

Sound Tracks for 2023

The theme for our Writers' Circus January 2024 story was as set as "Memories of 2023" or similar. After a few false starts, I decided to list some memorable YouTube clips to share. All are music related. Did I say I love to sing? I sing in two choirs and take weekly singing lessons, activities which have introduced me to many songs I did not previously know.

Psalm 23, The Lord is my Shepherd. The Orpheus Choir (Crimond)

<https://youtu.be/qT55hqrM0Aw?si=7qysM2ZjFU9JiOt1>

In their prime years, my mother-in-law Georgie and her mother Gran-Gran Peggy, were choristers in Partick East Church (Glasgow). Nostalgia rules. This rendering brings them vividly back to me. If you know Glasgow and have heard the Kelvinside accent spoken or sung, this version might make you smile.

Going Home: Paul Robeson

https://youtu.be/K5SS1nd3g_o?si=vEvRMDh3VqVHOruf

As a Bass 2, I love singing 'down there' with Paul. His phrasing and diction are distinctive and intriguing. One of the great singers of the early twentieth century.

Transcendental Reunion: Mary Chapin Carpenter and

Aoife O'Donovan on Transatlantic Sessions

<https://youtu.be/RxgscjinS-k?si=6ngnpko5L6qnovfC>

This is one of dozens I might have chosen from Transatlantic Sessions. Before Covid, for around two decades, as a foursome with our friends Paul and Judy, Margaret and I attended the Celtic Connections Festival every year. These songs are a reminder.

Sending you light: Melanie DeMore with Julie Wolf

<https://youtu.be/cIsZuoNFtXg?si=iJuAVBOS5RYZc7wx>

YouTube incorporates an algorithm which suggests songs for the viewer based on their browsing history. AI in action. This is how I discovered this gem. In a word, 'Haunting'. I think I may have listened to this particular version around thirty times, so far.

The Boxer Joan Baez and Paul Simon: Live in 2016

<https://youtu.be/lr1iKrTqa2w?si=o-vJM4CY0CIWIQts>

Two aging icons for the price of one. What amazing talents.

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Romeo and Juliet: Mark Knopfler and Emmi Lou Harris on stage.

<https://youtu.be/vyI9fIHHT2Q?si=9s2a5waseEQIlf3q>

Another two superstars.

Bailero by Joseph Canteloube sung by Marianne Crebassa

<https://youtu.be/PkPKXU7G82k?si=bgtmclNWS8FSxHbz>

I have been enjoying various versions of this song since retiring. This is my current favourite, suggested recently by YouTube. I close my eyes and find myself in rural France. Here is a link to the entire suite. Have a wallow.

<https://youtu.be/27qv9sNG7O0?si=84V8fB6nFjh3GVH5>

Time to say goodbye: Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman

<https://youtu.be/jYuYP-CcihU?si=N1FDeJFjiktHH4RE>

I started learning Italian in 2001 and kept at it until Covid.

A well-matched duo. Delicious.

What sweeter Music: John Rutter: The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge

<https://youtu.be/Lu9bKctD2pU?si=OvFdIKQwaUct9zVJ>

This is a song I have grown to love. I sang it in December 2023 at the Kelvin Choir (Bearsden) Carol Concert.

Crossing the Bar: Rani Arbo sung by Leicester University Choir

<https://youtu.be/9H47tTwXvnQ?si=KqMZzi5RaLlGYz3I>

Another newer favourite sung recently with the Kelvin Choir (Bearsden).

Only in Sleep: Erik Esenvalds sung by The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge.

<https://youtu.be/fvPynMI6Umc?si=R9dJxREMHZTzYpW->

And so it goes: Billy Joel sung by Kings Singers and Stay at Home Choir

<https://youtu.be/HINNVwddDJU?si=xYsJhK8XKlrHiG6p>

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Another favourite sung in this arrangement with the Mackintosh Choir (Glasgow).

What an amazing talent we have in the Kings Singers. I could fill pages with links to their superb singing.

The Long Day Closes: Arthur Sullivan sung by VOCES8

<https://youtu.be/ZnAR2WKDYHU?si=dyA+PKmN2Xu5oRvB>

VOCES8 with a perfect rendition. Another song sung with the Kelvin Choir (Bearsden).

Amore: Dean Martin entertains with nice visuals and lyrics to sing along to!

<https://youtu.be/MIc1w7sevCM?si=DQi3ZRc5AcsKEmTs>

This is an old favourite and reminds me of my father who had a lovely baritone voice and was always in demand at family gatherings. On Sunday afternoons he would make a large pot of vegetable broth and sing to us this song among many.

Twist and Shout: The Beatles (1963 with added colour)

<https://youtu.be/llHSq1H3CAA?si=hxeMG5ndq9H67aIM>

I was an apprentice in Stephen of Linthouse (Shipbuilders) when I first heard this. Yes, I did get a Beatles haircut and chisel-toed shoes! I would have liked a Beatles suit too but I could not afford it. YouTube has dozens more. Go find them!

Joni Mitchell (at 78) singing at the Norfolk Folk Festival (2022).

https://youtu.be/jxiluPSmAF8?si=ie7FQ3yl2_KhZfSB

An icon of her time, so many great songs. This one always reminds me of 'Love Actually'. Here is Joni singing for us in her heyday, a full album.

<https://youtu.be/MvR7Dkg4NQU?si=N+UkInw-spVdoQJQ>

You've got a friend: James Taylor and Carole King at BBC 1971.

<https://youtu.be/nEFfzHiEKHY?si=8iuOSAnRTToTVSz5P>

Two for the price of one! Both amazing songwriters in their genre.

This nearly was mine (South Pacific) Brian Stokes Mitchell

<https://youtu.be/qjPUU9JkqhA?si=DdVpMqkiFRpzxhJa>

This is a song I am trying to learn at my singing lesson.