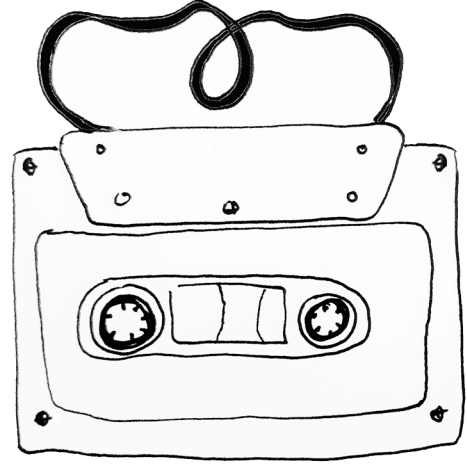


A chara,

I love to share stories with people about music. I love to hear people's stories about their favourite songs, the first concert they ever went to, music their parents would play in the car when they were little, what CDs or vinyl they used to "borrow" from their big sisters or brothers when they were teenagers, the mix tapes and playlists they share with friends and so much more.

So that's what this letter is about!

The music library isn't just a place where you can borrow CDs (although it is a great place to do that!) it's also a place where we come together to talk about, and make, music. We mightn't be able to come together to do that in person right now but we can still share stories in these letters!



We want to hear about your favourite songs that you associate with this time of year. Maybe there are Christmas carols you sang in school that you remember fondly, maybe there's a song that you love to listen to on cold winter nights that always gives you that cozy, nostalgic feeling...tell me all about it! I'll get the ball rolling by telling you about some of my favourite nostalgic, christmassy songs and the memories I associate with them;

I remember seeing Honor Heffernan sing Skylark in a small music venue off Thomas Street years ago and it stopped my heart. The memory is so warm and fuzzy in my mind, it wasn't just about the music, I remember it was a freezing cold night and stepping into the warm room was like a big hug. Skylark isn't a Christmas song, it's a jazz standard full of yearning and melancholy by Johnny Mercer and Hoagy Carmichael, but the lyrics always make me think of wishing for warm Spring days in the middle of the cold winter months. Saxophonist Richie Buckley was playing with her and the two of them dipped in and out of the melody like they were dancing. I've often read through the songs listed on the back of CDs in the Music Library to see if Skylark is listed, and there's a beautiful Richie Buckley CD in the collection.

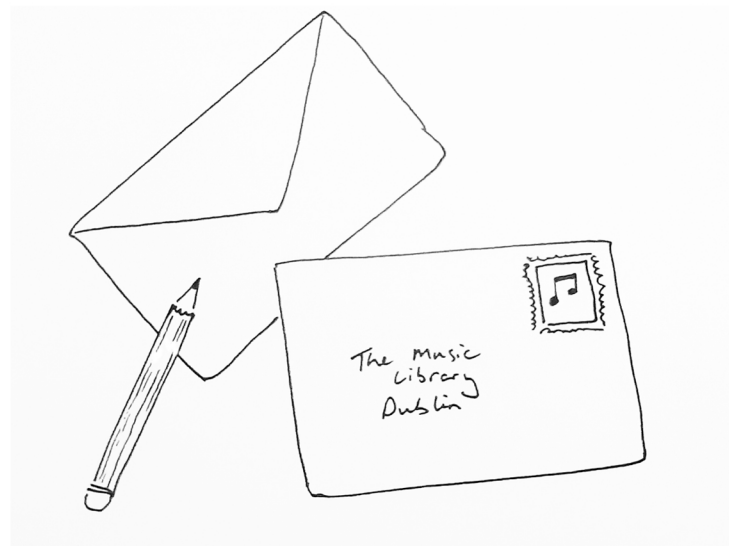
"Skylark, I don't know if you can find these things but my heart is riding on your wings so if you see them anywhere won't you lead me there"

Another song I love to hear this time of year is Let It Snow, definitely my favourite Christmas song! I love that the refrain is simple enough that everyone can sing along “let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!” and I love that the lyrics are about everyday, normal things like making popcorn. Lots of Christmas songs have a melancholy slant to them but this one is lighthearted...or at least I always interpreted it as lighthearted until this year. Now a song about visiting someone you love, and snuggling by the fire for the evening brings a bit of a tear to my eye.

“let it snow,
let it snow,
let it snow!”

So now I want to hear about your music stories and memories! I’ve attached a page with few questions, I’m hoping the questions will act as prompts that will help spark some music memories that you can share with me. I’ve included instructions on a few options of how to send your stories back. When I’ve read all your replies I’m going to compile some excerpts into a bumper newsletter to send out to Music Library patrons so you can all enjoy each others stories. Some of the staff from the library are going to share their stories too. Even if we can’t be together in the library now let’s be connected through music and memories.

Ní neart go cur le chéile,
Ríona Sally Hartman and everyone at the Music Library



Now we'd love for you to share your musical stories and memories!

Here are a few questions that may act as prompts to get your stories flowing:

What song do you love to listen to, or sing, this time of year? Can you remember the first time you heard it, where you were or who you were with? When was the last time you listened to it? How does it make you feel? When you hear it what do you picture in your mind? What do you think the song about? Is there any lyric in particular that stands out to you?

You can send your stories back via the post to The Music Library, Dublin Central Library, Henry St, North City, Dublin 1

OR you can phone a librarian on 01 222 8300 and they will transcribe your story

OR you can email musiclibrary@dublincity.ie

We plan to share some of these stories with Music Library Patrons in a bumper newsletter so if you'd prefer to remain anonymous, or if you don't want your story shared, just let us know. We'd love to hear your stories either way.

On December 23rd at 10:30am the Music Library will be hosting a meeting online for anyone who'd like to join in, share their music stories and celebrate the holidays together. This meeting will take place over Zoom and instructions on how to join will follow in our Bumper Newsletter.