

March 16

Alex,

Some music to listen to until I can get to your full letter. These songs are happy, peppy, upbeat, or ridiculous, and sometimes all four. Seriously, I went for the songs that either always make me smile, or make me shake my head going “What is this even???”

1. Brave - Sara Bareilles (This song is my ANTHEM. I don't know how it didn't make it on the first time)
2. Touch the Sky - Brave
3. The Future Soon - Jonathan Coulton (Honestly, I could make this whole CD Jonathan Coulton and it would fit the criteria. I love him. This is the song I thought of listening to “Evil Genius”)
4. Odds Are - Barenaked Ladies (Listen to this one, and then please find the music video online and watch it. You won't regret it)
5. Taylor the Latte Boy - Kristin Chenoweth
6. Work this Body - Walk the Moon (A-maz-ing dance song. Cross city dance party. You and me. Right now.)
7. The Last Great Waltz - Mason Williams

8. You Can't Always Get What You Want - Rolling Stones, cover by Glee (I feel like an awful person for putting the Glee cover on here and not the original, but -- I'm a horrible oldies fan, Alex. I can't stand the sound of The Rolling Stones. And I shamefully love Glee's cover)
9. Sing a Song - The Carpenters (Okay, yes, you've probably heard this on some little kids music album, but it's actually a wonderful message, and I did promise you Carpenters. Turns out they write either really cynical or really sappy love song, so this is the middle ground)
10. Secondary Characters ([title of show] which is a musical about writing a musical about writing a musical . . . I think. It's confusing. But wonderful)
11. I'll Make a Man Out of You - Mulan (You're welcome)
12. Living in the Moment - Jason Mraz (another personal anthem)
13. Octopus Garden - The Beatles
14. Footloose - Kenny Loggins (and Footloose)
15. I Am A Paleontologist - They Might Be Giants
16. Wait for It - Lin Manuel Miranda (from Hamilton -- yeah, it's not happy or peppy or silly, but it's Wait for It. It doesn't need to be. Because now that I know you're a fellow Hamilfan, I'm including more Hamilton, and this song reminds me most of you. If that's not too weird to say.)

17. Fireflies - Owl City
18. Pop 101 - Marinas Trench
19. I Feel Better - Gotye (I was gonna close us out with “My Life Would Suck Without You” purely for the title alone, because it’s very, very true, but the lyrics are actually horrible. Then I remembered this song, and it is much more true, and everything I want to say to you. Someone else got there first and said it for me, so I’m borrowing their words. Thank you)

Anyway. Enjoy.

-Z