

Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers

"Money Becomes King"

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If you reach back in your memory a little bell might ring
About a time that once existed when money wasn't king
If you stretch your imagination I'll tell you all a tale
About a time when everything wasn't up for sale

There was this cat named Johnny
Who loved to play and sing
When money wasn't king

We'd all get so excited when John would give a show
We'd raise the cash between us and down the road
we'd go
To hear him play that music it spoke right to my soul
Every verse a diamond and every chorus gold

The sound was my salvation
It was only everything
Before money became king

Well, I ain't sure how it happened and I don't know
exactly when
But everything got bigger and the rules began to bend
And the TV taught the people how to get their hair to
shine
And how sweet life can be if you keep a tight behind

And they raised the cost of living and how could we
have known
They'd double the price of tickets to go see Johnny's
show?
So we hocked all our possessions and we sold a little
dope
And went off to rock and roll

We arrived there early in time to see rehearsal
And John came out and lip synced his new lite-beer
commercial
And as the crowd arrived as far as I could see
The faces were all different there was no one there like
me

They sat in golden circles and waiters served them

wine
And talked through all the music and to John paid little
mind
And way up in the nosebleeds we watched upon the
screen
They hung between the billboards so cheaper seats
could see

Johnny, rock that golden circle and all those VIPs
And that music that had freed us became a tired
routine
And I saw his face in close up tryin' to give it all he had
And sometimes his eyes betrayed him you could see
that he was sad

And I tried to rock on with him but I slowly became
bored
Could that man on stage with everything somehow
need some more?
There was no use in pretending no magic left to hear

All the music gave me was a craving for lite-beer
As I walked out of the arena my ears began to ring
And money became king

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