

2026 PLAYLIST PERSONALS

MIX 1

WANTED– Fans of falsettos and highwire acts. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– The picks in this mix have almost nothing in common aside from the fact that they will make you feel like you are soaring on the wings of song. I started with the theory that jumping an octave (that is, 8 whole steps) imbues a song with suspense, yearning, and triumph. I have concluded that it is a privilege to hear an artist vulnerable enough with their listeners to sing in the upper range of their voice. Whether you share this playlist with a honeybee or you're practicing self-love, I promise it will offer the sounds of iconic vocal control and a respite from this increasingly haywire world in which we live.

MIX 2

WANTED– Fans of writing your schemes and slams in a little black moleskin while you seethe; Scorpios; Those who have been wronged. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– Not every Valentine's Day has us feeling kinship with all living creatures. Sometimes you gotta just say "fuck this guy." Sometimes you have to just start making your plans for your eventual revenge.

MIX 3

WANTED– Enjoyers of sweet, syrupy sonic morsels to help melt away the 23 inches of snow around the den, plus a beat to help kickstart the theoretical snowblower that I should probably invest in. BYO shovel. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– Like a squirrel hiding away lil nuts, during the warmer months when I find slow, wistful songs I add them to my Winter Playlist, as surely, come the cold and the snow, this will be exactly the vibe. Then, January comes around, and I pull up the playlist only to discover that my past Squirrel-Self has actually gifted me a tree full of sad rocks that are absolutely not the warm, nutritious acorn-tracks I crave. They are promptly deleted in favor of these twee indiepop songs with fun jangly keyboards and enough sugary heat to get me out from under the blankets and into the snow. Now that's what I call music acorns!

MIX 4

WANTED– Fans of death and coming to terms with it with a sense of humor and reverence. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– we're all going to die, why not have a good time on the way? we can laugh about it, cry about it, dance about it. let's just do it together while we can. best listened to with friends and/or loved ones, or on a shuffle through the cemetery.

MIX 5

WANTED– Fans of cracking the window on the first crisp but “warm” day of spring, having a productive morning before the world wakes up, long sleeves and shorts weather, flirting over text with someone through the length of a movie you barely pay attention to, and making the perfect recommendation to a friend. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– This mix has no problem taking you into its embrace and holding you close; but don’t worry, between its delicate sway and gentle sensibility you’ll hardly notice the time pass by. It’s full of hidden gems so there’s sure to be something new to surprise you and get you humming along as you float on its subtle waves.

MIX 6

WANTED– Fans of long & winding lyrical roads, key changes, climax (emotional and sonic). **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– Are you thirsty for catharsis? These are songs that burn slow and build to a delicious release, but they're not love songs-- unless you count loving some goddamn white-knuckled human resilience. Many dwell in what feels unbearable, whether it’s the raw sting of a breakup or the helplessness of living in unprecedented times. But they can also be defiant, wild, even hopeful, by the time you finally reach the end.

MIX 7

WANTED– Fans of coastal melancholy, warm but distant indie, and a tasteful crash out. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– You appreciate: Cardigan weather. Marin coastline. Reese Witherspoon insisting she’s very grounded, actually. Hazy guitars, grounded vocals, and carefully curated introspection. Best paired with blue grey vistas, a little incense, and a gummy you swear is helping you stay present. A little romantic, a little deluded, and still hoping this all means something.

MIX 8

WANTED– Thrill seekers *and* their wet-blanket best friends, glass-half-full kind of folks, scratch-ticket purchasers, people who say, “6 of one, half dozen of the other,” notorious sadsacks *and* the people who love them. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– If all you want to do right now is escape with someone you love, this playlist is for you. You want to get on the back of a vespa and drive into the sunset. Neither of you has a map but one of you knows how to drive a vespa and that’s good enough for now. But after the getaway, what happens? Pick this mix and find out.

MIX 9

WANTED– Fans of winter sunrises; first flower of the year; multi-touchdown playoff comebacks; seeing a highway rest area sign after hours without a food/pee break; "the weather at your destination is..." announcements on vacation flights; hugging a friend for the first time in years; slow-braised weekend dinners; long encores. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– Things feel very dark right now. I don't want to be trying to make and write about a fun playlist and find myself totally preoccupied by national politics, but here we are. The daily toll of living, working, and surviving in an increasingly fascist, hollowed-out hellscape weighs on everyone, whether openly acknowledged or not. And yet. Somehow, we all have to do it. Somehow, we have to find ways to not only survive, but resist and thrive. It can feel silly to talk about hope when there's exponentially more obvious reasons to be afraid, sad, angry. But I still want to feel hope. I want to feel joy, excitement, and gratitude. I want to celebrate community; to dance. These sentiments shaped the playlist. It invites you to acknowledge where we're at and how it feels; savor the good that persists despite it all; and remember that, for better or worse, it's never truly the end of the world. The sun's still coming up tomorrow. What then?

MIX 10

WANTED– Fans of Lane Kim, AOL chatrooms, dunking on the books you read for summer reading only to realize that no one else even did the summer reading, the 1993 *Much Ado About Nothing* film adaptation, and breakin out of this two-star town. **WHY YOU SHOULD PICK THIS MIX**– You were too weird for your high school and you couldn't wait to meet like-minded dorks when you grew up. This mix is "2000s 'hipster' culture" but make it the suburbs: it reeks of kids hoarding copies of SPIN and Blender magazine, downloading the iTunes free song of the week, and dreaming of the fictional future crush who would enjoy this mix of "classic" alt-rock icons and indie blog rock favorites.