

00:00:00	Music	Music	Gentle, trilling music with a steady drumbeat plays under the dialogue.
00:00:01	Promo	Promo	Speaker: <i>Bullseye with Jesse Thorn</i> is a production of MaximumFun.org and is distributed by NPR.
00:00:12	Jesse Thorn	Host	<i>[Music fades out.]</i> I'm Jesse Thorn. It's <i>Bullseye</i> .
00:00:14	Music	Music	"Huddle Formation" from the album <i>Thunder, Lightning, Strike</i> by The Go! Team. A fast, upbeat, peppy song. Music plays as Jesse speaks, then fades out.
00:00:21	Jesse	Host	Time now for The Song That Changed My Life—where we talk with some of our favorite artists about the music that made them who they are. This next one, I know I am very excited about. He's an important artist from my own youth. He is a hero to all of us native to the San Francisco Bay Area. He was a favorite of my best friend Pete's dad, Mark.
00:00:48	Music	Music	<i>["Huddle Formation" fades out to be replaced by "If This is It".]</i> I'm talking, of course—that last clue probably gave it away—about Huey Lewis. "If This is It" from the album <i>Sports</i> by Huey Lewis & The News. <i>...Than never believe</i> <i>If this is it Please let me know If this ain't love You'd better let me go</i> <i>If this is it (Ooh-wap) I want to know If this ain't love, baby Just say so</i> <i>You've been thinking...</i>
00:01:10	Jesse	Host	<i>[Music fades out as Jesse begins to speak.]</i> Huey Lewis—and, specifically, his 1983 album, <i>Sports</i> —helped define pop music in the 1980s. Defining pop music wasn't the goal, though. When Huey Lewis came home from a stint playing pub rock in England, in the '70s, he just wanted to start a local R&B group with his pals. A party band. And for 40 years, that's what Huey Lewis & The News have been: close to the apotheosis of something-for-everyone, good-time music. Whether they're playing in stadiums with six figure crowds or sweaty rock clubs or state fairs. But a couple years ago, Huey Lewis's life changed dramatically. He'd only been able to hear in one ear for quite some time. But one day, backstage at a show, he realized that all he could hear was crazy noise. Like a construction site that never quit. He found out he had something called Ménière's disease: an untreatable disorder of the inner ear. In the years since, it has ebbed and flowed, but he's

been kept off the road for quite some time, hoping for treatment that will help him sing onstage again.

[Music fades in.]

00:02:31 Music Music
But is this the end of Huey Lewis? No way. The News have a new record, in a nod to their 1983 class, *Sports*. It's called *Weather*. "Her Love is Killin' Me" from the album *Weather*, by Huey Lewis & The News.

*Can't eat, I can't sleep
I'm so nervous, I can't keep the beat
I can't run, I can't hide
And I damn sure can't keep her satisfied*

*Drifting and drifting like a ship at sea
Her love is killing me*

Burning hot, a big flame...

00:02:55 Jesse Host
[Music fades out as Jesse speaks.]
When we heard about the new album, we invited Huey to come back on the show and tell us about the song that changed his life. His answer takes us way back to his childhood, growing up in Northern California. And the song is Count Basie and Joe Williams, "All Right, OK, You Win".

00:03:15 Huey Lewis Guest
Here's Huey Lewis.
Hi, everyone. I'm Huey Lewis, and this is the song that changed my life.

00:03:19 Music Music
"All Right, OK, You Win" from the album *Count Basie Swings*, *Joe Williams Sings* by Count Basie and Joe Williams opens with a brassy flare.

00:03:28 Huey Guest
[The music continues quietly underneath Huey as he speaks.]
First time I heard the song, "It's All Right, OK, You Win" was with my dad, at the Monterey Jazz Festival. I think it was probably 1962. I was—I was 12 years old, so I was already playing the harmonica, a little bit. You know, just barely. And I was listening to my dad's jazz collection. So, my dad always liked big band jazz, but he never liked the singers. *[Chuckles.]* So, he would just play the big band jazz instrumental stuff. Benny Goodman and Jimmie Lunceford and stuff like that.

00:04:29 Music Music
Well, when I went to see this concert, Count Basie was playing. And my dad was super excited about that, so he said, "Look, you're gonna see the great Count Basie." So, we saw Count Basie, and then they brought out Joe Williams and sang "All Right, OK, You Win". And that's the first time I'd seen a singer, you know, with a big band, live like that. And he was amazing. I didn't know I could sing. I'd never even thought I could sing. I hadn't even thought about singing! Until I saw Joe Williams with the Basie band.

["All Right, OK, You Win" swells in volume again.]

*All that I am asking
All I want from you*

*Just love me like I love you
And it won't be hard to do*

00:04:47	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Music drops in volume as Huey begins speaking again.]</i> I had been to a few other jazz concerts—jazz and philharmonic at the Oakland Coliseum. When my dad first mentioned that we were gonna go to the Monterey Jazz Festival, frankly I wasn't all that excited. And my dad was very excited about it. But I just heard this music and I had no idea what it was gonna look like or—I didn't know, really, what to expect. And it was a long trip down there and, you know, I wasn't that—it was kind of something I did for my dad, to be honest. Initially.</p> <p>But the Monterey Jazz Festival was an unbelievable festival, in that it was really an important jazz festival. And it's the first time I'd seen any of this jazz music live. I'd heard it on my dad's, you know—at home, a lot. But when I saw it, live, it was just amazing to me. Basie's band was all in maroon suits. And then Big Joe Williams comes out in a black suit, just dressed to the teeth with rings and his jewelry going and singing. And had his hair perfect. And, I mean, he was so handsome, and his voice was so beautiful. I was just knocked out. I was just knocked out. I remember, I thought to myself, "That's what I wanna do!"</p>
00:05:57	Music	Music	<p><i>["All Right, OK, You Win" swells in volume.]</i></p> <p><i>You win! Baby what can I do? I'll do anything you say</i></p>
00:06:04	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Speaking over the music.]</i> And listen to how he swings the lyric. It's so good.</p>
00:06:08	Music	Music	<p><i>Well, alright, well, okay, you win. I'm in love with you Well, alright...</i></p>
00:06:17	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Music drops in volume as Huey continues.]</i> His time is just impeccable. It's a blues tune, really, at its core. And it was kind of an eye into rock and roll, if you will. It's—it's kind of a bridge to rock and roll. And that's interesting, when you think about Basie. Because Count Basie was, you know, one of the great band leaders and he came from—came out of Kansas City. And they were the big noise out of Kansas City, and everybody knew they just played faster and swung harder than anybody else on the planet. And especially this song. If you think of it, the intro is actually a guitar riff.</p>
00:06:45	Music	Music	<p>The opening notes of "All Right, OK, You Win" play again.</p>
00:06:47	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Humming along over the music.]</i> Da-dum, dada-dadun-dada-dadun. But, listen, that's almost a guitar riff!</p> <p><i>[Music gets softer.]</i></p>
00:07:10	Music	Music	<p>And that's a lot of what Basie did. They would orchestrate these otherwise country blues tunes and orchestrate them for big band—for 18 pieces. And play them at breakneck speeds, and they would just swing so hard! You couldn't help but tap your feet.</p> <p><i>[Music increases in volume.]</i></p>

*Well, alright, okay, you win!
Baby, what can I do?*

00:07:17	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Music decreases in volume as Huey speaks.]</i> The thing that sets Joe Williams apart—first place, he had a <u>gorgeous</u> voice. He’s a gorgeous baritone. But he swings so hard, again. It’s the rhythm. It’s the time! It’s just the pocket that he sings, that he puts that lyric in—just pushes the rhythm of the song as well. I mean, the whole thing is like one big rocket ship ride, you know? And I mean, that’s dance music. In those days, that was dance music. You know, you just couldn’t sit still.</p>
00:07:41	Music	Music	<p><i>[Music increases in volume.]</i> <i>... okay, you win! I’m in love with you...</i></p>
00:07:46	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Music decrease in volume as Huey speaks.]</i> See how he’s kind of just in back of the beat, a little bit? In a wonderful way! And that was always great. Never rush. Always stay back.</p>
00:07:54	Music	Music	<p><i>[Music swells.]</i> <i>Anything you say, I’ll do!</i></p>
00:07:57	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Music quiets as Huey speaks.]</i> Dig that? <i>[Singing]</i> Anything you say, I’ll do. <i>[Speaking.]</i> So good.</p>
00:08:02	Music	Music	<p><i>[Music swells.]</i> <i>First thing in the morning, You got to wake me with a kiss...</i></p>
00:08:07	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Music quiets as Huey speaks.]</i> This led me to blues, and I started listening to Little Walter, Ray Charles, Sonny Boy Williamson—‘cause I’m a harmonica player—and became kind of a blues snob. But this was the first thing that I heard that turned me on to all that. I hadn’t listened to the song for a long time, until I thought of it. You said, “What’s the song that changed your life?” I could have actually picked a few. But this is the first one—the first spark that I had that I wanted to be a singer was Joe Williams and the Basie band.</p>
00:08:39	Music	Music	<p><i>[Music swells.]</i> <i>... okay, you win Well, alright...</i></p>
00:08:45	Huey	Guest	<p><i>[Music quiets as Huey speaks.]</i> After the concert, on the way home—first of all, I was instantly a Joe Williams fan. I remember, my dad said, “How’d you like Count Basie?”</p>
00:08:55	Music	Music	<p>I said, “How ‘bout that Joe Williams?!” <i>[Music swells.]</i> <i>Baby, let me take your hand Alright, okay, you win</i></p>

00:09:10	Huey	Guest	<i>[Song ends with a resounding crescendo.]</i> He ends on a five chord. It's kinda cool. Really cool. What a great record.
00:09:14	Jesse	Host	Huey Lewis on the song that changed his life, "All Right, OK, You Win" by Count Basie and Joe Williams.
			<i>[Music fades in.]</i>
00:09:29	Music	Music	Huey Lewis & The News' new album, <i>Weather</i> , drops on Valentine's Day, this year. Let's hear another track off of it. This one's called, "While We're Young". "While We're Young" from the album <i>Weather</i> by Huey Lewis & The News.
			<i>(Oooh)</i> <i>Do you remember when, not so long ago</i> <i>All we had was time</i> <i>And the future was the last thing on our minds</i> <i>What a time</i>
			<i>Now here we are, getting older</i> <i>Wondering what will be</i> <i>Life is short</i> <i>Let's take advantage of every opportunity</i>
			<i>While we're young</i> <i>Let's go out and have some fun</i> <i>Ooh baby, while we're young</i> <i>Let's go back and give it some</i>
00:10:26	Music	Music	Laid back transition music plays.
00:10:28	Jesse	Host	That's the end of another episode of <i>Bullseye</i> . <i>Bullseye</i> is produced at MaximumFun.org world headquarters, overlooking MacArthur Park in beautiful Los Angeles, California—where some local teens were spotted by my colleague Daniel, playing on the barge that's in the lake. I'm told—it says here on this paper—folks around the office are calling them The Barge Boys.
			The show is produced by speaking into microphones. Our producer is Kevin Ferguson. Jesus Ambrosio is our associate producer. We got help from Casey O'Brien. Our production fellows are Jordan Kauwling and Kristen Bennett. Welcome to Kristen! Great to have her here, in the office. Our interstitial music is by Dan Wally, also known as DJW. He makes all those beats for the show and if you go over to Bandcamp, you can find a compilation he made of music from <i>Bullseye</i> that you can buy on a pay-what-you-will basis. And you can listen to it while you're studying, or whatever. Freestyling. Whatever you want. Our theme song is by The Go! Team. Our thanks to The Go! Team and to their label, Memphis Industries, for letting us use it.
			And one last thing: there are decades of interviews in the annals of <i>Bullseye</i> and its predecessor, The Sound of Young America. They're all on our website, MaximumFun.org . We have a whole interview with Huey Lewis! And it is a <u>great</u> interview. He talks about stowing away on an airplane to Europe, which apparently was something you could do, in the '70s. He has an incredible

history, Huey Lewis—very important in the pub rock movement, in addition to being one of the defining stars of 1980s pop.

We are also on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Just search for *Bullseye with Jesse Thorn* and keep up with the show there. And I think that's about it. Just remember: all great radio hosts have a signature sign off.

00:12:18 Promo Promo

Speaker: *Bullseye with Jesse Thorn* is a production of MaximumFun.org and is distributed by NPR.

[Music fades out.]