

Desert Island Discs – Adele McNally

Cwm Rhondda (Rhondda Valley) – John Hughes

The 'gusto' which comes from a male voice choir is so uplifting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqDbObqQcQY>

My grandfather had been a miner in the Rhondda Valley and came to London for work during the depression. As a child I loved the 'lilt' of my grandparents Welsh accent. I remember watching 'Ivor the Engine' with them and looking forward to the bit in every episode when he chuffed past the 'chapel' where the choir were always singing 'Bread of Heaven'. How thrilled I was when researching this to find an excerpt when Ivor joined the choir and I could here that lilting accent again!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ty3xghAJIs>

Hebrides Overture - Fingal's Cave – Felix Mendelsshon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVhmZUdETDo>

I was introduced to this piece at school when I was 8. The teacher played it and made us close our eyes to imagine what was happening. After we had talked about it he showed us a picture of 'Fingal's Cave'. I was transfixed by the rock formation and it led me to studying geography later, instead of music, much to my parents' disappointment.

Visiting Fingal's Cave was always on my bucket list and we were fortunate to do it on a lovely sunny day. This is not my filming but it gives a flavour of the experience. This music always makes me homesick for Scotland and the mountains which I love.

Skyline Pigeon – Elton John

When I was at college I was in a folk group with Dave and Alf called Canvas. We sang at Salvation Army and other events. The camaraderie of being with those two at that time and making music and writing songs has never been forgotten. Sadly Dave lost his life when he was drowned on holiday in Greece but he is always remembered when I hear songs we harmonised on together such as Streets of London, Bleeker Street and Skyline Pigeon. We even made a recording of our version on vinyl for ourselves. Beautiful sentiments expressed here through a wonderful tune.

https://www.google.com/search?q=skyline+pigeon+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBD_en-GBGB816GB816&oq=skyline+pigeon&aqs=chrome.5.0i355i512j46i512j0i512l8.8950j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:be553fa3,vid:3tCvJeuNZuE

Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen – Edvard Grieg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVra2lotK-M&t=4s>

As children, our grandmother always used to tell us we were related to 'Grieg' which we always took with a pinch of salt! However after some research it seemed we were! Such a thrill then to visit Trolldhaugen, Grieg's home in Bergen and see a picture of 'Alexander Greig' our shared ancestor on his wall. I was hoping for a 'mystical feeling' there, but sadly none came!

Why choose this particular piece? I learnt to play this and spent hours practising but never quite mastered it. It's quite comforting in this lovely rendition, played with such 'joie de vivre' that there are a couple of wrong notes!

At Last – Etta James

I found two vinyl albums by chance one day in the late 60's on one of those Carousels, which had selections of cheap LPs, in a random hardware shop. 'At Last' by Etta James & 'Watch the Stars' by Dorris Henderson. I was hooked by the timbre of both these voices and the soul/folk elements of

their performances. Sadly Dorris had to go during a Lockdown clearout when we found it was too well used and scratched to be played without jumping, but Etta remains!

As someone who is easily distracted by music and harmonies and doesn't always take in the lyrics I am proud to say I know every word of the Etta James Album. Without getting 'mushy' the track 'At Last' was exactly how I felt when a couple of years later I met my husband. How could I not include this?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-cbOI96RFM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BleCK3M8KQ>

Nimrod Variations Edward Elgar – Black Dyke Brass Band (arranged by Eric Ball)

Being brought up in The Salvation Army gave me a love of the sound of Brass Bands. I played trombone in the Junior Band and the orchestra at school. Eric Ball was a salvationist and well respected in Brass Band Circles. I met him many times at our local corps in Hanwell where he was a soldier. I have chosen this piece purposely as opposed to a Salvation Army march because it reminds me of the time I went to the National Brass Band Contest at the Albert Hall when this was the test piece. I listened to it played by 35 different bands in one day and yet I didn't tire of hearing it! How could I not include such a beautiful piece played with such tone?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i7i_u0sHN8

Hey Jude

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQER0A0ej0M>

Always a Beatles fan. I screamed with the best of them! So many great songs. Which one to choose?

It has to be 'Hey Jude'! As a life-long Brentford fan I have sung this so many times in the past at Griffin Park and now at the new GTech stadium. It's mixed up with so many emotional memories of disappointments and more recently successes. If you are wondering the words 'Hey Jude' are replaced by 'Brentford' after the Na-Na- Na's! Linked to these moments, recently on a visit to Anfield to watch Brentford play I was able to play on Paul McCartney's piano in his old house now owned by the National Trust. Just thrilling and almost unbelievable!

Turandot : Nessun Dorma - Paul Potts

During the time I taught at Priory School in Burnham, Emotional Literacy became part of the curriculum. I had responsibility for the implementation of this initiative throughout the school. As part of this I delivered a weekly whole school assembly based around 'Wise Words' which were put up around the school to reinforce the message.

I used this clip to show that we all have talents which are often hidden from others and still love the part where Piers Morgan's smirk disappears!

As soon as Paul starts to sing this wonderful piece, I get the tingle factor.

https://www.google.com/search?q=paul+potts+audition&rlz=1C1CHBD_en-GBGB816GB816&sxsrf=AJOqlzXf6JkMyd_G9MGBtv4NDcWmctlhDA%3A167

The Lamb -Taverner (Based on the poem 'The Lamb' by William Blake)

I have been fortunate to sing in many unusual and famous places with choirs. However performing this piece in the Eton College Chapel as part of the Slough Teacher's Choir was the most memorable. It is very challenging to keep in tune and produce such a controlled and quiet tone. The musical experience with the muted Christmas lights, singing such a poignant song and mindful of all those who had gone before me in that historic setting has been impossible to beat.

Apologies to the Ukulele group who come a close second!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-mSmEfLmZc>