

My Love of Music

My name is Gail and I want to share about some of the music and stories of my life.

My love of music starting when my Dad's cousin gave the family loads of new records, probably 'falling out a lorry'. Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Animals, Dusty Springfield – I loved playing the records on the radiogram - and a radiogram is a piece of furniture that combined a radio and record player.

I loved Tamla Motown, Four Tops, Little Stevie Wonder. Georgie Fame, and on TV watching Ready, Steady, Go, Juke Box Jury. I was listening to the 'Pirates Radio' – Radio Caroline, Radio London, and Radio Luxembourg.

The songs that remind me of the 70s

I lived in Muswell Hill, and I discovered West End clubs – The Roaring Twenties, La Valbonne, Birds Nest, Gullivers, The Pourbelle, Anabelle, Tramps, Ronnie Scotts, Blues parties, etc., etc., etc. Reggae, Disco, Soca, Jazz and Soul.

I worked as a PA for a record company and later worked with the owner of West End clubs and I met a long list of 'celebrities.'

Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, Luddy from the Pioneers, The Drifters, George McCrea, The Harlem Globetrotters, Hot Chocolate, Viola Wills, Sex Pistols, Nina Simone, etc. etc. – and we all go to the 'Kandy Box' a basement club in Kingsley Street, after-work or show 2 am – 7 am. (even CJ Carlos 😊 and Q Club (with Smokey Joe) on Sunday night

Marvin Gaye- What's Going On



Own image

An album in 1971 helped people to open their minds. About racial, the Vietnam War, drug abuse, poverty and ecological.

Tamla Motown – Berry Gordy said that 'What Going On' was 'the worst thing I ever heard in my life'. But, is it being regarded as the best album for 50 years.

Third World – 1865 (96° In The Shade)

This was not about the weather. 😞 It was about the Morant Bay rebellion in Jamaica.

In the British West Indies in 1838 slavery was finally abolished. The black people were now freed from slavery, but black Jamaicans have to work in the sugar fields of former 'masters' and the low wages provided on the sugar estates of the parish. The tensions that sparked the rebellion on October 1865, headed by the Baptist deacon and preacher Paul Bogle. Bogle and his allies saw no solution to their problems but and they believed they had allies in Britain. The people marched into Morant Bay. The governor declared martial law, and the rebellion suppressed. More than four hundred people were hung, including Paul Bogle. Several hundred others whipped, and many of the villages were burned.

In 1965 the Jamaican government elevated Paul Bogle to the status of a national hero for his struggles against the oppression of the colonial state in the early postslavery period.

Brass Construction – Brass Construction

I was in Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club in 1974 – and my friend, who was the DJ – he played 'Movin' from this album.



The club was 'on-fire' – the listeners/dancing have not heard before (in the UK) but they were dancing and calling for a 're-wind'.

The lead member, Randy Muller, was here in London last year, and I met him, and we have lovely a conversation and understand about aphasia!! and we are 'friends' on Facebook. He had a new album last year, and he sent it to my husband.

Millie Jackson - Caught Up & Still Caught Up



Own image

She had two albums singing about her husband with another woman. The 'wife' got a phone call from the 'girlfriend' - so the wife threw her husband out. He moved in with the girlfriend, but he was still seeing with his wife. So 'wife' called up the 'girlfriend' - then the girlfriend threw his out, and he went to back to his wife.

Millie Jackson's songs often include long, humorous, and explicit spoken sections in her songs. 😊

The songs that remind me of the 80s

I moved to Dubai – I said that I was staying for six months??

I was working in a hotel – The Aladdin in Sharjah – they had a nightclub on the 10th floor, and I was the manager for the bar. When I finished working with friends, we went to 'discos' in Dubai, and we had a ball!!!!

But I love the 'old Dubai'. The 'new Dubai' is commercial now. Full of tourists, some of '2nd home people,' buying up villas and apartments on the 'Palm Islands' and big expensive cars. So now the beautiful country is changed, dredging up sand and turning the currents of the sea. Turtles and Flamingos have moved out, and Dolphins killed by speed boats. And the environment had changed – the blue skies are cloudy, hazy and the weather and more carbon issues 😞

Bob Marley – Uprising (Album)



I met Bob Marley in 1976 in London, and he was such a lovely man.

I walked into a club in Dubai and heard about his death. I cried 😞

This music is one of the high lights in my life and the rest of the world with messages that are still very much alive and relevant in 2020.

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Lionel Ritchie - All Night Long

This was MY tune! When I walk in the disco – the DJ’s will play this for me.



A lovely happy, record, the dance floor was crammed to people dancing. ‘Karamu’ is a Swahili word for ‘party.’

‘Everybody sing, everybody dance

Lose yourself in wild romance

We're going to party karamu, fiesta, forever

Come on and sing along

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Swing Out Sister - Breakout

1986 I heard this – I was thinking about leaving Dubai. The words were apt!

The single was written and performed while the group was still a trio. It was one of their biggest hits – climbing in the charts to in the UK to number four position.

*When situations never change
Tomorrow looks unsure
Don't leave your destiny to chance
What are you waiting for
The time has come to make your break
Breakout*

The songs that remind me of the 90s

I came back to London from Dubai with my daughter. The 90s music moved from the 80's disco, and I liked it much better. The West End was changed – full of Yuppies, with huge mobile phones 😊.

Music changed, house and techno new electronic dance music genres such as Rave, happy hardcore, drum and bass, intelligent dance and trip-hop. Rap, reggae, contemporary R&B and urban music in the styles such as soul, funk and jazz, new jack swing, neo-soul, hip hop soul and g-funk.

Montell Jordan – This is How We Do It

Montell is an American pastor, singer, songwriter, and record producer.



It's Friday night, and I feel alright
The party is here on the Westside
So I reach for my 40 and I turn it up
Designated driver take the keys to my truck

In 2010, he left the music business, now a born-again Christian. He continues to record and perform in America. He was touring in March 2020 in the UK, but the concert was postponed for the coronavirus panic 😞

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Massive Attack - Unfinished Sympathy



Massive Attack was as one of the most innovative British bands of the 1990s. Music critic Simon Reynolds stated that the album 'Blue Line' also marked a change in electronic/dance music, "a shift toward a more interior, meditational sound. That went on to be voted the 10th highest song of all time in a poll.

Photo from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massive_Attack#/media/File:Massive_Attack,_Saint-Petersburg,_2010-09-26_\(cropped\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massive_Attack#/media/File:Massive_Attack,_Saint-Petersburg,_2010-09-26_(cropped).jpg)

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The latest theory that Banksy is Robert Del Naja, one of the three members of the electronic hip-hop trio Massive Attack.

At the Extinction Change (XR) march in April 2019, Massive Attack played to the crowd, and a mystery mural appears!!

Was it Banksy?? The art experts advised them that the work was genuine.

The mural depicts a young girl holding an Extinction Rebellion logo, next to the words: 'From this moment, despair ends and tactics begin.'

The songs that remind me of the 00s

The Black Eyed Peas - Where Is The Love?

This record came out in 2003 about police brutality, racism and terrorism.



Where is the love?

Whatever happened to the fairness and equality

Instead of spreading love, we're spreading animosity

Lack of understanding, leading us away from unity

Photo from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Eyed_Peas#/media/File:Black_Eyed_Peas.jpg

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Will I Am to inspire kids to stay in school and go to college to become the leaders of tomorrow. He says that the importance and power of a good education. He has an '**i.am angel Foundation**', and there is scholarship helps financial assistance to complete post-secondary education. The foundation is also active in the UK The Prince's Trust.

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Craig David - Walking Away



This record came out in 2000. My daughter loved Craig David (and I loved him too). When she died, these words touching my heart.

*I'm walking away from the troubles in my life
I'm walking away oh to find a better day
I'm walking away from the troubles in my life
I'm walking away oh to find a better day*

Photo from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craig_David#/media/File:Craig_David_\(at_The_Queen's_Birthday_Party\)_cropped_\(1\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craig_David#/media/File:Craig_David_(at_The_Queen's_Birthday_Party)_cropped_(1).jpg)

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John Legend – Original People

This record came out in 2004 - received three nominations for Song of the Year, Best R&B Song and winning the Best Male R&B Vocal Performance.



I won two tickets to see John Legend in Brixton. I took one of my friends, and we had seats. Maybe after five minutes, we left the seats, and we rushed to the front of the stage! John Legend has opened up about the racism he experienced as a student at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I had several interactions with the police where they questioned my right to even be where I was," he recalled, adding that he was "treated like I didn't belong there because I was black".

Photo from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Legend#/media/File:John_Legend_by_Sachyn_Mital.jpg

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Attribution: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=User:Sachyn&action=edit&redlink=1>, Sachyn Mital (no changes made)

He explained that the racism he experienced was tacit, explaining that sometimes police would approach him when he was getting into his car.

“No one ever says it,” he said. “But it’s obvious that [the police] don’t do white students like that and ask for their ID just to get in their own car and question their belonging.”

The songs that remind me of the 2010 – 2020

I lived in Trinidad when **Soca** popular music that developed in the 1970s for dancing at Carnival and Fetes. Soca rhythmic energy and studio production— including synthesized sounds and electronically mixed effects.

Every year Ladbroke Grove Carnival was two days of fun in August bank holiday. There were ‘bands’ – wearing costumes, dancing all day, following a truck with huge speakers and playing Soca all day.

There were only a couple of radio shows playing Soca, and that was sad. But, I have a ‘spot’ for Soca on my husbands’ Sunday show **on Soul Legends Radio**. Soca was talking about dancing and rum, “get something and wave,” “jump up,” “breakaway,” and “hands in the air.” 😊. Now Soca musicians and fans have hoped that Soca’s incorporation of new ideas and styles would help Trinidadian music reach international markets in the way that Jamaican reggae had done. Soca is talking about the world – Climate Change, the news about racism and ‘revolution’.

Machel Montano – Conch

He now stands as one of the most well-known soca acts in the world.



He started singing in 1987 he was the youngest finalist ever to win the Caribbean Song Festival and his career spans more than 30 years.

This was one my favourite songs this year (2020) - channel the divine messages that run through you – *to relax, pause and rest. Create space and stillness. “Like a morning flower, a beautiful blossom.* Blowing a conch shell horn is a traditional skill, and it is not as easy as it looks. It is a distinctive sound that inspires nostalgia in locals.

Photo from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machel_Montano#/media/File:Machel_Montano_\(Reggae_Awards_2007\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machel_Montano#/media/File:Machel_Montano_(Reggae_Awards_2007).jpg)
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Attribution: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/23447887@N00> Gregg (no changes made)

People all over the world have been applauding the hard work of healthcare personnel, supermarket staff, police and anyone risking their health to help others. Conch shells being blown in the Caribbean, to dancing on the balconies, outside the house and clapping from doorsteps.

Julian Believe – I Believe In You

Julien Believe featuring Machel Montano, Skinny Fabulous, Alison Hinds, Tara Lynne, Cecile, Erin Reign, Shabak, Nehemiah Hield, Saeed Renaud

Dubbing this is known as "We Are The World" of the Caribbean. It represents solidarity and unity amongst each artist and their willingness to band together to help a brother or sister in need. This song declares not only the love of country but the Caribbean at large.

After the Hurricane Dorian in September, this song is a tribute to the resilience of the Caribbean Spirit in the face of climate change. The northern islands

Abaco and Grand Bahama were hugely affected. Julian Believe (he was born in Grand Bahama) sending donations to the people who had lost relatives, friends and homes.

Aaron Duncan – We Are One

The 17-year-old pop singer was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. He was three years old when he first started singing as a background vocalist for his sister. This is a the rallying call from rising calypso/soca star Aaron Duncan to his teenage peers in the face of global coronavirus pandemic.

Aaron Duncan wrote and produced “We Are One” in the hope of bringing communities together in the local fight against the spread of the Coronavirus. He said that he wants the music to educate, empower and entertain to young people across the world.

My love of music now

After my stroke, I joined a Stroke Club in a church hall. It helpful but, the older people were playing cards or a ‘pub-quiz.’ I was bored.

Our the Stroke Associate person came to visit, and she was lovely. She talked about the Stroke Club with me, and she could see why I was bored. She asked if my husband and I would like to be a ‘volunteer’ and to run the club. I talked to my husband, and he agreed. So we did.

Every year the club had a party for Christmas. They had a nice lunch, and the choir will sing for the older people. But there some ‘not-old people’ were not happy and never want to listen to the choir.

So, my husband and I had an idea! So, last Christmas 2019, we invited a friend, who is a singer and a musician, to entertain the Club. The older people and the ‘not-old-people’ came in to listen. And they loved it!



Own image

He sang old and new tunes, who is a Trinidadian, and he was singing Soca too! The audience was clapping and singing, and they were asking requests. So I got up the people who can stand and urged them to dance. The people in wheelchairs, I took their hands and dancing with them. When it finished, everyone was complimenting and so asking when we do it again? I have never seen how they were so happy and laughing.

'Sometimes, music is the only medicine the heart and soul need.'

And this why I love music!