

# A Very Special Achievement

(To mark the fourth anniversary of the beginning of Greyson Chance's career)

From many thousand Greyson videos that will be found on YouTube I have so far selected twenty-five for the best-of list, although many more will repay watching and listening. They also make excellent anti-depressants if ingested for one or two hours a day, which I am probably the only person in the world to do (although the investment of time required would not be a serious matter in such places as care homes, for instance).

When I ruminated on the question if, of these twenty-five performances, one could be selected as excelling over the remainder, I found that the decision was actually an easy one – even though, be it pointed out, many of his achievements would deserve the predicate 'extraordinary', such as the Washington D.C. interpretation of *Purple Sky* or his cover of *Landslide* for which AwesomnessTV positioned him and his keyboard in an especially dreary location in Los Angeles to be rewarded with one of his most mature accomplishments.

As far as I am able to judge on the basis of the YouTube videos, he gave his best concerts in Singapore, and one of these performances is the one to delight me most. This is, however, connected to an element of my personal history:

In 2005, at the Vienna Concert Hall, I heard the nearly eighty-five-year-old Dave Brubeck play a kind of swing so deliciously slow that I ended up quite entranced. One of the songs Greyson recorded for his debut album *Hold On 'Til The Night was Home Is In Your Eyes*, in which he sings about 'tired swing' that is not, however, reflected in the tempo of this band-accompanied studio recording. In November 2011 he went on his first tour of South East Asia, including Singapore, where the video I am having in mind saw the light of day: it shows him and his piano quite alone on the stage, and throughout he is playing this delightfully slow swing that reminds me of Dave Brubeck. In this case, however, it is a fourteen-year-old that is performing, and in the face of a multitude of screaming girls he stuck to his tempo with such an iron will that from the point of view of my admiration his stature grew enormously, over and above what it had already reached, and that was quite a bit in its own right: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJK\\_U-UFYLO](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJK_U-UFYLO)

Another video of the same concert and the same song does not show a long shot of him, but it contains a frontal view from so close up that it allows his facial expressions to be studied: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOx6QEOfAF4>

I took three video stills from this and converted them into one of my paintings.

