

# Introduction

For Bruce Springsteen (and many of us), 2020 was a year of reflection and nostalgia. In *Letter to You*, Springsteen honors the ghosts of music past – those who have shaped his lifelong artistic journey. He invites us into his house of a thousand guitars, erected in his formative years by his first band The Castiles and cultivated by the E Street Band and countless other inspirations. This year, Springsteen also appeared with Bleachers on the song “chinatown,” adding a gruff resonance to its soft yearning. It is a unique collaboration that reinforces Springsteen’s continual expansion of his musical horizons.

In the spirit of artistic influences, *BOSS: The Biannual Online-Journal of Springsteen Studies* Vol. 4 explores Springsteen’s connection to other musicians. Barry David studies the Gospel roots and various interpretations of “Land of Hope and Dreams” from other artists such as Curtis Mayfield, Bob Dylan, and Pete Seeger. Brian Conniff explores Springsteen’s longtime kinship with Elvis Presley. Lastly, Alex Carpenter and Ian Skinner contrast the nationalistic themes of Springsteen and The Tragically Hip’s music. Prudence Jones reviews *Long Walk Home: Reflections on Bruce Springsteen*, which offers a fascinating retrospective of Springsteen’s body of work and impact on popular culture.

We hope this issue will contribute to discussions about Springsteen’s ongoing legacy and wellspring of musical knowledge and inspirations.

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