

# YOU DON'T OWN ME

John Madara and David White



Excerpts from a 2005 interview with Lesley Gore

"You Don't Own Me" is a song that's been taken up by many women as a kind of anthem.

"There's no question that women have taken that song and made it theirs. Of course, the last scene of *First Wives Club* also said the same thing. Here were these women, who, after you've seen this whole movie, what do they do? They belt out "You Don't Own Me." It doesn't necessarily have to be women. It can be men, too. But I think a lot of women have taken it as theirs, which is fine. I'm very proud of that.

**Do you feel in other ways that you've been a role model for women and particularly for young women?** "I hope so. I didn't consider myself one, but as some of the responses come in and so many people have an opportunity to write you because email is so easy to get today, a lot of young people are telling me that they picked up a bass because they saw me singing on *Bandstand*, and it's very nice to hear. I'm very glad if I've influenced even one little human.

**Do you have any advice for women who are trying to make it as musicians?** "I just think that everyone should just continue rocking, especially the girls. We need more rock women. We need more rock women in the record industry. We need more executive women. That's what I'd like to see. It seems to be happening in the film world, but it's taking its time in the record industry.

**So you haven't seen much improvement over time for women in the record industry?**

"I've seen virtually no improvement, very little improvement in the record industry, and I find it still the most homophobic of all the industries, as well. It's unbelievable. It's 2005, and we're still fighting some of the same fights I was trying to fight forty years ago.

**It's a tough business....**

"It is, especially for women. I'm sorry to say that, but we've got to make that better.

Dm Gm A7 Gm A7 Dm  
You don't own me ... I'm not just one of your many toys  
Dm Gm A7 Gm A7 Dm  
You don't own me ... don't say I can't go with other boys

D  
And don't tell me what to do  
Bm  
And don't tell me what to say  
G  
And please, when I go out with you  
A7  
Don't put me on display

Dm Gm A7 Gm A7 Dm  
Cause' -You don't own me ... don't try to change me in any way  
Dm Gm A7 Gm A7 Dm  
You don't own me ... don't tie me down 'cause I'd never stay

D  
Oh, I don't tell you what to say  
Bm  
I don't tell you what to do  
G  
So just let me be myself  
A7  
That's all I ask of you  
D  
I'm young, and I love to be young  
Bm  
I'm free, and I love to be free  
G  
To live my life the way I want  
A7  
To say and do whatever I please

Dm Gm A7 Gm A7 Dm  
Cause' -You don't own me ... don't try to change me in any way  
Dm Gm A7 Gm A7 Dm  
You don't own me ... don't tie me down 'cause I'd never stay

D  
Oh, I don't tell you what to say  
Bm  
I don't tell you what to do  
G  
So just let me be myself  
A7  
That's all I ask of you  
D  
I'm young, and I love to be young  
Bm  
I'm free, and I love to be free (start FADE HERE)

