

“It seems that most of the songs that you hear these days on the radio, played by the disc jockeys, apart from rock and roll and other children’s records, tend to be motion picture title songs. Apparently producers feel that we will not attend their movies unless we have the titles well-drilled into our heads in advance. Of course, we don’t go anyway, but at least this way they make back on the song some of what they’ve lost on the picture.

But with the rise of the motion picture title song, we have such hits of the past few years as ‘The Ten Commandments Mambo’, ‘Brothers Karamazov Cha-Cha’, ‘Incredible Shrinking Man I Love You’. I’m sure you’re all familiar with these. But a few years ago, a motion picture version appeared of Sophocles’ immortal tragedy ‘Oedipus Rex’. This picture played only in the so-called Art Theatres, and it was not a financial success. And I maintain that the reason it was not a financial success was that it did not have a title tune which the people could hum and which would make them actually eager to attend this particular flick. So, I have attempted to supply this and here then is the prospective title song from ‘Oedipus Rex’.”

Oedipus Rex

Tom Lehrer (1928–2025)

C Cmaj⁷ C⁷ C⁶ B^b B^bmaj⁷

From the Bi - ble to the po - pu - lar song, There's one theme that we

Freely, with motion

B^b⁷ B^b⁶ A^b A^bmaj⁷ A^b⁷ A^b⁶ G Gmaj⁷ Gm⁷^b⁵ G⁷

find right a-long, of all i - deals they hail as good, the most sub lime is mo - ther - hood. There

poco rit.

C Cmaj⁷ C⁷ C⁶ B^b B^bmaj⁷ B^b⁷ B^b⁶

was a man, though, who, it seems, once car - ried this i - deal to ex - tremes: he

with motion