hey there, i'm nat andreini, one of the co-directors at the museum. this week we're going to share songs and stories, and make a big ol' playlist together. each day i'll post images and songs and interact with you through prompts; then i'll add your songs into the playlist. If you're already on spotify, you can find me at @natandreini. our playlist is called “my love and music,” which is the name of a sweet song by Ghanaian artist Ebo Taylor. It's the first song on our mix. 😘.

music is my life! I love it, live it, breathe it... it is my blood, my air, my soul. my grandmothers introduced me to jazz and blues. Gammy was a pianist who loved nat king cole (yep, i’m named after him); and Nana was a multiinstrumentalist and blues singer. When i was a little kid, she gave me a harmonica, trumpet, ukulele, guitar, and keyboard to play with instead of toys (thanks Nana!). When i was 15 i joined my first punk band. We were so punk we didn’t even have a name. over the years, I’ve played in a handful of bands, hosted an internet radio station, collaborated with tons of musicians, and eventually became a fledgling turntablist. these days, I’m teaching myself to play Native flute, upright piano, and synth. I'm not super skilled, but love to jam!

My school-aged years were defined by the welcoming families and communities that took me in. i was a little straggler, always looking for good vibes and a warm meal. raised in the bay area under too many roofs to count, i was that kid who changed schools every year and constantly bounced around. As a result, i made tons of pals and didn’t do well in school! The communities i lived in were saturated with diverse music (and incredible food!). Music played a critical role in shaping my worldview back then, as it does today. I learned early on from storytellers like Bob Marley, Ice Cube, and Jello Biafra about (my) white privilege, how to center racial and social justice in my work, and to never stop questioning and disrupting dominant culture and the status quo.

What did music teach you when you were younger? What does it teach you today?
May 24, 2021 (Continued)

hey, it's nat, the museum co-director again. i'm in need of some soothing sounds to listen to while laying in the dentist chair this afternoon (headed there shortly).

please share songs that make you FEEL GOOD. those jams that give you warm fuzzies and full body tingles.

i've already picked out a handful of cuts for today's appointment. check it out:

"my love and music" by ebo taylor

"where is love?" by the equatics

"footsteps in the dark" by isley brothers

"lotsa lovin" by pete rock and cl smooth (a true fave since '92)

"love is everywhere" by pharoah sanders

"love" by mos def
May 25, 2021
“Stiff Lips” by Sheena & the Rokkets
long love japanese punk!
good morning from the pnw! it's a cloudy, sultry, rainy day. the pressure is low, but the energy is high!

let's kick this playlist up a couple notches with tunes that make your heart race. please share in the comments.

I picked up this record in sapporo, japan during my years as high school cultural studies teacher. one of my colleagues at the school was an LP fiend like me, so we'd get together monthly and go record shopping and have little listening parties at his place.

this album came out in 1979, when I was 5 (which is also my favorite number 😇). i started skateboarding at that age; and music like this has played a massive role in my life since.
May 25, 2021 (Continued)

another japanese punk gem from my LP shelf! this record came out in 1982, which was kind of a golden era in punk rock just before it went pop! the stalin were known for putting on wild shows, their biting humor, and eventually for their video installations (they left music altogether and focused on videography).

activist, artist and lead singer of the stalin, 遠藤ミチロウ (Michiro Endo) formed the band when he was 29, which may seem kinda late to start a punk band... but that’s exactly what I admire about them.

my favorite song on this album is called “miser” - it’s on the playlist!

share energetic songs that motivate you in the comments. ☮
May 26, 2021
I Should Have Known Better

starring: nat
video/editing: koop

. blowing you all a kiss from 2006! 😘

. xo
May 27, 2021
up late, digging through a drawer of old stuff and found this #mixtape from the forever homie @oldsoldier848 from 1995.

name a song (or album) in the comments that (1) was a soundtrack for your teenage years; and/or (2) is an anthem for your inner teen.
May 28, 2021

Our playlist needs some good cover songs. Got any?

What do Sid Vicious, Nina Simone, and Frank Sinatra have in common? They’ve all covered the song, My Way! Originally written by French pop star Claude François, the song was popularized by Paul Anka in 1967.

I first heard My Way on a punk rock mix tape that a friend made for me in the early 1980s.

While living in Japan, My Way became one of my go-to jams when singing karaoke. Each time I sing it, I do my best to channel these three amazing vocalists.