

Carly's Quarantunes

"The Wire"

I listened to this song when I still thought quarantine was going to last two weeks (so March-ish). It feels like life was so simple and wholesome then. We really thought we would just be making cookies and watching movies for a few weeks. And then things would go back to normal! smh

"Sri Argala Strotram (Selected Verses) / Show Me Love"

At some point, things started to sink in that the pandemic would be more than a couple weeks. Before my city shutdown, my yoga teacher from the local rec center would play this song. Gradually, my mom and I started listening to it outside of class and during the pandemic with the hope that it'd help us chill out and sleep better.

"Watermelon Sugar"

I think I listened to this song to distract myself from the fact that I had to cancel my trip to Australia.

"Life in Quarantine"

I hate this song now. I listened to it at the beginning of lockdown and now it reminds me of the weird, surreal time when the entertainment media was floundering to make things work. Everyone's talk show was from their home. All sporting events were canceled. Celebrities sang "Imagine" by John Lennon. In retrospect, this time period felt really performative. And now it's like, "Why do we even *have* celebrities??" But at the same time, this song also reminds me of when I was watching *Tiger King* and that show alone kept me from being unhinged.

"Loco Amor"

This song is from a favorite scene in *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. My mom and I were experiencing *MMM* withdrawals after finishing the third season, so we listened to this song while cooking. Since I was missing mid-century period tv shows and suddenly had more time on my hands to stream shows, I started watching *Mad Men* in April and May. And binged it quickly before it left Netflix.

Tik Tok songs (a.k.a. "Magic in The Hamptons", "Strawberry Blond", "Electric Love", "Heart Of Glass", "Roslyn", "Mood", and "Motion Sickness")

I caved and downloaded Tik Tok. At first, I felt a little embarrassed about it but I'm so over it and so into it now. But as a result, I discovered/rediscovered these songs. I also started to watch a lot of #cottagecore Tik Toks like videos of people preparing food in the woods or dressing up their pet frogs in cute little outfits. (Listen to "Strawberry Blond") Looking back, this was definitely an anxiety coping mechanism.

"These Are Days"

I've been living at home with family during COVID. Initially, I had a plan to move to D.C. for the summer and then to San Antonio for grad school. I had to give up on my pipe dream and it just made more sense to stay in Utah with my parents. And so my mom and I became remote work co-workers when both of our jobs moved to online work. For a week or so, we sang and danced to "These Are Days" during our lunch break.

Crazy Ex-Girlfriend Soundtrack (a.k.a. “You Stupid Bitch”, “What’ll It Be?”, and “A Diagnosis”)

After finishing *Mad Men*, I decided to watch *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. This series, although corny at times, resonated with me during quarantine. It delved a lot into mental health, feeling aimless in life, self loathing... all things I’ve felt at some point or another, especially during an anxious, depressive summer. I don’t love every song in the show, but there were a few that hit hard and so these songs gradually ended up in my song rotation.

Folklore (a.k.a. “mirrorball”)

This album!! I feel like I haven’t had too many highlights this year besides being admitted to grad school. Is it sad that this album was one of them?? Taylor Swift, out of nowhere mind you, said, “Hey, I’m going to save 2020.” I received a text the morning of from my friend announcing that she was going to drop an album that night. And I remember just being happy to have something to look forward to. If I was being honest, the entire album would be on this playlist. But I decided to just include one of my favorites.

Dirty Dancing Soundtrack (a.k.a. “Hungry Eyes”)

For some time, I was a little obsessed with this movie. Can we talk about how iconic it is?? A *feminist* masterpiece for its time, mind you. So for a little bit, I listened to “Hungry Eyes” a lot and also “Love is Strange” by Mickey & Sylvia. RIP Patrick Swayze.

“~how I’m feeling~” (a.k.a. “Modern Loneliness”)

I think if I was going to pick one album that’s summed up my quarantine experience, it would be this one. If I had to limit it to just one song, it would be “Modern Loneliness”. I’ve long been a fan of LAUV because he just does such a good job of lyricizing real emotions. This album focuses on feeling lonely and distant from others. It’s something I’ve had to come to terms with in the last year or so that some of my friends are not as close as I thought they were. I had to recognize who my core group was. And now, I have to work to keep up those friendships in a socially distant way. It’s weird but also the new normal now and I feel like this album lays out these particular feelings better than anything else has for me.

The feels songs (a.k.a. “Falling”, “Don’t Wanna”, and “Love & War in Your Twenties”)

“Modern Loneliness” also fits into this category, but I felt like it deserved an individual explanation. On some of my sadder days during quarantine, I’ve listened to these kinds of songs. “Love & War in Your Twenties” is a little more on the lighter side but it still hits me in the existential dread on my worst days. I’ve also listened to a lot more Harry Styles and HAIM this year. Their albums, *Fine Line* and *Women in Music Pt. III*, have been my favorites this year.

Songs to cheer me up (a.k.a. “Love You For A Long Time”, “I Like That”, “Juice”, “Honeypie”, “Let’s Groove”, “Hooked on a Feeling”, and “Jolene”)

I’m weirdly impressed that I have been able to curate some funky tunes for myself. These actually have helped me feel better this year. I play these ones when I need a dance break from work or school. My exercise routine hasn’t been great this year. Usually I would do yoga or Zumba at the rec center. And so now I just danced by myself when I need a break haha.

“Dilemma”

I'm super confused why this song is on here. I feel like maybe it made an appearance on Tik Tok and the nostalgia made me like it again? Or maybe it's the fact that Nelly is on *Dancing With the Stars* this year??? What is 2020? I don't know but it still slaps. Even if Nelly is kinda problematic now.

"On An Evening In Roma (Sott'er Celo De Roma)"

This and "Volare" have been my go-tos while cooking this year. Dean Martin gives me home-y happy vibes in the kitchen. And I've been trying to lean into that *hygge* aesthetic this year since staying home usually is the best bet.

"This City" and "Love Somebody"

I had a short-lived romance for about a month? It didn't work out. But our situation was very 2020 since we were long-distance and met through a dating app. That reality plus COVID caused us to part ways. I'm very okay with it now. But these were some sad songs for me during that time.

Fleetwood Mac (a.k.a. "Dreams")

This band can still get it. I ended up down a Tik Tok rabbit hole because I was so interested in the *Rumours* drama history. For a couple weeks, I only listened to this album. Fleetwood Mac is a perfect fall soundtrack.

Bardcore instrumental music (a.k.a. "Barbie Girl")

In September, my brother jokingly requested a Holy Roman Empire themed birthday party. We certainly delivered because my family is a little extra. We decorated with pictures of Martin Luther and Charlemagne. And we crowned him as Holy Roman Emperor. While researching how to make this happen, I encountered an entire genre of instrumental music called "Bardcore". It's just medieval covers of popular songs. "Barbie Girl" is one of my favorites. But "Hips Don't Lie" is also elite.