

Whole Note

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Association

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passionformusic.org



Terry Snell

From the Presidents' Corner

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, a time dedicated to promoting and celebrating volunteerism and honoring the significant contributions our volunteers make by donating their time and talent to our cause. It is our pleasure to recognize all the city groups and state units for their exemplary service this year. Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do, so it is fitting that this newsletter shines a spotlight on some of their many contributions.



Jan Pierce

We are thankful to our executive board for all the time and dedication they have put in to making our five educational programs and our fundraising events run smoothly. You lead with experience, knowledge, and passion. Our sincere thanks go to our dedicated volunteers, chairs of each group and unit, and leaders of each educational program. We want to say thank you for all you have accomplished.

In this month of celebrating volunteers, we have many reasons to applaud the rebirth of two youth education programs that were suspended during the pandemic. This year saw the welcome return of the *Side-by-Side Concert*, where student musicians perform with the ISO in Hilbert Circle Theatre, and the rebirth of *Symphony in Color*, where grade school students across the state listen to selected symphonic pieces and then illustrate their interpretations. It also saw resumption of a live final round of competition for the Michael Ben and Illene Komisarow Maurer *Young Musicians Contest*. These programs join the *Teddy Bear Concerts*, *Discovery Concerts*, and Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, introducing young people to the joys of classical music, encouraging new audiences, and inspiring orchestra musicians of the future.

If you are already a member but have not taken the next step to become more involved, we encourage you to consider it. Sign up to be on a team. Volunteer to help with membership or event planning. Say yes to serving on one of our many committees. Take this opportunity to deepen your membership and be a part of the amazing work we do to support the ISO and further children's appreciation of music.

We are rapidly approaching the May 15 membership deadline and are a little more than halfway to our goal. Now is the time to join or renew your membership and encourage others to do the same. Volunteer month would not be possible without your involvement.

Continue to sign up new members. There is a whole group of newly retired men and women who are anxiously waiting to see what the rest of their lives will offer them. People want to volunteer. They want to be useful. Let them in on your secret. What motivates you will motivate them.

We want to congratulate Mary Richards on receiving the ISOA Lifetime Achievement Award. After joining in 2009, she has shared her love of the arts, music, and children, helping ISOA to reach its goals. She has served as North Group Chair from 2014 through 2016, Recording Secretary, and was North Group's Volunteer of the Year in 2017.

She co-chaired a successful evening ISOA style show fundraiser and a successful annual LUEY fundraiser (now called the Jubilee). Her creative leadership style inspires other members to use their talents. One of her great achievements is *Symphony in Color*, an annual enrichment program of the ISOA that involves more than 30,000 Indiana school children in grades one through six. *Symphony in Color* culminates in a juried exhibition of the students' art at the Hilbert Circle Theatre and the Indiana State Museum.

We also want to congratulate Susan Due as our ISOA Executive Board Volunteer of the Year. She serves as ISOA Special Projects Treasurer, taking reservations for all special fundraising events. For South Group, she serves as Assistant Treasurer and was honored as their VOY in 2022. Susan's enthusiasm and energy benefit South Group and ISOA.

Please join us in honoring these women and all our volunteers at our Award Luncheon and celebration, August 28, at the Woodland Country Club. Invitations will be sent out this summer. Save the Date!

Terry Snell, Co-President, ISOA

Jan Pierce, Co-President, ISOA



Membership Renewal Deadline is May 15

Now is the time to renew your membership in the ISOA and ask your friends to join. Each group has a different form which may be obtained from your membership chair or on our website at www.passionformusic.org. These blank forms can be forwarded to each other.

You will need to register online using this form

to make sure your information will be recorded correctly in the database.

However, depending on your Group, you have a choice to either pay online with a credit card or mail in a check. Simply scroll down on the form until you see the choice you want to make.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER

Discovery Concerts 2023-2024

What a spectacular season of music for *Discovery Concerts* this year! We had *Discovery Concerts* on January 30, January 3, February 27, March 12, and April 9.

Students came to Hilbert Circle Theatre from all over—Elkhart, Gary, Indianapolis, and so many

Montgomery, Over the the Waves by Juventino Rosas, Akinla from African Suite by Fela Sowande, Tritsch Tratsch Polka by Johann Strauss Jr., Overture to William Tell by Gioachino Rossini, Echo from Symphony Fantasia on the Theme of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej by Norio Maeda, Diu Diu Diu Dui Dang by Shiuan Chang, Oblivion



other cities throughout Indiana.

The *Discovery Concert* Programs are designed for grades three through six. Watching the faces of the students as they walk into the auditorium is priceless. For some, this is their first experience at Hilbert Circle Theatre and their first time hearing the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. What a magical experience for the students, teachers, greeters, and ushers.



This year's theme was Around the World with the ISO, with music from all over the world. Some of the selections were Starburst by Jessie

by Astor Piaaaolla, Tico -Tico by Zequinha de Abreu, and Hoe Down from Rodeo by Aaron Copeland.

The conductor for *Discovery Concerts* was Su-Han Yang , and the narrator was Sampson Livingston. Together, along with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, they invited students into the magical world of music. The students' enthusiasm reverberated in loud cheers and clapping along with the music. The *Discovery Concerts* expose children to music they might not hear at home, and that is a wonderful thing.

Deb Dyar, Portfolio Chair, *Discovery Concert* Ushers

Young Musicians Contest Winner Featured in Side-by-Side Concert

On March 20, a marvelous *Side-by-Side* Concert delighted an admiring audience of more than 100 attendees. The crowd-pleasing concert was performed by nearly 40 student musicians (including two MYO students, pictured at right) who shared the stage of the Hilbert Circle Theatre with their professional ISO musician mentors.



Cassie McKay



Emma Louise Akinleye

The evening concert of favorites took place under the capable baton of Su-Han Yang, ISO Assistant Conductor. Miranda Isbitts, talented high school violinist and winner of this year's Michael Ben and Illene Komisarow Maurer *Young Musicians Contest* (YMC), was the featured soloist for the Brahms Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77, First Movement. The YMC prize winners were introduced by James Johnson, CEO of the ISO, and were presented with their prize checks and certificates. Prize donors were gratefully acknowledged.



YMC prize winners (from left) are Braden Riley, Finalist Award of Excellence; Sinead Wealan, Finalist Award of Excellence; MIRANDA ISBITTS, FIRST PRIZE; Emma Levesque, Third Prize; Sasha Varchenko, Second Prize; Prudence Peng, First Prize Rising Star Division. Not pictured are Felicia Xie, Second Prize Rising Star Division; and Jessica Xie, Finalist Award of Excellence.

Deep appreciation and a hearty thank you go to our ISOA Very Valuable Volunteers who served in several capacities to ensure the smooth execution of these two important music education programs. ISOA volunteers worked as hosts for the live final round of the Contest on February 28. Their smiling faces and confident guidance for students and families throughout the registration, practice, and competition process were most welcome. Additional ISOA volunteers enabled us to provide lunch to more than 115 student musicians, ISO mentors, and ISO staff members between the double rehearsals for the *Side-by-Side Concert* on

March 19 in the lobby of the HCT. Our ISOA provided hearty Subway lunch boxes including a six-inch sub, chips, and chocolate chip cookie, and additional chips, water, and cupcakes from Nothing-Bundt-Cakes. The ISO Musicians Union joined in with a donation toward the purchase of the cupcakes. The musicians were most grateful and returned to their second rehearsal with renewed energy. Many ISOA members added their enthusiasm to the thrilled audience attending this concert. From prize donors to student guides to concert ushers and, of course, cheering fans, ISOA was well represented. Well done, all!



Volunteers at the Side-by-Side lunch



Cheers for ISOA Volunteers at the Side-by-Side-Concert!

This year's *live* final round of competition for the YMC, as well as the welcome return of the *Side-by-Side Concert*, were a most exciting rebirth of two excellent music education programs under the leadership of Nicha Stapanukul, Director of Education and Community Engagement. Both events are supported in large part by our ISOA volunteers, generous donors, and wonderful ISO musicians. These programs join the *Teddy Bear Concerts*, *Symphony in Color Program*, *Discovery Concerts*, and Metropolitan Youth Orchestra in inspiring young people to become knowledgeable about the joys of classical music. All of these education projects encourage appreciative new audiences and inspire the brilliant orchestra musicians of the future.

Meg Niehaus, Chair, Maurer *Young Musicians Contest* and *Side-by-Side Concert*

Keeping up with *Young Musicians Contest* Winners

One of the most rewarding ISOA opportunities I have had was serving as Chair of the Michael Ben and Eileen Komisarow Maurer *Young Musicians Contest* (YMC) for a few years. Meeting those talented students and their parents was always a joy.

I often see or hear about previous winners and I am so excited to mention Maya Kilburn, Violin, who won the YMC in 2019.



Maya is a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship at The Juilliard School, where she studies with Donald Weilerstein and Catherine Cho. Previous studies include several years with Mimi Zweig at the Indiana University Jacobs School String Academy, and earlier studies with Chin Mi Kim and Anna Vayman.

Now 21 years old, Maya grew up in Muncie, Indiana. She has won numerous competitions at regional and national levels. Maya has performed more than a dozen times as concerto soloist with such orchestras as the Indianapolis Symphony, Southeast Missouri Symphony, Louisville Symphony, Fort Wayne

Philharmonic, Carmel Symphony, New World Youth Symphony, Orchestra Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Muncie Symphony, and PRISMA Festival Orchestra. Other highlights include a solo appearance at the Kennedy Center, serving as concertmaster for the Juilliard Orchestra's 2024 Carnegie Hall concert, two three-week concert tours throughout Argentina and Chile, winning third place in the Eisemann International String Competition, and enjoying opportunities to perform with such artists as David Chan, Atar Arad, Jaime Laredo, Joseph Swenson, and Luke Hsu.

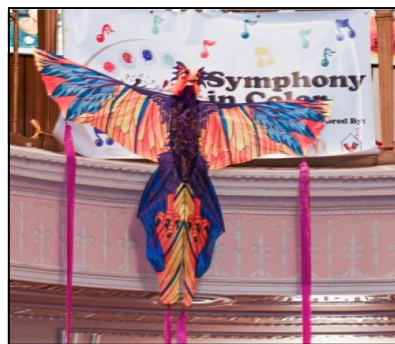
Maya plays on a 1710 Alessandro Mezzadri violin made in Ferrara, Italy, currently on a 10-year loan. When not playing the violin, she enjoys cooking, hiking, and spending time with her dogs Cocoa and Sophia.

With two former YMC winners playing with our own Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Peter Vickery and Austin Huntington, there is no doubt we will at some point see other winners follow in their footsteps.

Joanna Weiler, South Group

Symphony in Color 2024

The 2024 theme for *Symphony in Color* (SIC) was "Animated Classics," with selections from Disney classics *Fantasia* and *Lion King*. The musical selections were *Carnival of the Animals* Finale by Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns; *Symphony No.5,"1st,"* by Ludwig van Beethoven; *Firebird Suite, Infernal Dance,* by Igor Stravinsky; *Remember* by Hans Zimmer; and *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Paul Dukas.



across the state listened to selected symphonic pieces and then illustrated their interpretations. Judging took place on Monday, January 29. The unpacking, sorting, and judging of students' art took place at the Propylaeum Carriage House. The four in-person judges were Mary Hamilton Shaw, John Seest,

David Wilcox, and Dan Cooper.

Approximately 5,500 students from 11 counties

The artwork framing was hosted again by the owner of The Great Frame Up at 62nd and

Allisonville Road. We had several new volunteers and two returning veterans. They did a fantastic job and thoroughly enjoyed the ISOA camaraderie.

The People’s Choice Luncheon was held on February 6, with approximately 90 people from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra staff, musicians, and ISOA members. Attendees at this event vote for their personal favorite among the 36 Gold Ribbon winners. The student artist with the highest number of votes becomes the People’s Choice Award winner. This year’s winner is Olivia Ly, a sixth-grade student at Neil Marshall Elementary in Mooresville, Indiana. Her artwork inspiration was the music of Paul Dukas’ The Sorcerer’s

Apprentice.

The *Symphony in Color* Awards Tea was held March 3. Of the 36 gold ribbon winners, 24 students and their families attended. Approximately 120 people attended, including ISOA Co-President Jan Pierce and ISO CEO James Johnson. The students, family members, and teachers were warmly greeted and attended to by ISOA members. They were served a delicious tea, overseen by Linda Sykes. At the Awards Tea, in addition to the Pacini Award and People’s Choice Award presentations, a Maestro Award was presented to the art teacher at the school with the greatest number of exhibitor finalists. This year’s winner is Christy Schuler, Art Instructor at Manchester Elementary in Wabash, Indiana.



Pacini Award winner, Vanna Craun, a fifth grader from Swayzee, IN and her artwork inspired by Stravinsky’s Firebird Suite



Olivia Ly, winner of the People’s Choice Award, with her parents



ISOA Co-President Jan Pierce, Teacher Carol Blankman, SIC Chair Mary Richards, SIC Co-Chair Kay Kinder



Four more students judged as Top Eight winners



24 of the 36 *Symphony in Color* Gold Ribbon winners

Metropolitan Youth Orchestra

The MYO chamber ensemble was back at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, only this time playing the national anthem for the Pacers.

Our youngest students participated in a composition quilt workshop, giving them tools to start thinking of themselves as budding composers.

Our solo recitals were held in March, and the kids really worked hard and sounded great! One of our seniors even played a cool piece for cello and flower pots!

The MYO season is starting to wind down, but we're still as busy as ever. Students will be participating in the following events as we head toward our final performance in May:

- Orchestra A & B - Networking for



North Group had a busy fall. We are now gearing up for our spring events.

Our North Group holiday party at Lynda Goeke's was terrific. Lynda was a great hostess, and all the food brought by our members was delicious.



Our April Board Meeting will have a White Elephant sale. And we will have some new auctioneers.

Our Musical Evening will be May 6, 2024, at the home of John Seest. Our featured performers

Introverts workshop in early April and networking session on April 27.

- MYO Chamber performance at Symphony on the Circle, 3:20 p.m. on April 27 and Evening Song service at Christ Church Cathedral on May 7 at 5:30 p.m.
- Transit training with IndyGo on April 20th
- Resume building and mock interview prep at Marian University Career Center April 17
- New family interviews on various dates in April

Don't forget to check out our final concert of the season on Sunday May 5, 3:30 p.m. at Hilbert Circle Theatre.

Krystle Ford, Director, Metropolitan Youth Orchestra

will be Kevin Lin, Concert Master of the ISO, and Marisa Votapek, ISO Violin.

Our Annual Luncheon will be Thursday, June 20 at The Bridgewater Club. Our Keynote speaker will be Glen Kwok, Executive director of the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. We will have lunch, a raffle, silent auction, and wonderful comradery.

Deb Dyar is our Volunteer of the Year for 2023-2024—a girl who just can't say no. She has been the coordinator for our Shopping at The Secret Ingredient for the past three years and our hospitality chair for several years. She and her committee have planned our Musical Evening in recent years. Deb has also been the Portfolio Chair for *Discovery Concert* ushers.

Ann Deagan-Romberg, Chair, North Group

South Group

South Group is anticipating an exciting Annual Meeting/Dinner on Saturday, June 22, at Dye's Walk in Greenwood. With the theme, "Some Enchanted Evening," this event will feature two outstanding vocalists, Jerry and Kathleen Hacker, who have performed many times with the ISO Pops in productions under the direction of Maestro Jack Everly. Their accompanist, Steve Potts, has also served as a first-call pianist with the ISO and in recording studios, and he toured with Sandi Patty as her Music Director. This event includes a delicious plated dinner, a silent auction, and a wine pull. Watch for the Save the Date flyer and the invitation in your email.

On April 10, our Musical Evening was held at the newly-renovated Cabaret in Greenwood. This theatre, formerly known as The Luxe, is a beautiful venue, showcasing talented vocalists from the Indianapolis area. Guests at this event enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and a variety of beverages.

Wabash Unit

Happy Spring from Wabash! The Board is in full swing. Membership letters have been mailed for renewals and for new members, and we welcomed a new member to our Board, Chris Kugler. We also selected Sheri Shanks as our Volunteer of the Year. She has provided loads of help and enthusiasm in making our Yuletide Bus Trip a wonderful experience. The bus trip was a highly successful fundraiser for this fiscal year.



We have had a wonderful community response to donations for a lovely auction basket for the Jubilee. We are hoping that one of you will spend a spring or summer getaway in Wabash,

South Group continues to look for new avenues for fundraising. A new fundraising opportunity came our way in March, with a day of shopping at two local stores, Teresa's Hallmark and Brianne's Boutique. The owners of each business donated 20 percent of the money spent by our members and guests back to South Group. We raised \$900 in one day! Easter candy sales from See's Candies added \$231.50, and through Arni's Restaurant Dine to Donate program, we netted \$631 over the last five months.

We are delighted to name Frances Heavrin as our Volunteer of the Year. She has served as Chair of our telephone committee, Co-Chair of the Christmas Luncheon, and member of the Annual Meeting Committee, as well as liaison between the ISOA and ISO. With her enthusiastic spirit, she is a role model of service for all of us—always working for South Group, the ISOA, and ISO.

Rita Martin, Co-Chair, South Group

courtesy of the Wabash Visitors' Center, the Honeywell Center/Foundation, and the Charley Creek Inn. Exciting!

Currently, we are in full swing as we prepare for our Wabash *Symphony in Color* Reception on May 14. This year we had seven schools and home school students participating. Of those participating, 28 students were recognized at the state level and 14 received gold ribbons! AND, in addition, Christy Schuler, Art Instructor at Manchester Elementary, received the Maestro Award as the teacher with the most finalists! We are so thrilled and happy for everyone who participated and look forward to honoring them all in May. Wabash has had an exciting and rewarding year. We wish you all a lovely spring and summer.

Susan Beckett, Chair, Wabash Unit

West Group

April 17 is the date for West Group's membership

luncheon, "A Spring Welcome," at the Country Club of Indianapolis. We are urging members to bring guests to explore all the ways West Group can add inspiration and encouragement to our lives. Lunches for potential members will be paid for by West Group.

We are so glad to announce that Avon Gardens will again be our premier fundraiser on Monday, June 3. Invitations will go out in May. The theme this year for this annual event is "Reflections in the Garden," and we are dedicating the event to the memory of Karen Robbins, the garden's founder. We are excited to also have great items for our raffle at the event. Tickets from Hendricks Live, a new live concert venue in Plainfield, will be available. We are also fortunate to have tickets for the Terre Haute Symphony First Concert of the Season and "Supper at the Symphony" on the ISU campus.

East Group

East Group members are busy supporting the ISOA in many

ways. MYO-East Group sponsors Orchestra A, with Tisha LeMaster as our liaison. She and many other members provide snacks for rehearsals and concerts and enjoy listening to their beautiful music. The end of the year pizza party is on May 2.

As the membership drive for 2024-2025 progresses, we thank Cheryl Rosenfeld for her diligence in chairing the membership endeavor for East Group!

Leslie Nelson is working hard to make the Silent Auction for the Spring Jubilee a success. Silent auction online bidding begins on April 20th.

Please see the article about the Organ Concert, "Remember the Paramount-the Next Generation," in this issue of the Whole Note.

We will have other raffle items plus a 20% discount for anything purchased at the Gardens that day. Nicha Stapanukul and Tim Stephenson will again provide our entertainment. Tim also performs with the Terre Haute Symphony.

Again, the small but mighty West Group will be hosting two tables at the Jubilee. We are excited for this fun evening, and we want to thank West Group Vice-Chair, Patty Butwin, for all her contributions on the spring Jubilee Committee.

We are also looking forward to the ISOA Annual Luncheon in August when we will honor long-term West Group member Mary Whalin as our Volunteer of the Year. She was our Chair from 2013-2016; West Group Volunteer of the Year in 2012; Recording Secretary for many, many years; and has coordinated numerous West Group Indiana Landmark tours and Sip & Chat events.

Sharon Stegemoller, Chair, West Group

"You don't want to miss this," says Mary Ellen Weitekamp!

Also, please see the article about the Michael Ben and Illene Maurer *Young Musicians Contest* in this issue. Many thanks to Meg Niehaus for leading this event.

The *Discovery Concerts* are winding down as the school year is nearing its end. Many of our East Group members have volunteered to greet and usher. Kudos to Linda Sykes for her help recruiting greeters.

Congratulations to Vicki Sholty, our newly elected East Group Volunteer of the Year! She is our secretary and has volunteered in many capacities for ISOA fundraising, and she "steps up to the plate" in various projects. Hope to see you all at the Annual Luncheon to honor her as our VOY.

A note from Mary Ellen Weitekamp: I want to

thank all you dear ISOA friends who sent so many cards, prayers, and visited during the time I was recovering from surgery and hip replacement this past winter. I could not believe how stepping off a 12-inch step could cause a break and so much pain. It is all in the past now and the new hip is

great—just a few more PT sessions and all will be good. I so appreciated everyone's thoughtfulness!

Judi Taflinger, Chair, East Group



Viewing Jubilee Auction Items Online Has Begun

There are more than 120 silent auction items that you will be able to view on Qtego on April 13 (two weeks before the Jubilee on April 27), with bidding beginning on April 20. The Qtego website is <https://isoa.ticket.qtego.us>.

Included in the silent auction are two VIP tickets to Taylor Swift tailgate (Tay-Gate) on November 1, a two-seater ride around the Indy 500 track with Tony Kanaan, and the Ringing of the Chimes at Symphony on the Prairie during the Fourth of July Concerts. Also included are theatre and music tickets, golf outings, and the Mayor's Suite at an Indians baseball game. Begin viewing on April 13 for the complete list.

There are live auction items: a condo in Philadelphia within walking distance to historical sites, a Yuletide package, four Indy 500 race tickets with parking, dinner with James Johnson (CEO of the ISO), Colts VIP tickets, and a behind the scenes visit and painting with a dolphin at the zoo.

There are parties you can sign up for on Qtego: Pat Corsi's Woodstock Party with Amy Kniffin on June 9, Dulcinea Summer Garden Party on June 15, the Bowen Cocktail Party with Ty Johnson and Jack Everly on June 22. Gallery 42 Watercolor Art Cocktail Party on July 10, Asian Buffet on October 6, and Dulcinea Christmas Party on Dec. 14.

Organ Concert Scheduled for October 20, 2024

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Association (ISOA) and the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (CIC-ATOS) are happy to announce their third theatre organ fundraiser, "Remember the Paramount – The Next Generation." The concert will be on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Tickets can now be purchased at www.indianapolissymphony.org/event. Ticket cost remains the same - \$35/Adult and free for age 18 and under with ID.

This concert, highlighting the capabilities of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ, will feature Indianapolis

theatre organist Justin Stahl and will introduce Jazz Ensembles from the University of Indianapolis and Pike High School. Ken Double will serve as master of ceremonies (perhaps along with a special emcee guest).

Justin Stahl, a professional keyboardist and theatre organist, has played the Mighty Wurlitzer for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Yuletide Celebration for more than ten years. He plays and presents concerts across the US and internationally. Mr. Stahl also works with the Treble Choir, Baritone Choir, Menz Choir, Concert Choir, Encores, and Mystiques. He will treat us to traditional

theatre organ standards and conclude with a silent Laurel and Hardy comedy film to remind us of the original purpose of the theatre pipe organ.

We will also welcome Jazz Ensembles from Pike High School under the direction of Aaron Burhart and University of Indianapolis (UIndy) under the direction of Dr. Mark O'Connor. Both ensembles are recognized locally and statewide for their thriving jazz programs.

Revenues from the fall fundraiser will support one of ISOA's educational programs, *Side-by-Side*, a program that offers high school students an opportunity to perform side-by-side with their ISO counterparts during a featured concert. Revenues from the CIC-ATOS will also help fund the continued superb functioning and upkeep of the ISO's Wurlitzer Theatre Organ.

Mary Ellen Weitekamp, Organ Concert Co-Chair



Justin Stahl

Life. It's better with music.





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