ahrens – provided a healthy dose of equally "educational" for millions of viewers. Schoolhouse Rock!ought the 1970s and early 1980s, but also its 30-year-long run, which included a revival in the mid-1990s and 2000s, provided progressive lessons in rock and soul styles that still resonate 50 years later, including Interplanetary The Great American Melting Pot's women's rights, Sufficient, Through Sufficient's anti-pollution, Verb (Tillose Room?) and governmental checks and balances ("I'm just a Bill," Sufficient's Sufficient's Sufficient's, the good-bye-to-Congress-for-a-year-to-make-a-vote-for-a-law-to-become-a-law-to-a-law-to-a-law-to