Program

Classical

1. Minuet in F Major
2. Moonlight Sonata
3. Climb Ev’ry Mountain

Broadway

1. Jingle Bells
2. Castle On A Cloud
3. My Favorite Things
4. Over the Rainbow

Rock

1. Sacrifice
2. Your Song
3. Piano Man
4. My Way

Aaria’s Own Compositions

1. Pony’s In Denver
2. Sunshine Up High
3. Gems and Jewels
4. Feel the Light

Menuet in F Major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was undoubtedly one of the greatest composers of not only the classical era, but of all time. Mozart, however, was born into an already musically talented family. His father Leopold was himself a composer and musician and toured parts of Europe giving many successful performances, including some before royalty.

Written for piano, Leopold’s Minuet in F Major features a homophonic structure with an upper and lower voice. The right hand plays arpeggiations of each chord while the left hand plays the roots to support the melody.

Moonlight Sonata

Moonlight Sonata, a solo piano work by Ludwig van Beethoven, is admired particularly for its mysterious, gently arpeggiated, and seemingly improvised first movement. The piece was completed in 1801 and premiered by the composer himself, whose hearing was still adequate but already deteriorating at the time. The nickname Moonlight Sonata traces to the 1830s, when German Romantic poet Ludwig Rellstab published a review in which he likened the first movement of the piece to a boat floating in the moonlight on Switzerland’s Lake Lucerne.

The Moonlight Sonata was structurally and stylistically remarkable in its day. Most sonatas of the late 17th and early 18th centuries consisted of a reasonably animated, thematically well-defined first movement, a more-subdued second movement, and a vibrant final movement. The Moonlight, by contrast, offered a dreamy first movement, a somewhat more lively second movement, and a final movement that was outright tempestuous. Such was the furor of the Moonlight’s finale that several of the piano strings snapped and became entangled in the hammers during the work’s premiere. Indeed, in the declining years of his hearing, Beethoven was known to play with a heavy hand, likely so that he could better hear the music.

Climb Ev’ry Mountain

"Climb Ev'ry Mountain" is a song from the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical and the subsequent 1965 film *The Sound of Music*. It is themed as an inspirational piece, to encourage people to take every step toward attaining their dreams.

Climb every mountain,

Search high and low,

Follow every byway,

Every path you know.

Climb every mountain,

Ford every stream,

Follow every rainbow,

'Till you find your dream.

A dream that will need

All the love you can give,

Every day of your life

For as long as you live.

Climb every mountain,

Ford every stream,

Follow every rainbow,

Till you find your dream

Jingle Bells

"Jingle Bells" is one of the best-known and most commonly sung American songs in the world. It was written by James Lord Pierpont and published in 1857. It has been claimed that it was originally written to be sung by a Sunday school choir for Thanksgiving, or as a drinking song. Although it has no original connection to Christmas, it became associated with winter and Christmas music in the 1860s and 1870s.

Dashing through the snow

In a one-horse open sleigh

O'er the fields we go

Laughing all the way

Bells on bobtails ring

Making spirits bright

What fun it is to ride and sing

A sleighing song tonight, oh!

Jingle bells, jingle bells

Jingle all the way

Oh, what fun it is to ride

In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!

Jingle bells, jingle bells

Jingle all the way

Oh what fun it is to ride

In a one-horse open sleigh

Now the ground is white

Go it while you're young

Take the girls tonight

Sing this sleighing song

Get a bobtailed bay

Two forty for his speed

And hitch him to an open sleigh

And you will take the lead

Vive le vent, vive le vent,

Vive le vent d'hiver,

Qui s'en va sifflant, soufflant

Dans les grands sapins verts, oh !

Vive le temps, vive le temps,

Vive le temps d'hiver,

Boules de neige et Jour de l'An

Et Bonne Année grand-mère !

Castle On A Cloud

Victor Hugo’s 1862 novel has been famously adapted into the world’s longest-running musical, Les Misérables, written by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil and debuted in the West End in 1985. The story is set in the early 19th century. ‘Castle on a Cloud’ is performed during the first act of the musical. This is the audience’s first encounter of young Cosette after the death of her mother. Ill-treated by her guardians, Cosette dreams of a better life where all children are loved and free.

There is a castle on a cloud,

I like to go there in my sleep,

Aren't any floors for me to sweep,

Not in my castle on a cloud.

There is a room that's full of toys,

There are a hundred boys and girls,

Nobody shouts or talks too loud,

Not in my castle on a cloud.

There is a lady all in white,

Holds me and sings a lullaby,

She's nice to see and she's soft to touch,

She says "Cosette, I love you very much."

I know a place where no one's lost,

I know a place where no one cries,

Crying at all is not allowed,

Not in my castle on a cloud.

My Favorite Things

This song is from the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical and the subsequent 1965 film *The Sound of Music*. This is a song about overcoming one's fears by filling her mind with things she loves when times are bad.

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens

Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens

Brown paper packages tied up with strings

These are a few of my favorite things

Cream-colored ponies and crisp apple strudels

Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles

Wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings

These are a few of my favorite things

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes

Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes

Silver-white winters that melt into springs

These are a few of my favorite things

When the dog bites

When the bee stings

When I'm feeling sad

I simply remember my favorite things

And then I don't feel so bad

Over the Rainbow

"Over the Rainbow" is a ballad by Harold Arlen with lyrics by Yip Harburg. It was written for the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, in which it was sung by actress Judy Garland in her starring role as Dorothy Gale. It won the Academy Award for Best Original Song and became Garland's signature song. The song is about hope, that the bad times will one day be over. It is this feeling of hope within the song that we can all relate to.

When all the world is a hopeless jumble

And the raindrops tumble all around,

Heaven opens a magic lane.

When all the clouds darken up the skyway

There's a rainbow highway to be found,

Leading from your window pane

To a place behind the sun,

Just a step beyond the rain.

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high,

There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby.

Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue,

And the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.

Someday I'll wish upon a star and wake up where the clouds are far behind me.

Where troubles melt like lemon drops away above the chimney tops,

That's where you'll find me.

Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly.

Birds fly over the rainbow; why, then, oh why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow,

Why, oh why can't I?

Sacrifice

"Sacrifice" is a song by English musician Elton John, written by John and Bernie Taupin, from the 1989 album *Sleeping with the Past*. This song describes how hard it is to stay faithful and devoted in a marriage, challenging the mantra that a successful union requires sacrifice.[3] Due to the song's success, John has played this song in various locations in the 32 years since it was released.

It's a human sign; When things go wrong

When the scent of her lingers; And temptation's strong

Into the boundary; Of each married man

Sweet deceit comes calling; And negativity lands

Cold cold heart; Hard done by you

Some things look better, baby

Just passing through

And it's no sacrifice; Just a simple word

It's two hearts living; In two separate worlds

But it's no sacrifice; No sacrifice

It's no sacrifice at all

Mutual misunderstanding; After the fact

Sensitivity builds a prison; In the final act

We lose direction; No stone unturned

No tears to damn you; When jealousy burns

Cold, cold heart; Hard done by you

Some things look better, baby

Just passin' through

And it's no sacrifice; Just a simple word

It's two hearts livin'; In two separate worlds

But, it's no sacrifice; No sacrifice

It's no sacrifice, at all

Your Song

"Your Song" is a song written by English musician Elton John and songwriter Bernie Taupin, and performed by John. It was John's first international Top 10 chart single and is widely regarded as one of his greatest songs. The lyrics express the romantic thoughts of an innocent person.

It's a little bit funny, this feeling inside

I'm not one of those who can easily hide

I don't have much money, but, boy, if I did

I'd buy a big house where we both could live

If I was a sculptor, heh, but then again, no

Or a man who makes potions in a traveling show

I know it's not much, but it's the best I can do

My gift is my song, and this one's for you

And you can tell everybody this is your song

It may be quite simple, but now that it's done

I hope you don't mind, I hope you don't mind that I put down in words

How wonderful life is while you're in the world

I sat on the roof and kicked off the moss

Well, a few of the verses, well, they've got me quite cross

But the sun's been quite kind while I wrote this song

It's for people like you that keep it turned on

So excuse me forgetting, but these things I do

You see, I've forgotten if they're green or they're blue

Anyway, the thing is, what I really mean

Yours are the sweetest eyes I've ever seen

And you can tell everybody this is your song

It may be quite simple, but now that it's done

I hope you don't mind, I hope you don't mind that I put down in words

How wonderful life is while you're in the world

I hope you don't mind, I hope you don't mind that I put down in words

How wonderful life is while you're in the world

Piano Man

"Piano Man" is a song written and performed by American singer-songwriter Billy Joel. As Joel's first major hit and his signature song, "Piano Man" peaked at #25 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in April 1974. The song is sung from Joel's point of view as a piano player at a bar, reminiscing about his experiences there and the people he encountered. "Piano Man" is based on Joel's real-life experiences as a lounge musician in Los Angeles from 1972 to 1973. Joel describes various characters, including a bartender named John and a "real estate novelist" named Paul, all based on real-life individuals.

It's nine o'clock on a Saturday

The regular crowd shuffles in

There's an old man sittin' next to me

Makin' love to his tonic and gin

He says, "Son can you play me a memory?

I'm not really sure how it goes

But it's sad and it's sweet and I knew it complete

When I wore a younger man's clothes"

La, la-la, di-di-da

La-la di-di-da da-dum

Sing us a song, you're the piano man

Sing us a song tonight

Well, we're all in the mood for a melody

And you've got us feelin' alright

Now John at the bar is a friend of mine

He gets me my drinks for free

And he's quick with a joke, or to light up your smoke

But there's some place that he'd rather be

He says, "Bill, I believe this is killing me"

As a smile ran away from his face

"Well, I'm sure that I could be a movie star

If I could get out of this place"

Oh, la, la-la, di-di-da

La-la di-di-da da-dum

Now Paul is a real estate novelist

Who never had time for a wife

And he's talkin' with Davy, who's still in the navy

And probably will be for life

And the waitress is practicing politics

As the businessmen slowly get stoned

Yes, they're sharing a drink they call loneliness

But it's better than drinkin' alone

Sing us the song, you're the piano man

Sing us a song tonight

Well, we're all in the mood for a melody

And you've got us feelin' alright

It's a pretty good crowd for a Saturday

And the manager gives me a smile

'Cause he knows that it's me they've been comin' to see

To forget about life for a while

And the piano, it sounds like a carnival

And the microphone smells like a beer

And they sit at the bar and put bread in my jar

And say man what are you doin' here?

Oh, la, la-la, di-di-da

La-la di-di-da da-dum

Sing us the song, you're the piano man

Sing us a song tonight

Well, we're all in the mood for a melody

And you've got us feelin' alright

My Way

Written by Paul Anka and made famous by Frank Sinatra, 'My Way' Is America's Anthem Of Self-Determination. "My Way" represents the quintessentially American outlook that nothing in life matters more than living on your own terms. The sentiments in in the song are being expressed by an individual who is looking back on his life’s journey. And for the most part, he is very much satisfied. Yes, he took “blows” along the way and dealt with various hardships. But in hindsight he can say that not only did he overcome these challenges, but more important is that he did so ‘his way’.

And now the end is here

And so I face that final curtain

My friend I'll make it clear

I'll state my case, of which I'm certain

I've lived a life that's full

I traveled each and every highway

And more, much more

I did it, I did it my way

Regrets, I've had a few

But then again too few to mention

I did what I had to do

I saw it through without exemption

I planned each charted course

Each careful step along the byway

And more, much, much more

I did it, I did it my way

Yes, there were times I'm sure you knew

When I bit off more than I could chew

But through it all, when there was doubt

I ate it up and spit it out

I faced it all and I stood tall and did it my way

For what is a man, what has he got?

If not himself then he has naught

Not to say the things that he truly feels

And not the words of someone who kneels

Let the record shows I took all the blows and did it my way

Ponies in Denver

This is my own composition, written during my trip to India in December, 2019. Just prior to that, I went to Denver, Colorado to ski with my parents. Hence, the reference to Denver in the song.

I couldn’t find the perfect man to marry me

So I married a boy named Aaron

But he locked me up in my house

And didn’t let me do anything

So I knew he wasn’t the perfect man to marry me

So I gave up on my husband

And kept my ponies in Denver.

Yeah!

Sunshine Up High

This is my first composition, written at our Montreal house in April 2019.

Sunshine up high, on mountain treetops

Down below oceans flow

Lions, tigers, and bears

Search for their prey

As I studied them, carefully

As I started singing

Sunshine up high, on mountain treetops

Down below oceans as they sway

I love you every day.

Gems and Jewels

I wrote this song while on a road trip with my parents during the Christmas break in 2020.

Come along to see

What’s written in my fate

Sing with me it’s

What’s written in my fate

You might think that gems and jewels

Are the best treasures of them all

But it’s not true

Cause family is the best treasure

Of them all

Feel the Light

Feel the light, Feel the light

Always look on the bright side

Do this on the double

Fight trouble

Feel the light, Feel the light

Always look on the bright side

As my heart flows to and fro

There’s no way I’m gonna let you go

And as my heart takes me to space

There I will leave no trace

Feel the light, Feel the light

Always look on the bright side

As I love the trees

I can care for them with ease

And as I love the flower

It will give me power

Feel the light, Feel the light

Always look on the bright side