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# Leonard Cohen, l'album mythique du 27 décembre

- Le monde -



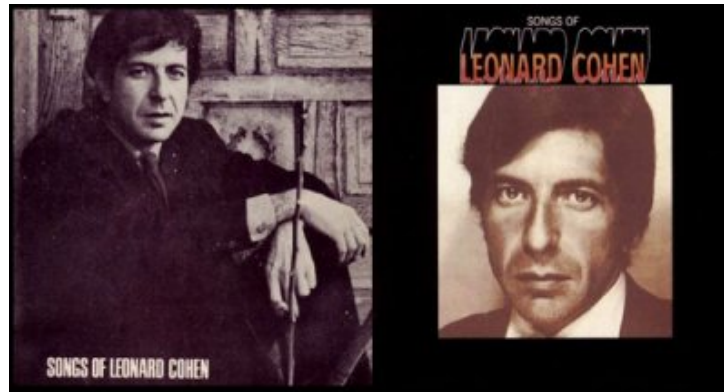
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**Le 27 décembre 1967, un vinyle (33 tours) arrive dans les bacs et révolutionne la musique folk :** « *Songs of Leonard Cohen* ». Ce premier album du poète canadien contient déjà les chansons qui vont le rendre célèbre et indémodable : « *Suzanne* », « *Master Song* », « *The Stranger Song* », « *So Long, Marianne* »... Hommage à celui qui a pris son dernier train le 7 novembre 2016.



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### Le spleen d'un génie

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**Suzanne " Master Song " Winter Lady " The Stranger Song " Sisters of Mercy " So Long, Marianne " Hey, That's No Way to Say Goodbye " Stories of the Street " Teachers " One of Us Cannot Be Wrong.**

**Les 10 titres qui composent le premier album** de Leonard Cohen, intitulé « *Songs of Leonard Cohen* » [1], sont chacun un chef d'oeuvre. Certains plus connus que d'autres, tous intimement constitutifs de l'univers « *leonardien* » dont on ne ressort pas indemne tant il est envoûtant et empreint d'une atmosphère mélancolique et étrange.



Suzanne Verdal, muse qui a inspiré à Leonard Cohen, le poème "Suzanne Takes You Down", publié dans le recueil "Parasites of Heaven" (1966). Ce texte mis en musique deviendra le plus connu de Leonard Cohen, un "tube planétaire". Suzanne Verdal est aujourd'hui sans domicile fixe.

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### Sa voix grave et lente

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## Leonard Cohen, l'album mythique du 27 décembre

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**Cette noirceur fascinante, presque lumineuse**, persistera jusqu'au dernier opus : « *You want it darker* », que Leonard Cohen nous a livré un mois avant de mourir. Le spleen d'un génie.

**Poète avant de devenir chanteur, Leonard Cohen** sera mondialement connu en mettant ses textes en musique. Sa voix grave et lente a hanté bien des générations et continue à accomplir son oeuvre.

**Hommage avec deux textes majeurs** de l'oeuvre de Leonard Cohen : « *The Stranger Song* » et « *Suzanne* » [2].

### 7 Lames la Mer



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### The Stranger Song

#### **It's true that all the men you knew were dealers**

Who said they were through with dealing  
Every time you gave them shelter  
I know that kind of man, it's hard to hold the hand of anyone  
Who is reaching for the sky just to surrender (bis)

#### **And then sweeping up the jokers that he left behind**

You find he did not leave you very much, not even laughter  
Like any dealer he was watching for the card that is so high and wild  
He'll never need to deal another  
He was just some Joseph looking for a manger (bis)

#### **And then leaning on your window sill**

He'll say one day you caused his will  
To weaken with your love and warmth and shelter  
And then taking from his wallet  
An old schedule of trains, he'll say  
I told you when I came I was a stranger (bis)

#### **But now another stranger seems**

To want you to ignore his dreams  
As though they were the burden of some other

Oh, you've seen that man before  
His golden arm dispatching cards  
But now it's rusted from the elbows to the finger  
And he wants to trade the game he plays for shelter  
Yes, he wants to trade the game he knows for shelter

**Ah, you hate to see [watch] another tired man**

Lay down his hand like he was giving up the holy game of poker  
And while he talks his dreams to sleep you notice there's a highway  
That is curling up like smoke above his shoulder  
[And suddenly you feel a little older]



**You tell him to come in sit down**

But something makes you turn around  
The door is open you can't close your shelter  
You try the handle of the road, it opens, do not be afraid  
It's you my love, you who are the stranger  
It is you my love, you who are the stranger

**Well, I've been waiting, I was sure**

We'd meet between the trains we're waiting for  
I think it's time to board another  
Please understand, I never had a secret chart  
To get me to the heart of this or any other matter  
Well, he talks like this you don't know what he's after  
When he speaks like this you don't know what he's after

**Let's meet tomorrow if you choose**

Upon the shore, beneath the bridge  
That they are building on some endless river  
Then he leaves the platform for the sleeping car that's warm  
You realize, he's only advertising one more shelter  
And it comes to you, he never was a stranger  
And you say okay, the bridge or someplace later

**And then leaning on your window sill**

He'll say one day you caused his will  
To weaken with your love and warmth and shelter  
And then taking from his wallet  
An old schedule of trains, he'll say  
I told you when I came I was a stranger...

**Leonard Cohen**

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**Suzanne**

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"Suzanne takes you down", by Flockhart.

**Suzanne takes you down to her place near the river**

You can hear the boats go by and you can spend the night beside her  
And you know that she's half crazy but that's why you wanna be there  
And she feeds you tea and oranges that come all the way from China  
And just when you mean to tell her that you have no love to give her  
Then she gets you on her wavelength and she lets the river answer  
That you've always been her lover

**And you want to travel with her**

And you want to travel blind,  
And you know that she will trust you,  
For you've touched her perfect body with your mind

**And Jesus was a sailor when He walked upon the water**

And He spent a long time watching from His lonely wooden tower  
And when He knew for certain only drowning men could see him,  
He said « *all men will be sailors then until the sea shall free them* »  
But He Himself was broken, long before the sky would open  
Forsaken, almost human, He sank beneath your wisdom like a stone

**And you want to travel with him**

And you want to travel blind  
And you think maybe you'll trust him  
For he's touched your perfect body with his mind

### **Now Suzanne takes your hand and she leads you to the river**

She is wearing rags and feathers from Salvation Army counters  
And the sun pours down like honey on Our Lady of the Harbour  
And she shows you where to look among the garbage and the flowers  
There are heroes in the seaweed, there are children in the morning  
They are leaning out for love and they will lean that way forever  
While Suzanne holds the mirror

### ***And you want to travel with her***

And you want to travel blind  
And you know that you can trust her,  
For she's touched your perfect body with her mind

### ***Leonard Cohen***

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[1] Une version plus récente (2007) a été complétée par deux nouveaux titres : « *Store Room* » et « *Blessed is the memory* ».

[2] Ces deux textes ont été repris par de nombreux artistes et notamment traduits en français et interprétés par Graeme Allwright.