# John Cage Tribute (Mobile) – A Primer

So... How Do I Use This Thing?

The John Cage Tribute is an application designed to let guests and users stretch their artistic muscles. You'll group up with others to start a performance using the audio from your surroundings. If you're not the musical type, you could always drop in these performances and listen to it as it happens. If you're feeling nostalgic or curious, other users may have had previous performances available for listening to in your spare time. Oh, and upon opening the app, there'll be a bit of a summary of John Cage and the app to get you caught up. At any rate, let's dive in!

Become a Cage-ite!

Here's the easy part. Like any conventional app, users can choose to sign in via the Account screen on the right. You can also continue through the app as a guest, but we'll get to that in the next section. Email and password are the golden grain of user identity. If you haven't made an account yet, you can hit the tab near the top to choose what you want to do.
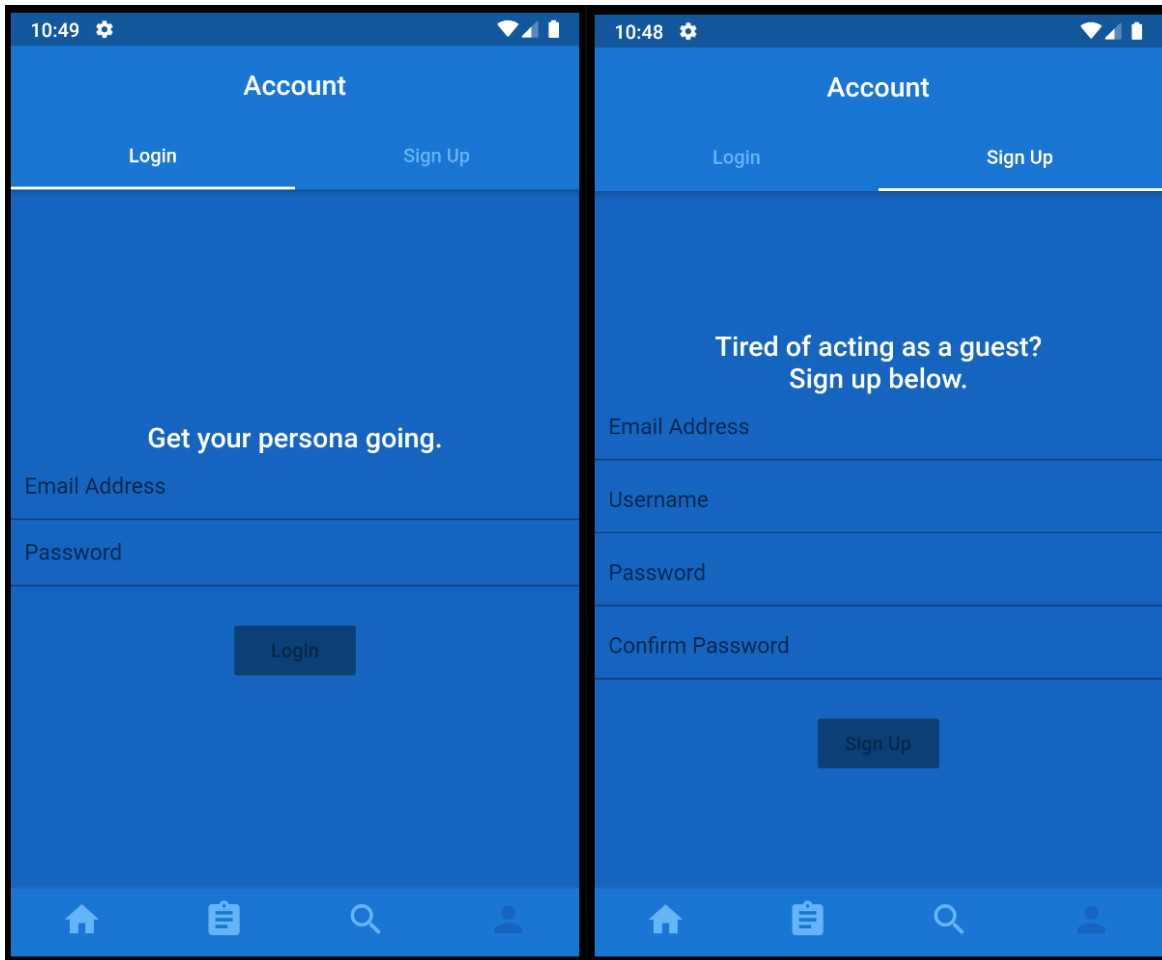
Oh no, so many options to choose from! What ever shall I do?!

Once you've gone ahead and gotten that figured out, you're free as a bird! You can even leave the app and come back yet still be signed in. That's thanks to a JSON web token, but this'll last about 10 days before you must sign in again. This screen updates and displays your relevant account information, as well as an option to access your Library. We'll talk more about the Library in the section titled "What About MY Stuff?"
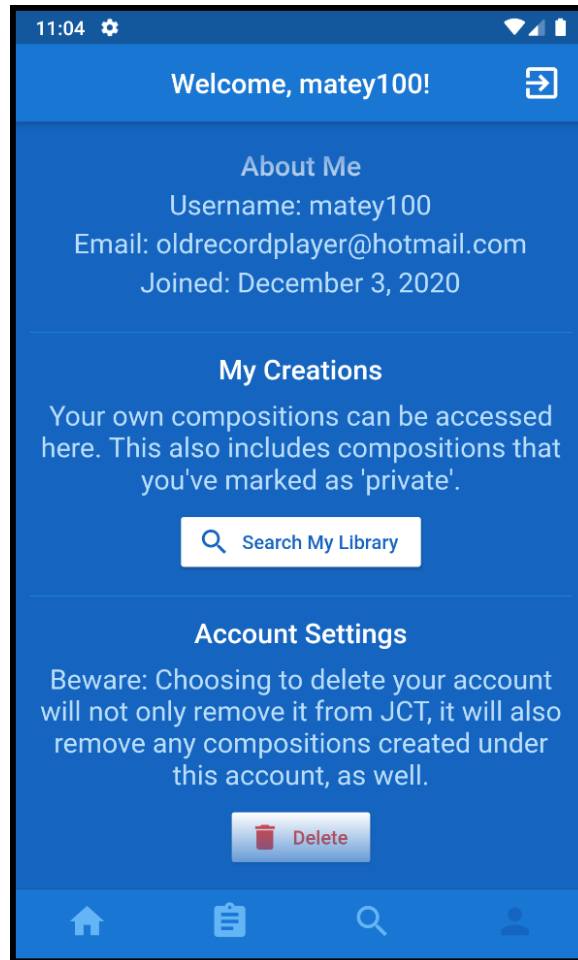
*Hopefully, your account info won't look as embarrassing as mine.*

Users have freer roam around the app, because, well, we want to incentivize people who've downloaded the app to get their name out. Otherwise, there'd be no identity to accompany the compositions they've created! If you're feeling antsy at any point, you're free to delete your account, which will snowball and delete your compositions with it (but we'll miss you!).

Nah, Users Are for Losers! I'll Stay a Guest!

Hold it! You can totally peruse the app as a guest, but there'll be a couple things that'll be made unavailable to you if you do. First, you won't be able to access a Library. A guest has no identity, so they wouldn't be able to have a library of compositions they've made. Similarly, they can't create rooms for others to join, and therefore can't create compositions either. Lastly, if you participate in a performance, you won't be credited for it, being listed as "Guest" instead.

Enough About Users! Where's the Action?!

Alright, alright! Before you we do, though, you'll have to accept this important condition here.
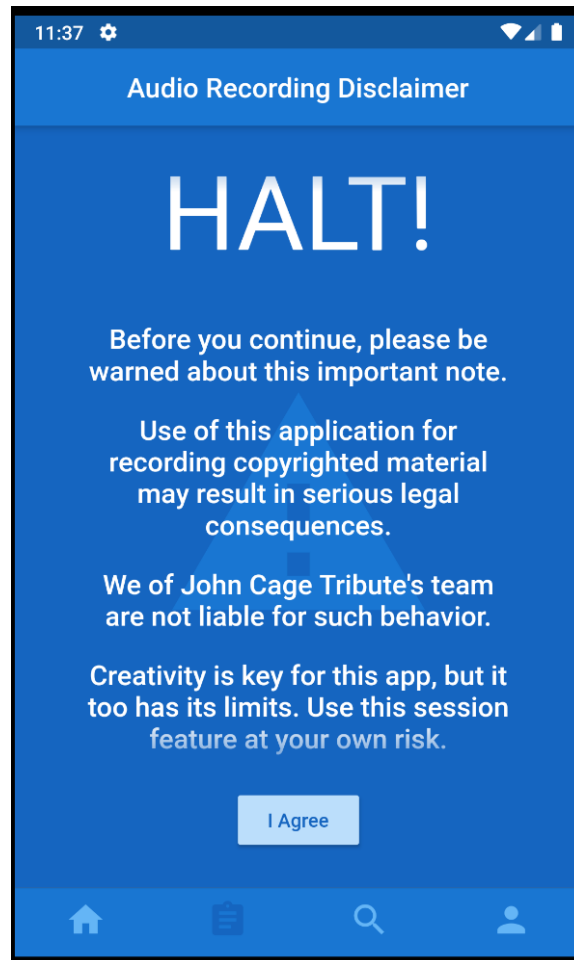

Bwaaah! That was sudden!

Before you go willy-nilly engaging in performances, there are some restrictions to one's creativity. It's one thing to wow the crowd with your own unique tunes, but it's another thing entirely to go and flat-out record existing music and play it back during performances. That's... just plagiarism. Let's not do that. Anyway! Let's go ahead and set up our own room.
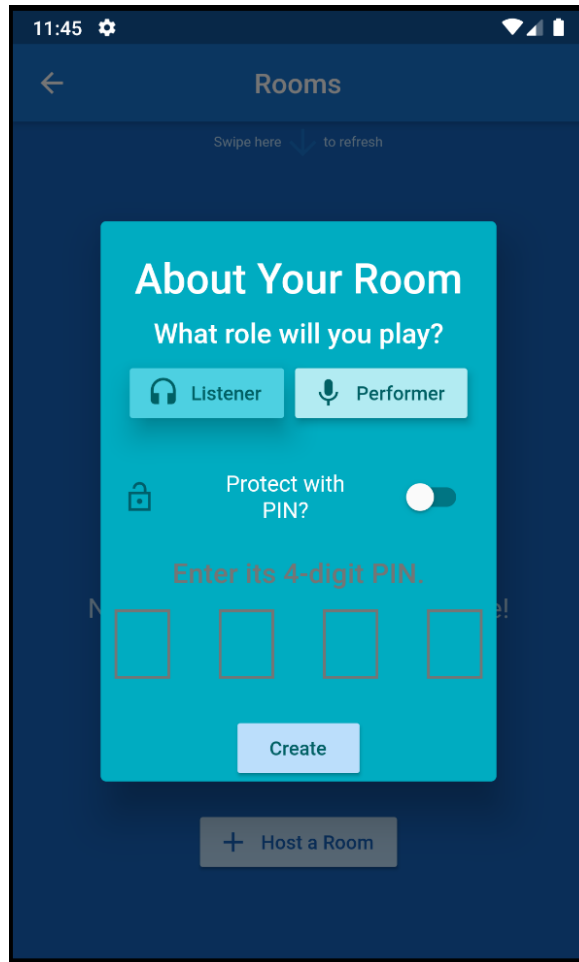
Here's matey100 with his lazy PIN-less room creation!

You'll be greeted by a dialog when you select "Host a Room" near the bottom (disabled if you're a guest). You're probably wondering about the funky "role" question here. All it means is this: A Listener is like the audience who will listen to the performance in real time, while a Performer will provide mic input, acting as a sort of "band member" on the front stage of the performance. If you have not allowed the app permission to record mic audio yet, you'll be prompted to do so before you can continue. Thereafter, you'll find yourself confronted by the "Session Room", which is a fancy way of saying "you're waiting around in your room!"
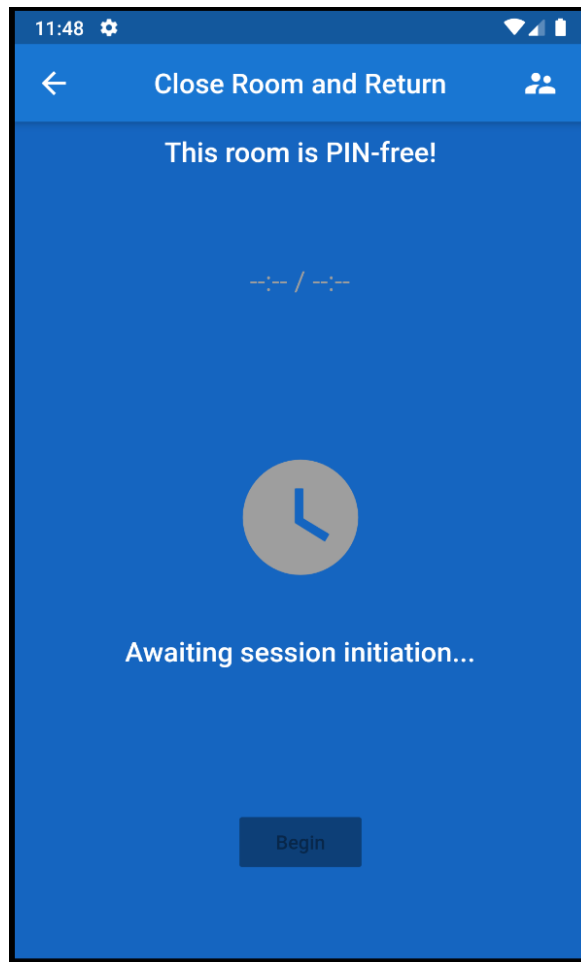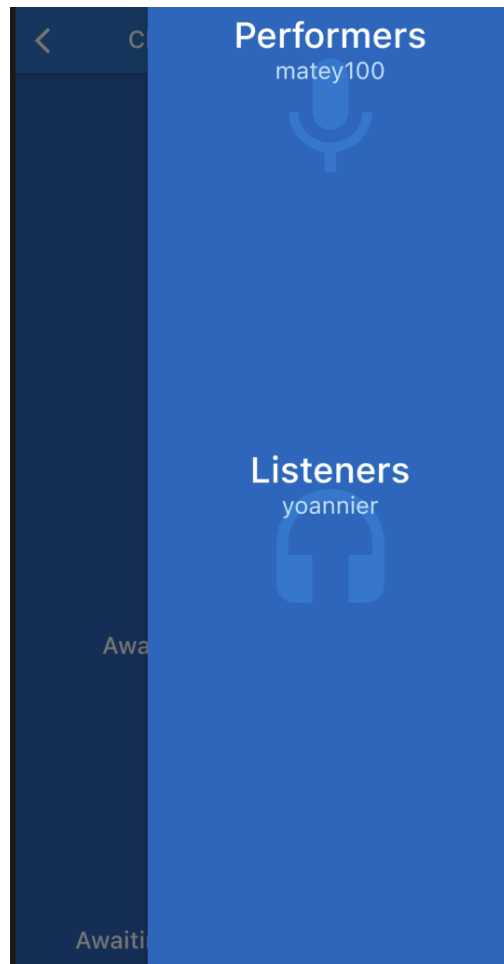
Room ready! All I'm missing is... some friends. :(

Cool! We've got a room nice and set up! So, what does it look like in other users' perspectives?
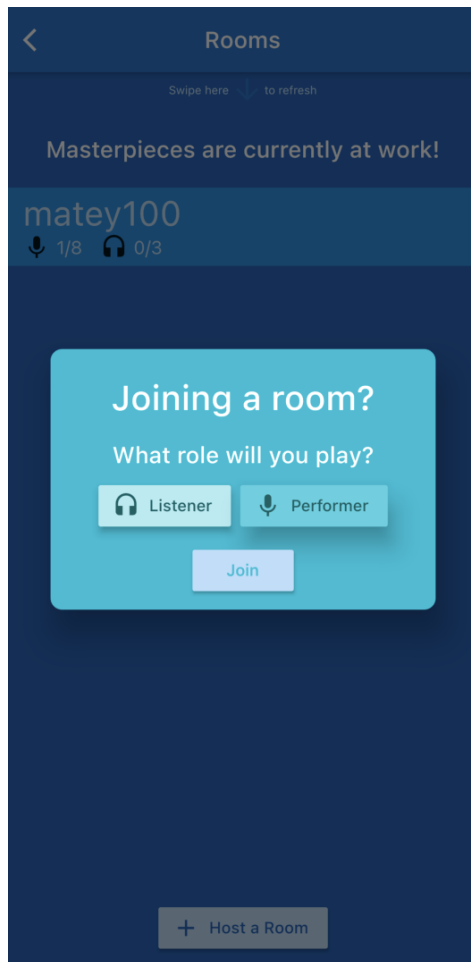
Is that a friend, I see?!

Yup! They'll enter the same room and everything! You can even check up on who has entered the room by clicking the "Participants" button on the top right, which updates in real time.

Like peas in a pod.

Great! Once you have at least 4 performers in your room (with a maximum of 8), that "Begin" button will be a nice bright color, ripe for clicking. Once you (the room host) select it, everyone will be prepped for beginning their performance. Rock away!
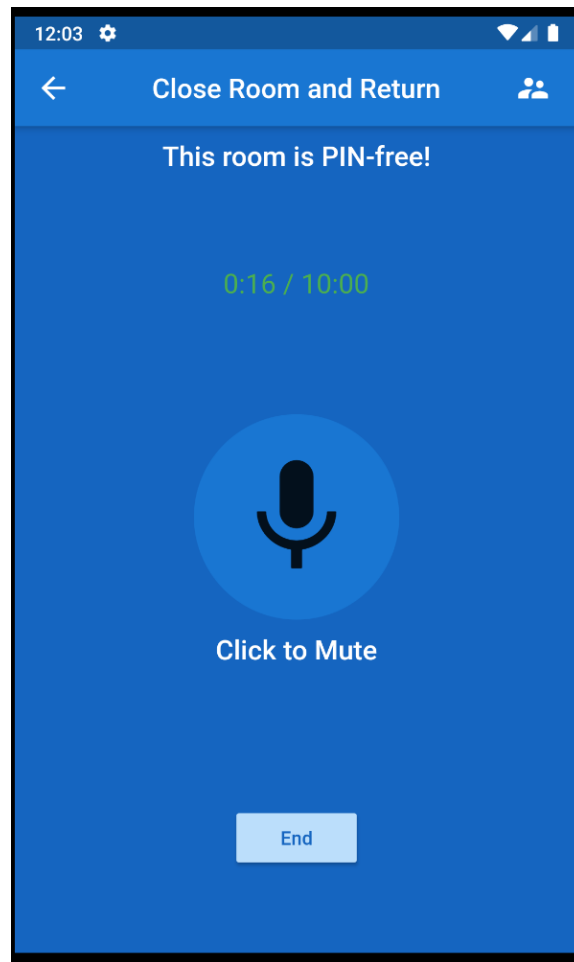
I think I'll stay unmuted during my performance, thanks...

(This image uses debug behavior. Normally, a session cannot be ended until at least 2 minutes have passed.)

And it begins! Every member of the room will be able to press their action button on the center if they feel the need to. Performers can mute themselves when under undesirable situations while Listeners can deafen their audio for a similar reason. Compositions will need to be at least 2 minutes, with a maximum of 10. Upon the passage of 2 minutes, a session can conclude, lighting up the "End" button and making way for the progression of the composition's identity. The creator of the room will be the composition's designated composer, being sent to a new screen upon completion for adding information to describe the composition better. The rest of the members will be greeted by a success message, instead.

Look at me, I'm a professional musician!

You're free to give this good old tune a name, some tags and a description to better flavor its identity, along with a setting as to whether you're fine with people publicly searching for this composition. Once you've gone and submitted it, you should be good to go! Nice job!

Umm, is This App Just for Joining Rooms?

It's the *fun* part, yes, but of course there's more to it than that! It almost makes you wonder why the tab bar on the initial screen had a magnifying glass on it! Remember those snippets of info about the composition you provided to "flavor its identity?" Well, now you can search for it based on some of these parameters! Plus, the composition's composer username and its performers' (non-guest!) usernames are also kept alongside it! You can search by those parameters, as well.
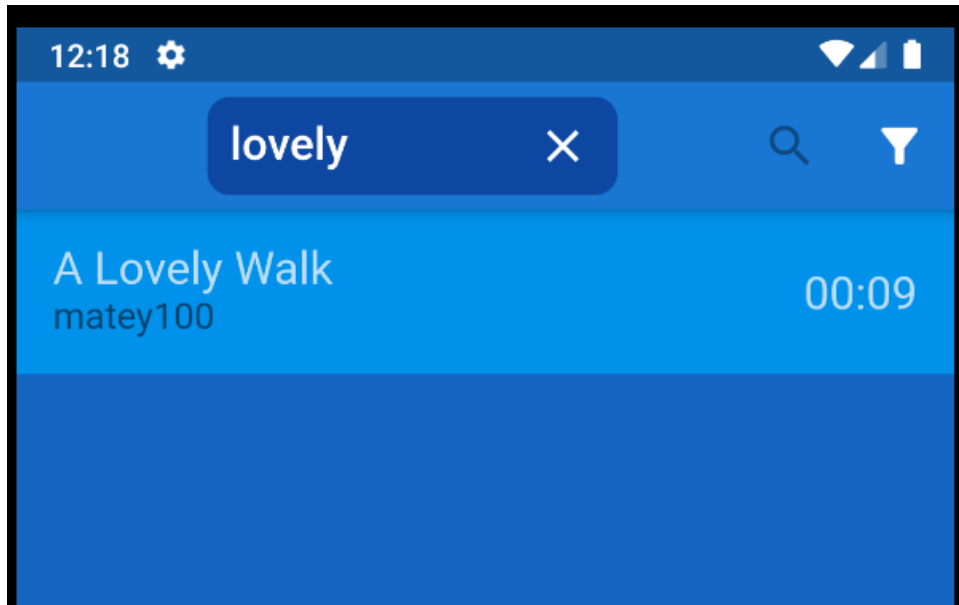
Thanks, it really WAS a lovely walk!

The Search screen and Library screen (which can be accessed from the Account screen, the "person-y" icon on the bottom-right of the app's dashboard) are both capable of making these searches. That little funnel icon on the right of the image above is how one can specify what kind of parameter they'd like to search by. Looking to listen to the composition? Just click its tile!
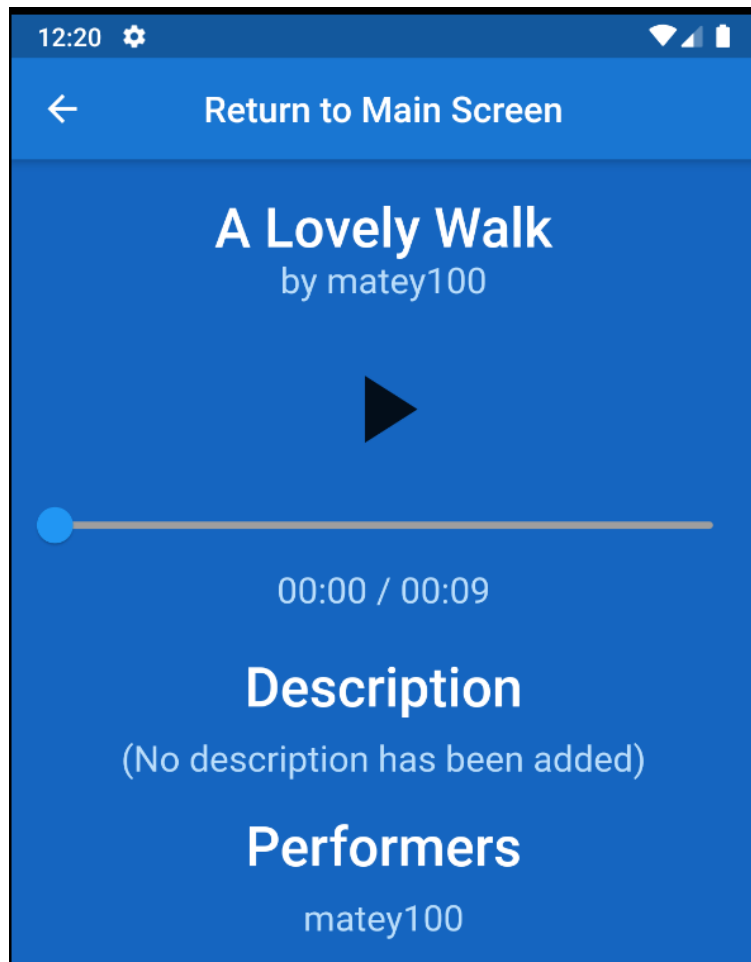
Now THIS is some fine music! No pop; just ambient!

Pretty simple, no? However, those footsteps… so complex with every step! The player will take a moment to load the audio before the "Play" button shows up. Once it does, go ahead and click; you'll listen to history in the making! Additionally, feel free to skip around the audio's entirety with the slider. But remember, we always enjoy our music best when listening from start to finish!

But What About MY Stuff?

Indeed! Odds are you have your own compositions that you've already gotten up and ready for action! Although you can search for them just fine via the Search screen, you may be interested in fine-tuning them instead. You'll want to navigate to the Library screen for that (found on the main dashboard, click the rightmost icon, which displays Account information).
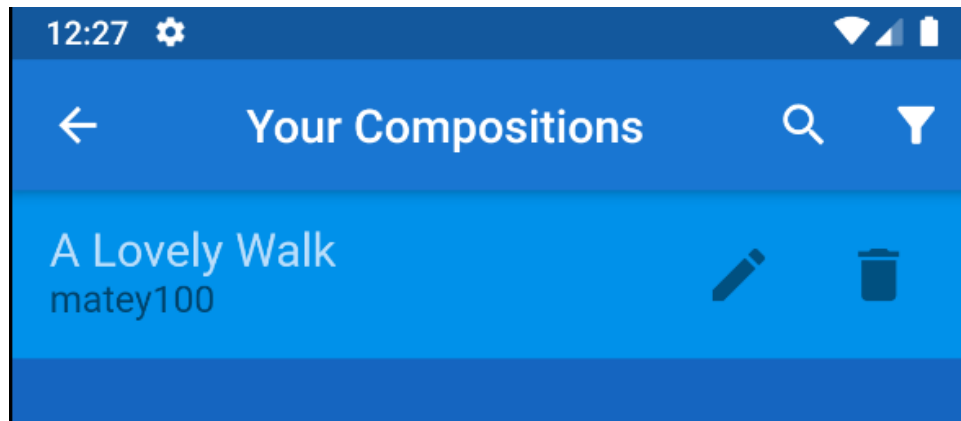
Wait, is that the famous "A Lovely Walk" made by matey100!?

The Library is inherently identical to the Search screen, but you can't search by composer (they're your OWN compositions, after all). However, you can now choose to modify the metadata of your composition or delete it outright. The choice is yours!

Awesome stuff! Thanks for reading!

I wonder what sorts of interesting compositions you'll end up coming up with!