

## Blast from the past

When Kermit the Frog sang “[It’s Not That Easy Bein’ Green](#)” during Sesame Street’s first season (1970), it is safe to say that not that many people assumed it would become a classic song in the field of race relations and race pride in the U.S. But many artists have indeed covered the tune—including the Belfast Cowboy, Van Morrison, and The Chairman of the Board, Frank Sinatra—since that first performance by the light green and lithe amphibian, who also plays a journalist in the early days of the famous children’s program. Kermit begins the fleeting ditty with his ambivalence toward his color, but finishes with the realization that Green is great, and that “[it’s beautiful, and I think it’s what I want to be.](#)”

The song is neither heavy-handed nor incredibly subtle. It doesn’t take a philosophy major to notice the clear and unmistakable connection to James Brown’s “I’m Black and I’m Proud,” a song that had been released two years previous.

I find it motivating to return regularly to this positive exhortation of sorts to be who you are even if others have—for generations—told you that you are inferior. One should also keep in mind that Sesame Street did not have a majority Black audience—this song was written and performed to make all young viewers think about who they and their neighbors were. If you are now so moved as well, here’s where you’ll find “[Bein’ Green](#)”: [The Muppet Show: Kermit - "Bein' Green"](#)

