TO: Lisa Simon, Norman "Normie" Stiles, Dulcy Singer
CC: Dave Conner, Danny Epstein
FROM: Chris Cerf
SUBJECT: "THE LOUDEST LULLABY" -- (Song for Sesame Street XXI)
DATE: 4 October 1989

Hello Everybodeee!

Here are some slightly revised lyrics -- and some production notes -- for Normie's and my latest epic, "THE LOUDEST LULLABY (YOU'VE EVER HEARD)." (Two cassette demos accompany Dulcy's copy of this memo.)

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Something to keep in mind:

The sound effects are designed to be on the fourth beat, and a drum pattern has been written to accentuate this fourth beat throughout the song. In other words, the bowling ball should hit on exactly the fourth beat a measure after it's mentioned, the duck should quack exactly on the fourth beat a measure after it's mentioned, and so on. This should all add -- greatly, I hope -- to the effect and the humor.

I discussed this briefly with Norman and Danny, and we all think that the easiest way to achieve this is to have Dick Maitland work with us at the prerecord session, so the SFX can be laid in at exactly the right points. Then the Muppeteers can sync to the existing track. OK?

[SONG LYRICS FOLLOW -- NEXT PAGE]
The Loudest Lullaby (You've Ever Heard)
Words and Music by Christopher Cerf and Norman Stiles
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[VERSE #1 -- RUBATO, VERY SWEET, WITH SIMPLE CELESTE ACCOMPANIMENT]

Once upon a time,
When folks went beddy-bye,
Lullabies were always quiet...
(Shhhhhhh!)
But now we've found
A brand-new bedtime sound,
And you really ought to try it....

[CHORUS #1 -- BIG DRUM CRASH ON THE 4-BEAT LEADS IT OFF, FOLLOWED BY ENTRANCE OF FULL ROCK BAND.]

LOUD LOUD LOUD,
LOUD LOUD LOUD,
When it's time for sleepin'
It's the latest word,
LOUD LOUD LOUD,
LOUD LOUD LOUD,
It's THE LOUDEST LULLABY YOU'VE EVER HEARD!

[VERSE #2]

We'll rock-a-bye ya, baby,
With a garbage truck,[TRUCK CROSSES, SFX FROM 4-BEAT TO 4-BEAT]
And tur-a-lur-a-lur ya
With a quackin' duck.[DUCK CROSSES, SFX: QUACKS ON 4-BEAT]
We'll rock your little cradle
With a lion's roar [LION CROSSES, SFX::ROARS ON 4-BEAT]
And send you off to Dreamland
With a slammin' door [DOOR SLAMS, SFX ON 4-BEAT]

[CHORUS #2]

LOUD LOUD LOUD,
LOUD LOUD LOUD,
When it's time for sleepin'
It's the latest word

[MORE]
[CHORUS #2 -- CONT.]

LOUD LOUD LOUD,
LOUD LOUD LOUD,
It's THE LOUDEST LULLABY
YOU'VE EVER HEARD!

[BRIDGE]

You've had your fill o'
"Twinkle Twinkle Little Star,"
So now get down with your pillow,
And electric guitar....

[VERY LOUD HEAVY-METAL-STYLE ELECTRIC GUITAR SOLO (BARRY FINNERTY, WHO PLAYED ON "REBEL L," COULD DO THIS GREAT....)]

To nudge you near to nappin'
Gonna mow a lawn,    [MOWER CROSSES, SFX FROM 4-BEAT TO 4-BEAT]
And then a marchin' band is
Gonna make you yawn,

[KIDS MARCHING BAND CROSSES, PLAYS HORN RIFF AS INDICATED ON DEMO -- SOUSA PHONES WOULD BE GREAT -- AND BANGS A BIG BASS DRUM ON THE 4-BEAT. THEY CONTINUE TO PLAY THIS RIFF EVERY TIME IT COMES UP AGAIN UNTIL THE END OF THE PIECE.]

A bough is gonna break and    [BOUGH BREAKS ON 1ST 4-BEAT...]
Then the tree will fall,    [...AND TREE HITS GROUND ON 2ND 4-BEAT]
We'll rock 'n' roll to Dreamland
With a bowling ball    [STOCK FTG, SFX: BALL HITS PINS ON 4-BEAT]

LOUD LOUD LOUD,
LOUD LOUD LOUD,
When it's time for sleepin'
It's the latest word,
LOUD LOUD LOUD,
LOUD LOUD LOUD,
It's THE LOUDEST LULLABY
YOU'VE EVER HEARD!

[SINCE THE SCRIPT CALLS FOR A DISSOLVE, I'VE DONE A REPEAT AND FADE OF THE LAST FOUR LINES. I KNOW JON DOESN'T LIKE BOARD FADES -- SORRY, JON! -- BUT ONE DOES SEEM APPROPRIATE HERE. HOWEVER, WE CAN DO AN ALTERNATE ENDING WHEN WE RECORD THE PIECE, JUST TO BE SAFE....]

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