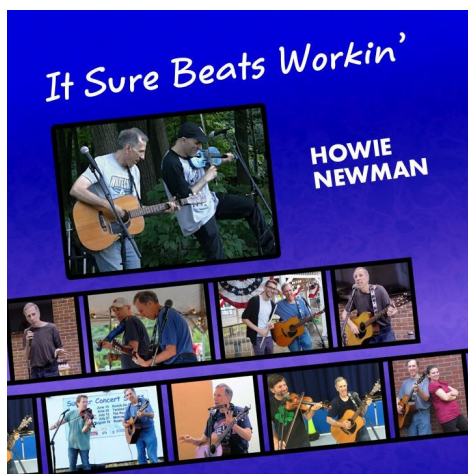


# Howie Newman's new CD: *It Sure Beats Working*

## Diverse topics, whimsical lyrics, wide array of styles

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Howie Newman's first album in six years features his most diverse song collection ever – in terms of subject matter and style. He delves into interstellar trash collection, politics, baseball, family, the pandemic, modern technology and the music biz.

While telling these intriguing stories, the Boston-area singer-songwriter offers up a nice blend of up-tempo country rock, bluegrass, folk, pop and calypso.

In this mostly acoustic album, Newman showcases his longtime fiddle-playing partner, [Joe Kessler](#), on five of the songs as well as a host of other accomplished local musicians, including keyboard whiz [Jim Gambino](#) of the Swinging Steaks. His son, [Keith](#), also lends a hand with some nifty flute playing.

Much like Newman's hilarious concert appearances, five of the tunes are humorous – but three are dead serious. The rest? Probably somewhere in between.

### Something old, something new

Among the [seven brand-new songs](#) are the title track, a catchy country-rocker, and a percussion-driven Calypso number, "What Did We Do?" There's also "Hannah's Song," a heartfelt look at grandparenthood, with just a touch of humor. Hannah has her own part, too.

The album includes a bluegrass-styled studio remake of [his very first recording](#), "Cosmic Garbage Rag," a 45 rpm single recorded live in 1976. Newman also provides reworked versions of two other songs from the '70s, "A Little Sympathy" and the baseball classic, "Wait Until Next Year." There's a live version of "Way Past My Bedtime" as well.

### Video

"Hannah's Song" was made into a music video. Access the link at [www.howienewman.com](http://www.howienewman.com).

### Politics, anyone?

Newman delves into politics with [two protest songs](#) ("Lies, Lies, Lies" and "You Can't Fool Me"), which were part of his 2019 [Musicians for Democracy](#) project. This all-volunteer venture raised money for candidates who pledged to support democracy ([howienewman.com/democracy](http://howienewman.com/democracy)).

### An easy listen

Nice vocal harmonies, changing rhythms, thought-provoking lyrics and a talented supporting cast make for an enjoyable listen. Newman's [acoustic folk-rock duo, Knock on Wood](#), tours all over the greater Boston area (including New Hampshire and Maine), performing indoor and outdoor concerts. They'll be playing many of these songs along the way.



## The songs

### It Sure Beats Workin'

For most musicians, being a full-timer won't make you rich but ... it sure beats workin'.

### Hannah's Song

Becoming a grandfather for the first time is an unbelievably great experience. Here's proof.

### Cosmic Garbage Rag

What are we going to do with all the trash in outer space? Write a song about it? Yup.

### The Class of 2020

Celebrating and lamenting our tumultuous journey through the pandemic.

### The Other Tony C

Tony Cloninger is the only major league pitcher to hit two grand slams in one game. If that doesn't deserve a song, nothing does.

### A Little Sympathy

Is it just a bit uncomfortable when an old flame wants to be friends? Of course.

### Way Past My Bedtime

*Recorded live at Lunenburg (Mass.) Public Library, Nov. 30, 2022*  
As we get older, our ability to stay out late and party diminishes exponentially.

### Lies, Lies, Lies

The legacy of a former president.

### What Did We Do?

What is "modern technology"? Depends on when.

### You Can't Fool Me

Spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories has become a major industry in America. Scary.

### Wait Until Next Year

The disappointment of seasons past, per the 1978 Red Sox and the old Brooklyn Dodgers.