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Michael Franti's Top Ten Protest Songs

Spearhead frontman Michael Franti explains his drive for social justice as his "need to be a participant in the world." Musically, he draws from a deep well of "participation" that includes his 2004 sojourn to play on the streets of Baghdad and for U.S. troops, from which he produced the inspired documentary, *I Know I'm Not Alone*. He also recently spent an off-day during his Japan tour in Hiroshima where he interviewed survivors. "One survivor told me the reason he doesn't despise the U.S. is that hatred only leads to more bombs. If this guy can think this way then what are the rest of us thinking?" He recently paused from his current U.S. tour to offer music that has helped shape his perspective.

By **Crai S. Bower**

Blender.com, October 2006

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[Bob Dylan, *Modern Times*](#)

"Get Up, Stand Up," **Bob Marley**

Burnin', 1973

Always inspiring, always danceable. The consummate rebel call to arms.



"The Revolution Will Not Be Televised," **Gil Scott Heron**

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised, 1974

This eerie premonition of Big Brother at 6 and 11 is Gil at his best. The confidence in his baritone lets 'The Man' know, 'not only am I badder than you, I'm smarter than you.'

