Trouble Songs: A Musicological Poetics

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We Recruit(ed), We Reinscribe(d)

Do Trouble Songs recruit us? With what promises? *Trouble, no trouble, on the line.* See/return to “Trouble Returns.” Or flip back to Side One (or, that is — or was — Part One). Then scratch out Part Two, call it Side Two. Yes, let’s call it Side Two, after we call it Side One.

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60 Keeping Jonathan Lethem’s calling-trouble in mind. In his 33 1/3 series monograph on Talking Heads’ *Fear of Music*, he parses the difference between calling and naming, cf. “Heaven,” as it is articulated (or not articulated) in the line *The name of the bar, the bar is called Heaven*. Which is to say, or not say, *The bar’s* (if it is a bar, and not Heaven, or not (not) a place at all, or not a public place) *called Heaven* is not the same as *The bar’s name is Heaven*.* Whether David Byrne (or whoever he is in the song) has changed his mind and offered a pseudonym (for the bar), to throw us off or put us on, or whether he’s trying to get it just right (whatever it is, whatever right is), might be up to us (whoever we are) to decide.