

SIDE A

Float On:

The Songs That Got Us Through 2025



SIDE B

Here Comes the Sun:
Our Anthems for 2026

Float On: *The Songs That Got Us Through 2025*

You Get What You Give

NEW RADICALS

"This is such an uplifting and energetic song that helps boost my mood."
– Samantha Komber

Clint Eastwood

GORILLAZ, DEL THE FUNKY HOMOSAPIAN

"This song is one of our family's ultimate favourites from our road trip playlists. We had "Gorillaz - All songs (in order)" playing during our interstate move after merging the family. The soundtrack of the new beginning." – Aleksandra Kebel

Safe and Sound

CAPITOL CITIES

"I love the beat, the opening two bars of the song gets me on my feet. Even in the face of adversity and other's misery (in a hurricane of frowns), as long as we're all together, everything is going to be alright!" – Julia Gordon

I Was Alive

BEARTOOTH

"I love that the song provokes serenity in quiet moments. It fosters resilience and hope amid the noise and tumult – a good model for the year ahead." – Alex Peck

Staple it Together

JACK JOHNSON

"This song (and artist) is one of my "go to's" when I sit outside and enjoy a glass (or two) of wine!" – Emily Klingensmith

Cavalleria rusticana: Intermezzo

PIETRO MASCAGNI, RICCARDO MUTI, CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"A great opera piece of music with no singing. It marks a big turning point in this opera. Four minutes of sweet and yearning music. The big violin swells near the end make me do "Air Conductor" when I'm cooking." – Todd Hensley

Maine

NOAH KAHAN

"I spent time in Maine for the first time this summer and had this song stuck in my head for WEEKS leading up to my trip." – Sean Rocke

Doomscroller

METRIC

"Doomscroller is not an easy listen, but for me it is a compelling song about finding hope on the other side of despair. 2025 has been a tough year to get through, on so many levels, but I'm happy to say (at least for me personally) it has been trending towards a hopeful conclusion." – Finn Boulding

The World is Ugly

MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

"I really like this song and MCR played it live when we went to their show at the end of August. It's the song that my older son really wanted them to play during the second half of the concert and it was a special moment for him when they played it. (They only played it at one other stop on the tour prior to Chicago, I think.) Also, it feels appropriate to the times that we're living through right now." – Keith Friedlander

To Be Human

MARINA

"Marina is a huge favorite of mine and this is always a feel good song for me"
– Ben Schultz

Teardrop

MASSIVE ATTACK, ELIZABETH FRASER

"I like Massive Attack's work. I took my daughters to a Massive Attack concert when they were in their early 20s. That concert showed them that we like the same music. We've been going to concerts together ever since." – Jack Hagler

Exactly Where I'm At

WEEN

– Jason Burton

Suite: Judy Blue Eyes

CROSBY, STILLS & NASH

"This is a perennial favorite of mine. It has the ability to lighten my mood in almost any circumstance." – Josh Grossman

Collapse the Light Into the Earth

PORCUPINE TREE

"Steven Wilson wrote this after 9/11. It has beautiful orchestration and harmony."
– Chip Ulich

Akhnaten, Act 1 Scene 3: The Window of Appearances

PHILLIP GLASS, METROPOLITAN OPERA ORCHESTRA

"It is SO good and beautiful to listen to on repeat." – Ben Schultz

Throw Your Arms Around Me

NEIL FINN, EDDIE VEDDER

"It's a sweet song, beautiful harmonies, cosy acoustic feel, and it features in the TV show The Bear which I love!" – Tomas Gerasimidis

Title Holder

THE INTERRUPTERS

"It is about overcoming adversity and succeeding with a Ska/punk beat and is a pump you up, bouncy song to get you motivated to do anything (or complete your deadline)!" – Chad Groshart

Yellow

COLDPLAY

"Yellow is a dreamy song that I have encountered at various locales for many years"
– Michael DiBlasi

Rime of the Ancient Mariner

IRON MAIDEN

"Great epic song, adaptation of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem, exploring themes of guilt, consequence, and redemption through a dramatic narrative. I like to read it also as a proto-environmentalist message - mess with the nature and there will be consequences. Finally, the Albatross is my favourite bird." – Nicolò Brambilla

Tom Sawyer

RUSH

"Well, as I was taking drum lessons when I was much younger, Neil Peart had the best drum kit and "Tom Sawyer" is by far the greatest air-drums song of all time."
– Jody Kovalick

Long Train Runnin' - Live

THE DOOBIE BROTHERS

"It's a song I've performed with my band for years and I had the very special moment of performing it with my daughter singing it with my band. This version is my favorite and it's the version we play when we play with a horn section. I love the back and forth between the drums and horns. Super fun to play." – Garth Hemphill

Lookin' Out My Back Door

CREEDANCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL

"Just a happy, joyful song to add a little pep in your step." – Kimberly Corbett Oates

Alive

SPENCER SUTHERLAND

"I don't find new music very often, preferring instead to listen to old favorites, but I found Spencer Sutherland this year and couldn't stop listening to the album. This song in particular feels like such a high energy pop dance anthem. I saw him perform at House of Blues & he was such an energetic and captivating performer. And in a small world moment: I connected the dots and realized he was the voice actor for a friend's podcast production back in 2020/2021!" – Jenn Bollenbacher

Palco

GILBERTO GIL

"This song is a very fun lighthearted song that always seems to make me dance, even when I probably shouldn't. It always reminds me of family, friends, and overall good times." – Jackson Lasseter

Float On

MODEST MOUSE

"The song is about overcoming mistakes and short comings in life. We all make mistakes, and it is important to move forward and "learn some sleight of hand....," as it says in the song." – Ben Grohs

Takedown

KPOP DEMON HUNTERS

"My kids are singing it constantly (to the point that it needs to be tempered at times!)" – Kevin Greene

Duality

SLIPKNOT

– Samuel Butler

Santa Drives An Astrovan

THE PHILLY SPECIALS, MT JOY

"This song—masterpiece, one may say—includes two of my favorite things: Mt Joy and the Eagles O-Line. As much as I am not a fan of Christmas music before Thanksgiving, this song always is an exception." – Matt Valerio

Hole in the River

CROWDED HOUSE

"It's sad and it's sweet and I knew it complete when I wore a younger man's clothes." – Jim Hultquist

Abracadabra

LADY GAGA

"I kept saying 2025 was the Year of the Witch and this was the wake-up call." – Sadie Ward

Passion Fashion

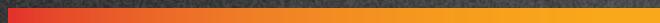
JUDAH & THE LION, JON BELLION

"I like the message of embracing your quirkiness and staying true to your authentic self." – Alex Peck

Defying Gravity

CYNTHIA ERIVO, ARIANA GRANDE-BUTERA

"As a singer, I am in awe of Erivo's technique. Singing live while filming AND flying through the air in a harness is hard as heck and a testament to her skill as one of the best vocalists living today." – Henry Golden-Starr



Here Comes the Sun: *Our Anthems for 2026*

Here Comes the Sun

THE BEATLES

"After a series of life changes over the last several years, this song embodies the new light shining on what will be a great 2026." – Jody Kovalick

Both Sides Now

JUDY COLLINS

"This cover gives "Both Sides Now" an entirely different energy than the original, and I love it. It feels more hopeful... like there's a sense of victory and non-judgement of one's own experiences—whether difficult or beautiful. And that glockenspiel drop at 2:03?? Chef's kiss." – Henry Golden-Starr

I'm in Love With You

THE 1975

*"It's just an upbeat happy song about being in love and we absolutely love that."
– Ben Schultz*

Former Lives

SPIRAL ARM

"Spiral Arm is the band I played in as the drummer for a few years back in 2013-2016. I think it is one of our best." – Nicolò Brambilla

I Won't Let You Down

OK GO

"It's a catchy boppy song that one's head bobs to. It's about loyalty, trust, and allegiance to yourself/family/friends/company/soul, no matter how hard it gets, I won't let you down." – Julia Gordon

Look at the Sky

PORTER ROBINSON

"I love that the song provokes serenity in the quiet moments. It fosters resilience and hope between the noise and tumult; a good model for this next year." – Alex Peck

Beautiful Day

U2

"I love this song - it's so uplifting! (And who doesn't love U2?!) " – Emily Klingensmith

Fresh Out

CHRISTONE "KINGFISH" INGRAM

"This blues song has terrific Delta guitar riffs and a strong connection to Chicago. The great Buddy Guy helped Kingfish start his career. I caught Kingfish at Pritzker Pavilion - I think it was his first Chicago appearance. This song keeps me energized!"

– Todd Hensley

Is What It Is

CHANCE PEÑA

*"It's dark today but the sun's gonna rise' - a good reminder on any day!"
– Sean Rocke*

Harder Than You Think

PUBLIC ENEMY

"I think my reasoning is self-explanatory when you listen to the song and consider the state of things." – Keith Friedlander

Journey of the Sorcerer

JOBY TALBOT - HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (2005)

"Since hearing it as the intro to the original BBC radio play, this goofy cover of the Eagle's 1975 original captures (for me) the triumphant optimism of heading out to explore a galaxy full of nonsense. Maybe the Vogons get us, but there is hilarious adventure to be found out there, somewhere." – Finn Boulding

Rolf Royce

TOSCA, STEFAN GRAF HADIK WILDNER

"I really like downtempo electronica. My dog-walking playlist for 2026 includes Tosca, Thievery Corporation, Boozoo Bajou, Nightmares On Wax, Sounds From the Ground, The Orb, and other downtempo electronica artists." – Jack Hagler

Dog Days Are Over

FLORENCE + THE MACHINE

"Hopefully 2026 will be a great and positive year!" – Samantha Komber

Who Do You See

LABI SIFFRE

"This song holds a lot of meaning for me, particularly at this time in my life as I'm currently going through a transitional phase. Excited to see what this year brings! And that glockenspiel drop at 01:06?? Chef's kiss." – Henry Golden-Starr

Masters of War

BOB DYLAN

"This song feels newly relevant." – Josh Grossman

Miramare

BIG BIG TRAIN

"It's about traveling by sea, love, and loss. I simply like the musicality of it! It's fast driving at times, introspective at times, and great vocals." – Chip Ulich

Il cielo in una stanza

MINA

"2025 brought more than its share of challenges, but my hopes for 2026 are sky-high. I'm wishing for it to be smooth, mellow, and joyful—like a summer breeze."
– Aleksandra Kebel

The Lark Ascending

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, HILARY HAHN, LONDON SYMPHONY, SIR COLIN DAVIS

"Hilary Hahn is an absolute badass of a solo violinist." – Ben Schultz

For What It's Worth

HALEY REINHART

"It is the "sound" of new beginnings, new friendships, and a new chapter in my life."
– Tomas Gerasimidis

Everybody Laughs

DAVID BYRNE, GHOST TRAIN ORCHESTRA

"I appreciate everything David Byrne does! We need more things to laugh about."
– Michael DiBlasi

Vindicated

DASHBOARD CONFESSİONAL

"This is a strong throwback to my youth." – Ben Schultz

We Didn't Start the Fire

BILLY JOEL

– Garth Hemphill

In Real Life

VULFPECK

"This song is for 2026 because it is an extremely fun song that always reminds me to take a chance and experience something new." – Jackson Lasseter

Everybody Scream

FLORENCE + THE MACHINE

"I think this is going to be the song of 2026." – Sadie Ward

Sunday Best

SURFACES

"I like the message. Pick yourself up! Even though "Everyone falls down sometimes, But you just gotta know it will all be fine, It's okay..." – Ben Grohs

What It Sounds Like

KPOP DEMON HUNTERS

"Again, my kids are constantly singing this, and I love that they are singing something positive and about being yourself and not hiding your perceived flaws. It's a very hopeful song in a time that can seem not so hopeful sometimes." – Kevin Greene

Party at Ground Zero

FISHBONE

*"With all that is happening in the world I need more satire and irony in 2026."
– Jim Hultquist*

Heavy Foot

MON ROVIA

"In classic folk/protest song form, this speaks to what is happening in the world in a way that acknowledges the pain, but still feels hopeful and reminds me that strength comes from being in community with one another." – Henry Golden-Starr

Let Your Troubles Roll By

CARBON LEAF

"Very catchy and has a "onward" spirit." – Kimberly Corbett Oates

Everything is AWESOME!!!

TEGAN AND SARA, THE LONELY ISLAND

– *Samuel Butler*

Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger

DAFT PUNK

“This song develops from simple parts to a complex machine; a reminder that growth comes from persistence and small steps forward” – Alex Peck

Coming Home

JACK DAHLQVIST

“I’m a muso and this song is around the idea of returning and reconnection. It’s good driving music... and I’m trying to bring back guitar solos!” – Jack Dahlqvist

From all of us at Schuler Shook:

We hope the year ahead is full of music, curiosity,
and meaningful collaboration.



LIGHTING DESIGN / THEATRE PLANNING / AUDIO VIDEO DESIGN