Sixty seconds on . . . Dolly Parton

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Working 9 to 5?
Not in medicine (and certainly not if Jeremy Hunt had had his way). But, while we’re not talking seven day working here, the world’s favourite country music star has certainly been putting in some overtime recently.

Has she got a new album out?
No, but she’d probably be number one if we had a vaccine chart. Not content with donating $1m (£720 000; €840 000) to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, which worked with the drug manufacturer Moderna to develop its successful covid vaccine, the 75 year old singer has now reworked her hit “Jolene” to encourage people to get vaccinated.

Did she give it a Moderna twist?
Of course. Parton posted a clip of her singing “Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vaccine / I’m begging of you, please don’t hesitate,” just before she was given her jab—which some Twitter users described as “a taste of her own medicine.”

A Dolly mixture?
That’s too much. But seasoned listeners may remember that this isn’t the first time Parton has remixed “Jolene” for public health purposes. Last April she offered the sage advice, “If you touch him, please go wash your hands,” which I think we can all get on board with.

Any other Dolly news?
Well, her theme park still isn’t allowed to open because of covid. But, given the effectiveness of her public health campaigning, she may be better off keeping it closed and joining the World Health Organization instead. Frankly, if her latest intervention doesn’t get everyone rushing to their nearest vaccine clinic, nothing will.