

# 'Arwen's a babe' and other observations on Middle-Earth

On March 17, we wrote in this space about plans by theatre producers Ed and David Mirvish to create a \$27-million musical stage production of J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* at Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre. So giddy did the thought make us that we composed some *LOTR*-themed lyrics on the spot, and set them down to the tune of the *Green Acres* theme song. We also urged readers to submit their own song suggestions for possible publication.

All told, the submissions we received were, uh, interesting. Sharon from Winnipeg, for instance, adapted Frank Sinatra's *You're getting to be a habit with me* to *You're getting to be a hobbit with me*. Unfortunately, it was largely downhill from the title — though we did enjoy the first line: "Every fish, every bug seems to act just like a drug."

Robert from Oakville, Ont., put his submission to the tune of Tony Orlando's *Knock Three Times*, a catchy ditty to be sure. We also appreciated his efforts to set the mood in his preamble: "Picture if you will, Sauron, standing atop Barad-Dûr, hands clenched on the railing, thinking of his approaching

doom." Robert then begins his Middle-Earth riff on Tony's classic with the lines: "Frodo, watcha doing down there / Planning to drop that gold ring down Mount Doom, my volcano."

Not bad. But things get a little facile later on. "Elrond's a moron or my name's not Sauron," did not impress us, for instance. Nor did "The Depends I just put on are falling / Don't burn that ring — it's my favourite thing." And since the *LOTR* theatrical production we had in mind will be a family spectacle, we certainly had no appreciation for "Arwen's a babe (knock, knock) mount my doom anytime."

Moving on to Sean of London, Ont., we were glad to see a variation on Squeeze's *Tempted*. As with most submissions, ring references figured prominently:

*Tempted by the ring of another  
Tempted but the One Ring's discovered  
In some Shire town  
Where bloody hobbits abound  
Oh, those mothers!  
Swiping the ring from another  
Oh, the painful truths they'll discover  
When my Ringwraiths come to town  
And burn them down*

But our highest praise goes to Kevin Stricker of Saskatoon, for his Tolkienated version of Gary Lewis and the Playboys' *This Diamond Ring* — which he advises us to read while "picturing Ian McKellen singing it in his angry wizard voice."

*I can i-dent-i-fy this magic ri-i-i-ing  
Take it off your finger now, it shouldn't mean a thi-i-i-ng  
Well this magic ring doesn't shine as much any more  
But heat this ring up, it will say what it said before  
And if you're not someone whose strength is tru-u-ue  
It will consume yo-ou-ou*

*This one ring to rule them, one ring to fi-i-ind them  
One ring to bring them all, and in the darkness bi-i-ind them  
This o-ne ring really means something terrible  
With this one ring Sauron's dreams will be coming true  
I have to go, tell Saruman a-bout this  
Now let it go and hide it*

*This o-ne ring means there's nothing that you can do  
And this o-ne ring means the Naz-gûl are after you  
And soon your bones will break like 'lendil's sword did  
Cause Sauron's behind it*

*This o-ne ring doesn't shine as much anymore  
And this o-ne ring isn't lost like it was before*

*So if you are someone whose strength is tru-u-ue  
Cast it in Mount Do-oo-om*

Are there better songs out there? If you've got one, e-mail it to [msoupcoff@nationalpost.com](mailto:msoupcoff@nationalpost.com). Again, don't forget to let us know the tune we should be humming as we enjoy your lyrics. And one new rule: Erotic references to female elves or other non-human creatures shall serve to disqualify any entry that contains them. Robert, you've been warned.

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