



2023 HYR Spring Soccer Team Name Theme: Musicians and Composers

This season, the theme is near and dear to my heart. I come from a very musical family. My grandfather Bernie Fitzgerald was a trumpet and cornet player, composer, and band leader with a long career as a University Professor at the University of Idaho, University of Texas, and University of Kentucky. My parents played dulcimers and sang us songs around the campfire on camping trips and performed in musical groups and church choirs. All of their 5 children took music lessons and sang in choirs throughout childhood. My older brother is a Music Professor at the University of Louisville in the Jazz studies department and accomplished bass player. My sisters have performed music in public for many years. For myself, I play mostly plucked string instruments (guitar, bass, and mandolin family instruments) and piano, and I am a songwriter. My favorite instrument to play is probably the mandocello. I have played and sung in musical groups my entire adult life and continue to take lessons to learn new things. I think my affinity for the bass voice in music subconsciously influenced the number of bass players included in the list below. My wife has a beautiful singing voice, and our children are musical. I have music in my ears constantly of many varieties across many genres.

Any time the team theme involves people, I focus on as much diversity and representation as possible. HYR families represent a variety of cultures, and if we are putting people on the shirts, I feel it is important that players see themselves represented in those faces of either their team shirt or that of their opponents.

Any time I place an asterisk by a collaborator of one of these artists, it means the collaborator is also on this list in their own right.

So without further adieu, here is a guide to the team names.



2023 HYR Spring Soccer Shirt Designs – Division 1

With division 1, we have selected 2 musical artists that have music very appropriate for young children. Actually, the parents of both the sessions get their own shirts, too, so here are the three small child related shirts:



Honey: Sweet Honey in the Rock 1973 - present is an all-woman, African-American a cappella ensemble. They are an American three-time Grammy Award-nominated troupe who express their history as black women through song, dance, and sign language. Although the members have changed over five decades, the group continues to sing and perform worldwide. Their children's albums Still the Same Me and Experience are a wealth of positivity for children.



Roxx: Divinity Roxx 1976 - present. **Divinity Roxx** is a Grammy-nominated American recording artist, composer, and musician. Her work includes elements of rhythm and blues, hip hop, funk, soul, and rock. As a rapper and bassist, her performances have been reviewed as radical and distinctive because of her unique ability to combine vigorous bass lines with simultaneous tongue-twisting yet authoritative rapping. Her collaboration with Beyonce Knowles and Victor Wooten* show her clout as an accomplished player. Her grammy nominated children's album "Ready Set Go" is one you could use to get your young kids out of bed to greet the day. For any kid who feels different, let them jam out to "Be Yourself".



Carnival: *The Carnival of the Animals (Le Carnaval des animaux)* is a humorous musical suite of fourteen movements, including "The Swan", by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. The work, about 25 minutes in duration, was written for private performance by two pianos and chamber ensemble; Saint-Saëns prohibited public performance of the work during his lifetime, feeling that its frivolity would damage his standing as a serious composer. The suite was published in 1922, the year after his death. A public performance in the same year was greeted with enthusiasm, and the work has remained among his most popular. In addition to the original version for chamber ensemble, the suite is frequently performed with a full orchestral complement of strings.



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Bach: Johann Sebasitan Bach 1865 - 1750. J.S. Bach was a German composer and musician of the late Baroque period. He is known for his orchestral music such as the Brandenburg Concertos; instrumental compositions such as the Cello Suites; keyboard works such as the Goldberg Variations and The Well-Tempered Clavier. There is no shortage of material available on Bach, but I suppose that not everyone would be aware that in his lifetime, he was a well-known instrumentalist and improviser. It would take decades if not a century before he was regarded widely as one of the greatest composers of all time.



Basie: William James "Count" Basie 1904 - 1984. Basie was an American jazz pianist, organist, bandleader, and composer. In 1935, he formed the Count Basie Orchestra, and in 1936 took them to Chicago for a long engagement and their first recording. He led the group for almost 50 years. He influenced virtually every Jazz performer on this list. Count Basie introduced several generations of listeners to the Big Band sound and left an influential catalog. Basie is remembered by many who worked for him as being considerate of musicians and their opinions, modest, relaxed, fun-loving, dryly witty, and always enthusiastic about his music. In his autobiography, he wrote, "I think the band can really *swing* when it swings easy, when it can just play along like you are cutting butter."



Brouwer: Leo Brouwer 1939 - present. Brouwer is a Cuban composer, conductor, and classical guitarist. In his early compositions, Brouwer remained close to the rhythms of Cuban music, while later he was drawn to other forms. He has been a conductor for many symphony orchestras, including the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, and the Cordoba Symphony in Spain. Brouwer has written for guitar, piano, and percussion, and has composed orchestral works, ballet, and music for over one hundred movies, including the film Like Water for Chocolate.



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Dizzy: John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie 1917 - 1993. Gillespie was an American jazz trumpeter, bandleader, composer, educator and singer.^[2] He was a trumpet virtuoso and improviser, adding layers of harmonic and rhythmic complexity previously unheard in jazz. His combination of musicianship, showmanship, and wit made him a leading popularizer of the new music called bebop. His beret and horn-rimmed spectacles, scat singing, bent horn, pouched cheeks, and light-hearted personality provided one of bebop's most prominent symbols. I saw Dizzy Gillespie one time in a concert with the Count Basie Orchestra around 1990 in the later part of his life. His cheeks would inflate to exaggerated proportions as he played in an almost comical tribute to a lifetime of producing joyous sounds. I will never forget it.



Gershwin: George Gershwin 1898 - 1937. George Gershwin was an American composer and pianist whose compositions spanned popular, jazz and classical genres. Among his best-known works are the orchestral compositions Rhapsody in Blue, the songs "Swanee", "Fascinating Rhythm", and "Summertime". The shirt depicts George and his lyricist brother Ira Gershwin. Gershwin moved to Hollywood and composed numerous film scores. He died in 1937, only 38 years old, of a brain tumor. His compositions have been adapted for use in film and television, with many becoming jazz standards.



Hancock: Herbie Hancock 1940 - present. Hancock is an American jazz pianist, keyboardist, bandleader, and composer. Hancock joined the Miles Davis* Quintet, where he helped to redefine the role of a jazz rhythm section and was one of the primary architects of the post-bee-bop sound. In the 1970s, Hancock experimented with jazz fusion, funk, and electro styles, using a wide array of synthesizers and electronics. Many people would recognize his pop tunes like the theme songs from Fat Albert, some of his tunes like Maiden Voyage and Watermelon Man are in the realm of Jazz Standards.



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Holiday: Billie Holiday 1915 - 1959. Holiday was an American jazz and swing music singer. Nicknamed "Lady Day" by her friend and music partner, Lester Young, Holiday had an innovative influence on jazz music and pop singing. Her vocal style, strongly inspired by jazz instrumentalists, pioneered a new way of manipulating phrasing and tempo. She was known for her vocal delivery and improvisational skills. Her haunting rendition of Strange Fruit vaulted her career even further. Her tumultuous career and life were cut tragically short. To this day, one of the most iconic voices of the 20th century.



Lang Lang: 1982 - present. Lang Lang is a Chinese pianist who has performed with leading orchestras in China, North America, Europe, and elsewhere. Active since the 1990s, he was the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and some top American orchestras. Lang is considered by many as one of the most accomplished classical musicians of modern time.



Price: Florence Price 1887 - 1953. Price was an American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Price was educated at the [New England Conservatory of Music](#), and was active in Chicago from 1927 until her death in 1953. Price is noted as the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra. Price composed over 300 works: four symphonies, four concertos, as well as choral works, art songs, chamber music and music for solo instruments.



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Puccini: Giacomo Puccini 1858 - 1924. Puccini was an Italian composer known primarily for his operas. He is regarded as the greatest and most successful proponent of Italian opera after Verdi. His most renowned works are La bohème, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, and Turandot, all of which are among the most frequently performed and recorded of all operas.



Sir Duke: Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington 1889 - 1974. Duke was an American [jazz pianist](#), composer, and leader of his eponymous [jazz orchestra](#) from 1923 through the rest of his life. Ellington was based in [New York City](#) from the mid-1920s and gained a national profile through his orchestra's appearances at the [Cotton Club](#) in [Harlem](#). Ellington wrote or collaborated on more than one thousand compositions; his extensive body of work is the largest recorded personal jazz legacy, and many of his pieces have become [standards](#). The team shirt refers to him as “Sir Duke” as a reference to the Stevie Wonder tune called Sir Duke. The opening lyric “Music is a world within itself with a language we all understand” sums up the reason for this season’s team name theme. The song goes on to specifically pay tribute to Count Basie*, Glen Miller, Louis Armstrong*, Ella Fitzgerald*, and Sir Duke*.



Strayhorn: Billy Strayhorn 1915 - 1967. Strayhorn was an American [jazz](#) composer, pianist, [lyricist](#), and [arranger](#), who collaborated with bandleader and composer [Duke Ellington](#) for nearly three decades. His compositions include "[Take the 'A' Train](#)", "[Chelsea Bridge](#)", "[A Flower Is a Lovesome Thing](#)", and "[Lush Life](#)". He participated in civil rights causes and was a close friend to Martin Luther King, JR. Despite having spent much of his career in Duke Ellington’s Shadow, he has been respected by Jazz artists who have done entire albums commemorating and interpreting his work.



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Berlin: Irving Berlin 1888 - 1989. Berlin was an American composer and lyricist. His music forms a large part of the Great American Songbook. Berlin's songs have reached the top of the charts 25 times and have been extensively re-recorded by hundreds of popular singers. He wrote hundreds of songs, many becoming major hits, which made him famous before he turned thirty. During his 60-year career he wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 20 original Broadway shows and 15 original Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards. Many songs became popular themes and anthems, including "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "Puttin' on the Ritz", "Cheek to Cheek", "White Christmas", "Happy Holiday", "Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)", and "There's No Business Like Show Business".



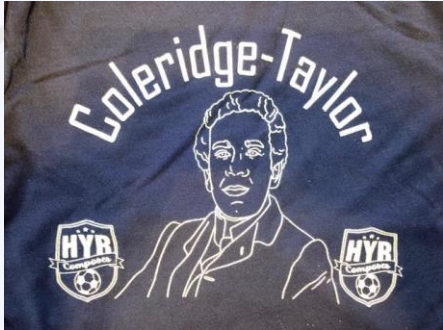
Bernstein: Leonard Bernstein 1918 - 1990. Bernstein was an American conductor, composer, pianist, music educator, author, and humanitarian. Considered to be one of the most important conductors of his time, he was the first American conductor to receive international acclaim. Bernstein was the recipient of many honors, including seven Emmy Awards, two Tony Awards, sixteen Grammy Awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Kennedy Center Honor. His best-known work is the Broadway musical West Side Story, which continues to be regularly performed worldwide. A lifelong humanitarian, Bernstein worked in support of civil rights, protested against the Vietnam War, advocated nuclear disarmament; raised money for HIV/AIDS research and awareness; and engaged in multiple international initiatives for human rights and world peace.



Chavez: Carlos Chavez 1899 - 1978. Chavez was a Mexican composer, conductor, music theorist, educator, journalist, and founder and director of the Mexican Symphonic Orchestra. His symphonies were influenced by native Mexican cultures. He had a partnership with Silvestre Revueltas*, Mexican classical music composer.



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Coleridge Taylor: Samuel Coleridge Taylor 1875 - 1912. Coleridge Taylor was a British composer and conductor. Of mixed-race birth, Coleridge-Taylor achieved such success that he was referred to by white New York musicians as the "African Mahler" when he had three tours of the United States in the early 1900s. He was particularly known for his three cantatas on the epic 1855 poem The Song of Hiawatha by American Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Coleridge Taylor has an elementary school named after him in downtown Louisville.



Evans: Bill Evans 1929 - 1980. Evans was an American jazz pianist and composer who worked primarily as the leader of his trio. His use of impressionist harmony, interpretation of traditional jazz repertoire, block chords, and trademark rhythmically independent, "singing" melodic lines continues to influence jazz pianists today. Many of Evans's compositions, such as "Waltz for Debby", have become standards, played and recorded by many artists. Evans received 31 Grammy nominations and seven awards, and was inducted into the DownBeat Jazz Hall of Fame.



Joy: Samara Joy 1999 - present. Samara Joy is an American jazz singer. She released her self-titled debut album in 2021 and was subsequently named Best New Artist by JazzTimes. Her second album, Linger Awhile, was released in September 2022 and won the award for Best Jazz Vocal Album at the 2023 Grammy Awards, where she was also named Best New Artist. She was the second jazz musician to win the award. Although she is the youngest person on this entire list, she sings as if she had come from the golden age of jazz.

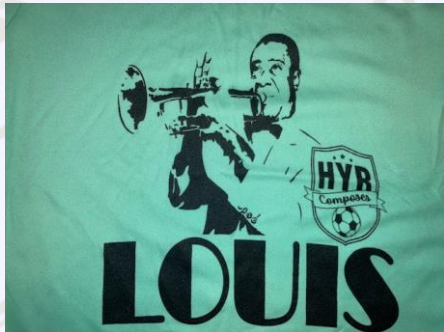


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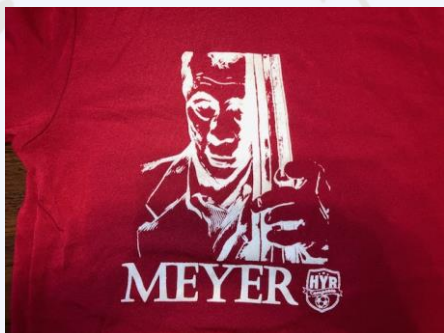


Krall: Diana Krall 1964 - present. Diana Krall is a Canadian jazz pianist and singer known for her contralto vocals. She has sold more than 15 million albums worldwide, including over six million in the US. On December 11, 2009, Billboard magazine named her the second greatest jazz artist of the decade (2000–2009), establishing her as one of the best-selling artists of her time.

To date, she has won three Grammy Awards and eight Juno Awards. She has also earned nine gold, three platinum, and seven multi-platinum albums. Diana Krall is married to singer Elvis Costello, and they have twin sons. I have seen her in concert, and I was blown away. My favorite Krall album is probably “All for You: A Dedication to the Nat King Cole Trio.”



Louis: Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong 1901 - 1971. Louie was an American trumpeter and vocalist. He was among the most influential figures in jazz. His career spanned five decades and several eras in the history of jazz. He received numerous accolades including the Grammy Award for Best Male Vocal Performance for Hello, Dolly! in 1965, as well as a posthumous win for the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1972, and the induction into the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame in 2017. At one point in his life, trumpet player and singer Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong was the most recognized face on planet Earth. Everyone does a terrible Louis Armstrong impression of that beautiful gravelly voice. Although “What a Wonderful World” is his most ubiquitous tune, I can not get enough of his collaboration albums with Ella Fitzgerald*. They are a super happy place for me and never disappoint.



Meyer: Edgar Meyer 1960 - present. Edgar Meyer is an American bassist and composer. His styles include classical, bluegrass, newgrass, and jazz. He has won five Grammy Awards and been nominated seven times. Meyer is a member of the Telluride Bluegrass Festival's "house band" super group, along with Sam Bush, Béla Fleck*, Jerry Douglas*, Stuart Duncan, and Bryan Sutton. I have seen him play several times in different musical settings, and I am struck by his warmth and sense of humor and mirth even while playing moving music. My three Edgar Meyer recommendations would be Appalachian Journey (collaboration with Mark O’Conner, Yo-Yo Ma*, and James Taylor), Skip Hob and Wobble, (Collaboration with Russ Barenburg and Jerry Douglass*) and The Goat Rodeo Sessions (Collaboration with Stuart Duncan, YoYo Ma*, and Chris Thile*).



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Mingus: Charles Mingus 1922 - 1979. Mingus was an American jazz upright bassist, pianist, composer, bandleader, and author. A major proponent of collective improvisation, he is considered to be one of the greatest jazz musicians and composers in history with a career spanning three decades and collaborations with other jazz musicians such as Louis Armstrong*, Duke Ellington*, Charlie Parker*, Dizzy Gillespie*, and Herbie Hancock*. Mingus's work ranged from advanced bebop and avant-garde jazz with small and midsize ensembles. My favorite Mingus tune: Goodbye Pork Pie Hat.



Still: William Grant Still 1895 - 1978. William Grant Still was an African American composer of nearly two hundred works, including five symphonies, four ballets, nine operas, over thirty choral works, plus art songs, chamber music and works for solo instruments. Because of his close association and collaboration with prominent African-American literary and cultural figures, Still is considered to have been part of the Harlem Renaissance. Often referred to as the "Dean of Afro-American Composers," Still was the first American composer to have an opera produced by the New York City Opera. I first learned of him because I played with the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra, and we performed his composition Danzes de Panama. In one concert, we performed on the 100th anniversary of his birth, and his granddaughter was in attendance.



Tan Dun: 1957 - present: Tan Dun is a Chinese-born American composer and conductor. A leading figure of contemporary classical music, he draws from a variety of Western and Chinese influences, a dichotomy which has shaped much of his life and music. Having collaborated with leading orchestras around the world, Tan is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Grawemeyer Award for his opera Marco Polo (1996) and both an Academy Award and Grammy Award for his film score in Ang Lee's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000). His oeuvre as a whole includes operas, orchestral, vocal, chamber, solo and film scores, as well as genres that Tan terms "organic music" and "music ritual."



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Wolfgang: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756 - 1791. Mozart was a prolific and influential composer of the [Classical period](#). Despite his short life, his rapid pace of composition resulted in [more than 800 works](#) of virtually every genre of his time. Many of these compositions are acknowledged as pinnacles of the [symphonic](#), [concertante](#), [chamber](#), [operatic](#), and [choral](#) repertoire. Mozart is widely regarded as among the greatest composers in the history of Western music, with his music admired for its "melodic beauty, its formal elegance and its richness of harmony and texture". You know him. You have heard his music 1000 times. If anyone has seen the movie Amadeus, I will just state that if the team is thoroughly mediocre, we will call them Salieri.



Wooten: Victoria Lamont Wooten 1964 - present. Victor Wooten is an American bassist, songwriter, and record producer. He has been the bassist for [Béla Fleck and the Flecktones](#) since the group's formation in 1988. Wooten is the recipient of five [Grammy Awards](#).^[8] He won the Bass Player of the Year award from [Bass Player](#) magazine three times^[2] and is the first person to win the award more than once.^[8] In 2011, he was ranked No. 10 in the Top 10 Bassists of All Time by [Rolling Stone](#) magazine. I first saw him perform with Bella Fleck* and the Flecktones on the Lonesome Pine Series, and I could not live what I was hearing. His bass solo on "Sinister Minister" was like nothing I had ever seen. His Ted Talk on Musical language is so inspiring about how to learn to listen to and play music. I saw a Lonesome Pine Concert once Called "Bass Instincts that was legendary jazz bass pioneer Ray Brown, Edgar Meyer* and Victor Wooten. One part featured Victor and Edgar fighting over a bass and simultaneously playing it as they took it from each other with the music never stopping that I will never forget. Later that year, Ray Brown was asked in an interview if he had ever played electric bass, and he said something like "No, I never really played around with them. I played a show recently with an electric bass player, and man, he could really play. I can't remember his name. Short Dude, and he wore a hat." (Obviously Victor)



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Bela: Bela Fleck 1958 - present. Bela is an American [banjo](#) player. An acclaimed virtuoso, he is an innovative and technically proficient pioneer and ambassador of the banjo, bringing the instrument from its bluegrass roots to jazz, classical, rock and various world music genres. He is best known for his work with the bands [New Grass Revival](#) and [Béla Fleck and the Flecktones](#). Fleck has won 15 [Grammy Awards](#) and been nominated 33 times. In 2020, he was inducted into the [International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame](#) as a member of New Grass Revival. I have seen Bela play a dozen times or more including performing an orchestral composition with the Louisville Orchestra. Sam bush tells the story that when playing musical festivals with Bela, that sometimes they would look out over the audience and say "I think we have a yeehaw factor of 10". Bela Fleck was named after Hungarian composer Bela Bartok*.



Bird: Charlie "Bird" Parker 1920 - 1955. Charlie Parker was an American [jazz saxophonist](#), band leader and composer. Parker was a highly influential soloist and leading figure in the development of [bebop](#), a form of jazz characterized by fast tempos, [virtuosic](#) technique, and advanced harmonies. Parker was an extremely brilliant virtuoso and introduced revolutionary rhythmic and harmonic ideas into jazz, including rapid passing chords, new variants of altered chords, and chord substitutions. Primarily a player of the [alto saxophone](#), Parker's tone ranged from clean and penetrating to sweet and somber. Parker acquired the nickname "Yardbird" early in his career on the road with [Jay McShann](#). This, and the shortened form "Bird", continued to be used for the rest of his life, inspiring the titles of a number of Parker compositions, such as "[Yardbird Suite](#)", "[Ornithology](#)", "Bird Gets the Worm", and "Bird of Paradise".



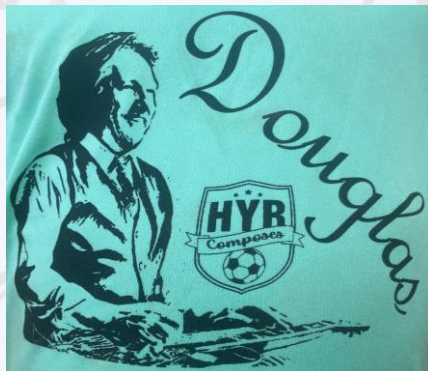
Brahms: Johannes Brahms 1833 - 1897. Brahms was a German composer, pianist, and conductor of the mid-Romantic period. Born in [Hamburg](#) into a [Lutheran](#) family, he spent much of his professional life in [Vienna](#). He is sometimes grouped with [Johann Sebastian Bach](#) and [Ludwig van Beethoven](#) as one of the "[Three Bs](#)" of music. Brahms composed for symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, organ, voice, and chorus. A virtuoso pianist, he premiered many of his own works. He worked with leading performers of his time, including the pianist [Clara Schumann](#) and the violinist [Joseph Joachim](#) (the three). Although one of his most famous compositions is Brahms Lullaby, don't go to sleep on this giant of composition.



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Cole: Nat King Cole 1919 - 1965. Nat King Cole was an American singer, jazz pianist, and actor. Cole's career as a jazz and pop vocalist started in the late 1930s and spanned almost three decades where he found success and recorded over 100 songs that became hits on the pop charts. He received numerous accolades including a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (1960) and a Special Achievement Golden Globe Award. Posthumously, Cole has received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award (1990), along with the Sammy Cahn Lifetime Achievement Award (1992) and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2000), and the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame (2020). He regularly performed for civil rights organizations. From 1956 to 1957, he hosted the NBC variety series The Nat King Cole Show, which became the first nationally broadcast television show hosted by an African American. Some of his most notable singles include "Unforgettable", "Mona Lisa", "Autumn Leaves", "Embraceable You" and "Almost Like Being in Love". He is known for his Christmas album The Magic of Christmas (1960) which included "The Christmas Song"; in 1999 it was named by Rolling Stone as one of the greatest Christmas albums of all time. He was the father of singer Natalie Cole (1950–2015), who covered her father's songs in the 1991 album Unforgettable... with Love.



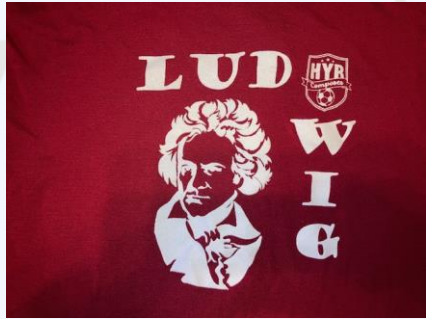
Douglas: Jerry Douglas 1956 - present. Jerry Douglass is an American Dobro and lap steel guitar player and record producer. He is widely regarded as "perhaps the finest Dobro player in contemporary acoustic music, and certainly the most celebrated and prolific. A fourteen-time Grammy winner, he has been called "dobro's matchless contemporary master," by The New York Times, and is among the most innovative recording artists in music, both as a solo artist and member of numerous bands, such as Alison Krauss and Union Station. have seen Jerry Douglass play on numerous occasions, but the most memorable for me was the album release for Skip Hop and Wobble with Russ Barenburg and Edgar Meyer* at the Station Inn in Nashville. I sat 20 feet from these guys, and that album became the soundtrack to the next year of my life.



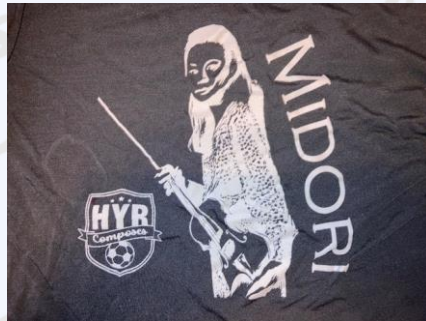
Ella: Ella Fitzgerald 1917 - 1996 (No relation). Ella Fitzgerald was an American jazz singer, sometimes referred to as the "First Lady of Song", "Queen of Jazz", and "Lady Ella". She was noted for her purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing, timing, intonation, and a "horn-like" improvisational ability, particularly in her scat singing. While Fitzgerald appeared in films and as a guest on popular television shows in the second half of the twentieth century, her musical collaborations with Louis Armstrong* and Duke Ellington* were some of her most notable acts outside her solo career. These partnerships produced some of her best-known songs such as "Dream a Little Dream of Me", "Cheek to Cheek", and "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)". In 1993, after a career of nearly sixty years, she gave her last public performance. Her accolades included 14 Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts, the NAACP's inaugural President's Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



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Ludwig: Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 - 1827. Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. Beethoven remains one of the most admired composers in the history of Western music; his works rank among the most performed of the classical music repertoire and span the transition from the Classical period to the Romantic era in classical music. From 1802 to around 1812, his music showed an individual development from the styles of Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*, and is sometimes characterized as heroic. During this time, he began to grow increasingly deaf. Almost everyone would recognize the theme from his fifth symphony and the piece Fur Elise.



Midori: Midori Goto 1971 - present. Midori is a Japanese-born American violinist. She made her debut with the New York Philharmonic at age 11 as a surprise guest soloist at the New Year's Eve Gala in 1982. In 1986 her performance at the Tanglewood Music Festival with Leonard Bernstein conducting his own composition made the front-page headlines in The New York Times. Midori became a celebrated child prodigy, and one of the world's preeminent violinists as an adult. Midori has been honored as an educator and for her community engagement endeavors. When she was 21, she established her foundation Midori and Friends to bring music education to young people in underserved communities in New York City and Japan, which has evolved into four distinct organizations with worldwide impact. In 2007, Midori was appointed as a UN Messenger of Peace. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012.



Ravi: Ravi Shankar 1920 - 2012. Ravi was an Indian sitarist and composer. A sitar virtuoso, he became the world's best-known export of North Indian classical music in the second half of the 20th century, and influenced many musicians in India and throughout the world. Shankar was awarded India's highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, in 1999. In 1956, Shankar began to tour Europe and the Americas playing Indian classical music and increased its popularity there in the 1960s through teaching, performance, and his association with violinist Yehudi Menuhin and Beatles guitarist George Harrison. His influence on Harrison helped popularize the use of Indian instruments in Western pop music in the latter half of the 1960s. Shankar engaged Western music by writing compositions for sitar and orchestra and toured the world in the 1970s and 1980s. From 1986 to 1992, he served as a nominated member of Rajya Sabha, the upper chamber of the Parliament of India. He continued to perform until the end of his life. He's a recipient of numerous prestigious musical accolades, including a Polar Music Prize and five Grammy Awards. He was the biological father of Norah Jones.



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Selena: Selena Quintanilla Perez 1971 - 1995. Selena was an American Tejano singer. Called the "Queen of Tejano music", her contributions to music and fashion made her one of the most celebrated Mexican-American entertainers of the late 20th century. In 2020, Billboard magazine put her in third place on their list of "Greatest Latino Artists of All Time", based on both Latin albums and Latin songs chart. Media outlets called her the "Tejano Madonna" for her clothing choices. She also ranks among the most influential Latin artists of all time and is credited for catapulting the Tejano genre into the mainstream market.



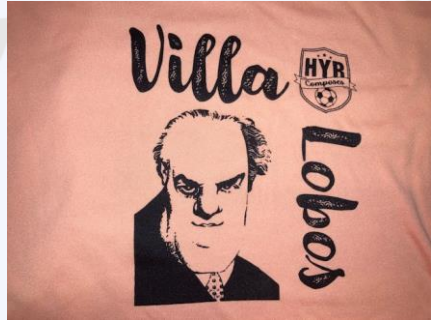
Tchaikovsky: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 1840 - 1893. Tchaikovsky was a Russian composer of the Romantic period. He was the first Russian composer whose music would make a lasting impression internationally. Tchaikovsky wrote some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in the current classical repertoire, including the ballets Swan Lake and The Nutcracker, the 1812 Overture, his First Piano Concerto, Violin Concerto, the Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy, several symphonies, and the opera Eugene Onegin.



Trane: John Coltrane 1926 - 1967. Trane was an American jazz saxophonist, bandleader and composer. He is among the most influential and acclaimed figures in the history of jazz and 20th-century music. He led at least fifty recording sessions and appeared on many albums by other musicians, including trumpeter Miles Davis* and pianist Thelonious Monk*. Over the course of his career, Coltrane's music took on an increasingly spiritual dimension, as exemplified on his most acclaimed album A Love Supreme (1965) and others. Decades after his death, Coltrane remains influential, and he has received numerous posthumous awards, including a special Pulitzer Prize, and was canonized by the African Orthodox Church.



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Villa Lobos: Heitor Villa Lobos 1887 - 1959. Villa Lobos was a Brazilian composer, conductor, cellist, and classical guitarist described as "the single most significant creative figure in 20th-century Brazilian art music". Villa-Lobos has become the best-known South American composer of all time. A prolific composer, he wrote numerous orchestral, chamber, instrumental and vocal works, totaling over 2,000 works by his death in 1959. His music was influenced by both Brazilian folk music and stylistic elements from the European classical tradition, as exemplified by his Bachianas Brasileiras (Brazilian Bachian-pieces) and his Chôros. His Etudes for classical guitar (1929) were dedicated to Andrés Segovia, while his 5 Preludes (1940) were dedicated to his spouse Arminda Neves d'Almeida, a.k.a. "Mindinha". Both are important works in the classical guitar repertory. I first encountered Villa Lobos while playing with the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra



Williams: John Williams 1932 - Present. John Williams is an American composer, conductor, and pianist. In a career that has spanned seven decades, he has composed some of the most popular, recognizable and critically acclaimed film scores in cinematic history. Williams has won 25 Grammy Awards, five Academy Awards, seven British Academy Film Awards, and four Golden Globe Awards. With 53 Academy Award nominations, he is the second most-nominated individual, after Walt Disney. His compositions are considered the epitome of film music, and he is considered among the greatest composers in the history of cinema-as well as all time. Even if you did not know his name, his music has been the movie soundtrack to all of our lives for decades. As indicated on the shirt design, he composed the musical scores for ET, Star Wars, Superman, Jurassic Park, Harry Potter, Indiana Jones, and many more.



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Bartok: Bela Bartok 1881 - 1945, Hungarian composer, pianist, and ethnomusicologist. During his career, he spent time traipsing the countryside of Hungary collecting folk melodies and incorporating them or quoting them in his work. He is perhaps my favorite classical composer. He has the ability to take a simple beautiful melody and continuously reharmonise it with different lower voices or alter it in such a way that makes me think he looked at the world slightly differently than other people, like perhaps tilted slightly off center with the ability to see things in another dimension and hear them too. I played an arrangement of his piece Ten Pieces for Children while I was in the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra, and that collection of pieces is so dear to me. He is considered one of the most important composers of the 20th century



Chang: Sarah Chang 1980 - present. Chang is is a Korean American classical violinist. Recognized as a child prodigy, she first played as a soloist with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1989. Chang has had major roles as a soloist with many of the world's major orchestras.



Corea: Armando Anthony “Chick” Corea 1941 - 2021. Chick Corea was an American jazz composer, pianist, keyboardist, and bandleader. From collaborations with Miles Davis* in the 1960s, Herbie Hancock* in the 1970s during the birth of jazz fusion, Corea is considered to have been one of the foremost jazz pianists of his era. His piece “Spain” may be his most recognizable piece. I am particularly fond of his collaboration with Bela Fleck* on Tales from the Acoustic Planet volume 1. I saw him one time in person at the New Orleans Jazz Festival in the early 1990s with vibraphone player Gary Burton. He won 27 Grammy Awards and was nominated more than 60 times for the award.



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Esperanza: Esperanza Emily Spalding 1984 - Present. Esperanza is an American bassist, singer, songwriter, and composer. Her accolades include five Grammy Awards, a Boston Music Award, a Soul Train Music Award, and two honorary doctorates: from Berklee College of Music and from CalArts. Spalding began playing music professionally in her childhood, performing as a violinist in the Chamber Music Society of Oregon at age five. She was later both self-taught and trained on other instruments, including guitar and bass. Her proficiency earned her academic scholarships to Portland State University and the Berklee College of Music, both of which she attended, studying music. Although she has received numerous awards for many recordings across genres, a great place to start enjoying her would be to look up her performance of "On the Sunny Side of the Street" at the White House on YouTube.



Hoagy: Hoagy Carmichael 1899 - 1991. Hoagy was an American musician, composer, songwriter, actor and lawyer. Carmichael was one of the most successful Tin Pan Alley songwriters of the 1930s, and was among the first singer-songwriters in the age of mass media to utilize new communication technologies such as television, electronic microphones, and sound recordings. Carmichael composed several hundred songs, including 50 that achieved hit record status. He is best known for composing the music for "Stardust", "Georgia on My Mind", "The Nearness of You", and "Heart and Soul", four of the most-recorded American songs of all time.

In my personal piano lessons, I keep coming back to Hoagy as a fabulous tunesmith whose tunes never disappoint.



Lizzo: Melissa Viviane Jefferson 1988 - Present. Lizzo is an American rapper, singer and actress. Born in Detroit, Michigan, she moved to Houston, Texas, with her family when she was ten years old. After college she moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she began her recording career in hip hop music.

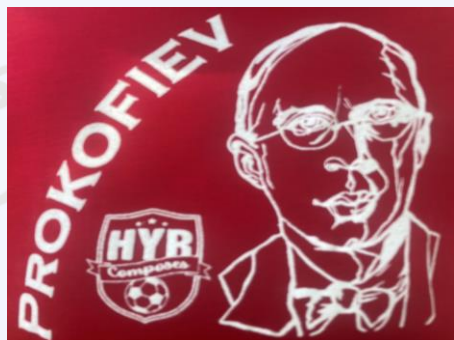
Lizzo attained mainstream success with the release of her third studio album, Cuz I Love You (2019), which peaked at number four on the US Billboard 200. The album spawned the singles "Juice" and "Tempo". The deluxe version of the album included Lizzo's 2017 single "Truth Hurts" which became a viral sleeper hit two years after its initial release. It topped the US Billboard Hot 100, and became the longest-leading solo song by a female rapper. Although many of her lyrics are not for children, she is ubiquitous in today's culture. Her classical flute background and her contributions to positivity and representation earned her a spot on our list.



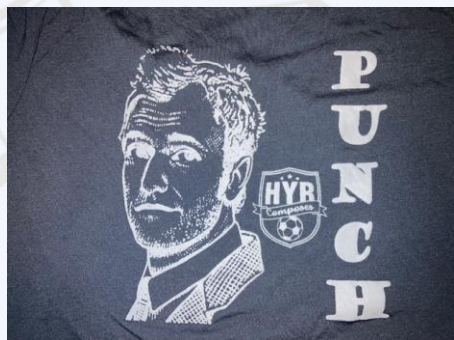
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Miles: Miles Davis 1926 - 1991. American trumpeter, band leader and composer. He is among the most influential and acclaimed figures in the history of [jazz](#) and [20th-century music](#). Davis adopted a variety of musical directions in a five-decade career that kept him at the forefront of many major stylistic developments in jazz. There is more information about him than I could ever relate, but his famous quote always seems relevant when I feel like I may be playing a little too much: “In music, silence is more important than sound.”



Prokofiev: Sergei Prokofiev 1891 - 1953. Prokofiev was a Russian composer, pianist, and conductor. he is regarded as one of the major composers of the 20th century. His works include such widely heard pieces as the ballet Romeo and Juliet and Peter and the Wolf. My personal favorite are his ferociously dissonant piano concertos. My college roommate would blast them at top volume while cleaning the apartment, and I became hooked. Right up there with Béla Bartok in my personal taste.



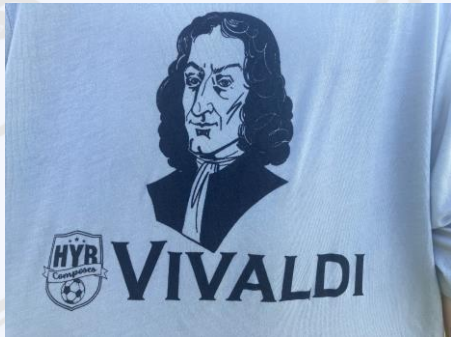
Punch: Chris Thile 1981 - present. American mandolinist, singer, songwriter, composer, and radio personality. He started touring music festivals with Nickel Creek at the age of 8 with Sara Watkins and her brother Sean when they were 8 and 12 years old. His album of covers and originals “How to Grow a Women from the Ground” was the soundtrack to my life for a few minutes and let me know the diversity of artists that were influencing him from Jimmie Rodgers, Gillian Welch, Dave Rawlings, Tom Broussard, Willie Dixon, the White Stripes and the Strokes. His band Punch Brothers is such an amazing assembly of talent in musical and vocal performance equally shredding bluegrass and classical repertoire. He took over the show Prairie Home Companion rebranded as “Live from Here” after the departure of Garrison Keillor. I have had the honor of performing with him one time when the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra backed up the Modern Mandolin Quartet. I had a few conversations with him that weekend, and there was this really cool moment where we were rehearsing Vivaldi’s* Concerto for 2 Mandolins, and he was playing one of the solo parts way above tempo (because he could) and someone to his right asked him a question. He turned his head away from the music and mandolin and answered the question and never stopped playing at breakneck speed. (Kind of like if I were tying my shoe, and someone asked me if it was going to rain today. I could probably multitask like that, but I would probably slow down my shoe tying a little bit due to having to think about the weather.)



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Revueltas: Silvestre Revueltas Sánchez 1899 – 1940. Revueltas was a Mexican composer of classical music, a violinist and a conductor. While giving violin recitals in 1929, he was invited by Carlos Chávez* to become assistant conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico. He and Chávez did much to promote contemporary Mexican music. He was part of a family of artists, a number of whom were also famous and recognized in Mexico.



Vivaldi: Antonio Vivaldi 1678 - 1741. Venetian composer and virtuoso violinist. Along with Bach* and Handel, Vivaldi is regarded as one of the greatest Baroque composers and his influence during his lifetime was widespread across Europe. Even if you do not know the names of any of his pieces, you have heard them your entire life, most notably “The Four Seasons”. I fell in love with Vivaldi’s music in my early twenties while playing with the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra.



Yo-Yo: Yo-Yo Ma 1951 - present. American cellist of Chinese heritage. He was a child prodigy, performing from the age of four and a half and has recorded more than 90 albums and received 19 Grammy Awards. I have lived with his recording of the Bach Cello Suites for decades as I have attempted to play them. There is more on Yo-Yo than I could write, but a couple of my favorites are Appalachian Journey with Mark O’Connor and Edgar Meyer*, and The Goat Rodeo Sessions with Stuart Duncan, Chris Thile*, and Edgar Meyer*. Yo-Yo will be in Kentucky in April, 2023 and play concerts with the Louisville Orchestra including one in Mammoth Cave. Yo-Yo’s name follows some Chinese naming traditions and roughly means friendly, but he tells the story that his parents were unaware that it was also the name of a popular toy when they named him.



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Monk: Thelonious Sphere Monk 1917 - 1982. American pianist and composer. He had a unique improvisational style and made numerous contributions to the standard jazz repertoire, including "Round Midnight", "Blue Monk", "Straight, No Chaser", and many others. Monk is the second-most-recorded jazz composer after Duke Ellington*. His collaborations with Miles Davis*, John Coltrane*, and other Jazz legends spanned decades. He is my personal favorite jazz composer. To my ear, like classical composers Bartok* and Prokofiev*, Monk had the ability to write and then twist and distort beautiful melodies. But in his case, he would also put them through a meat grinder, subject them to a train wreck, play them off tempo in a punctuated style with some combination of looky-here and screw you and make it still sound beautiful and intriguing and strange. As he aged, his bizarre personal style appeared more erratic, and some biographers have speculated mental illness. A definitive Monk performance for me is the Thelonious Monk Quartet live in 1966 concerts in Norway and Denmark available on YouTube. He played with enormous rings on his fingers, his trance-like playing state was haunting, and his tendency to get up from his piano and stare directly at Charlie Rouse during his saxophone solos must have been disconcerting.