

Paige Powell Music Blog for September 4, 2020:

The Story Behind the Song, "Silent Soothing"

At a songwriting seminar hosted by the **D.C. Chapter of NSAI***, one of the speakers got to have one of his songs recorded by **Barbra Streisand**, a dream of mine for many years. I agree with my dad, who once exclaimed, "*Barbra Streisand IS a musical instrument!*" Not only have I imagined "*Silent Soothing*" recorded by Barbra, it was inspired by the movie, "*On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*" in which she starred. There's one part that was filmed at the **Royal Pavilion palace in Brighton, England** which I had visited only a few months before I saw the movie. The scene takes place in the opulent dining room of the palace, with the story taking place not long after it was built in 1787. Barbra's character locks eyes with a handsome man, and a song she sings in the background describes her desire for him.



"*Silent Soothing*" describes a scene where I am locking eyes with a **handsome stranger who seems familiar**. Perhaps he is an old boyfriend from years ago. In the first verse there's a line, "*In this room, people disappear around a romance I knew long ago*". One of my best friends was contacted by an old high school boyfriend, who found her on Facebook. Now they're married, so it does happen. The lyrics to the song say, "*My memory unfolding, watching an old attraction grow*".

I've heard that **being attracted to someone does have something to do with familiarity**. I asked one of my boyfriends if there was something familiar about me that made me especially attractive to him, and he said that there were things about me that were similar to his sister, so to him, I seemed like "family" right away. In the same way, I've seen my stepfather's attributes and mannerisms in a few of my male friends, and it endears me to them.

Thank you, dear reader for listening, and I welcome a few **new subscribers** who are also my **neighbors**. I reached out to them using **NextDoor**, an app for people who live in the same community. In the near future, I plan to write an article or two about songwriting, and reach out to more possible subscribers. If you enjoy my newsletter, please recommend it to a friend.

**Nashville Songwriters Association International*