

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*

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### **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*

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### **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 Roche*

## **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 ciello 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 CONFSSIONAL

*"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**

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**From all of us at Schuler Shook:**

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

