

The Playlist of Your Memories

Yonsei summer break edition

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SUMMER IS the time for experiences—both big and small—and for some students, music serves as the backdrop to these daily experiences and memories. In order to find out which music influenced their time during the break, *The Yonsei Annals* interviewed some Yonseians, asking them to share their favorite songs they associate with this summer.

Gayatri Patel (Sr., UIC, Bio Convergence)

A song that I have been constantly listening to this summer is “Very, slowly” by BIBI which has been on repeat in my playlist for quite some time. I found out about it when I was binge-watching the K-drama *Twenty-five twenty-one* in July. “Very, slowly” is essentially about an individual that is expressing their joy of being with their loved one. One of my favorite lines is “all the times we have spent together helps me persevere.” This message has helped me realize that at times it is normal to become stressed due to uncontrollable circumstances and that it is essential for us to share our worries with those we love—after all, they are the ones that provide us with the motivation to continue “persevering” and moving forward despite the difficulties we may face along the way. Listening to this song on repeat this summer has allowed me to appreciate my family and friends more; in fact, I have been busy prioritizing family dinners and midsummer night walks with friends. By doing so, I have been able to share my worries with them, helping me grow into a more content and grounded individual over the break.

Kim Ye-won (Fresh., Department of Physics)

This summer, I have been listening to “ISLAND” by WINNER. I got into this song about 2 years ago when I came across a scene from a TV show called *Youth Over Flower*, where members of WINNER had this playing in the background while driving along a beautiful coastal road in Australia.

I personally think that “ISLAND” matches perfectly with the summer weather since it is a song about taking the time to rest in the midst of our busy lives. A particularly memorable lyric from this song is: “I’ll save you from the prison of gray buildings. Just rest on the sand under the blue sky.” Even though I was not able to drive along a sunny coast, I was motivated by this song to go enjoy the outdoors more often rather than staying inside my room working all day. In fact, I decided to sign up for a summer outreach camp! The highlight of my time at camp was when, just like the lyrics, I got to lie down on the sand with my friends and marvel at the sky full of stars while listening to this song on repeat.



Alexis Josephine Ogle (Sr., UIC, International Studies)

Recently, Girl’s Generation’s (SNSD) 15th anniversary comeback song, “Forever 1” has been on all of my playlists. I was a huge fan of K-pop and SNSD even before moving to Korea in 2019. As a teenager, I loved to dance to SNSD’s songs because they had the perfect mix of upbeat tunes and soulful lyrics. With that being said, my favorite song this summer would definitely be “Forever 1” by SNSD, simply because it gave me one of the biggest opportunities in my career that I was looking for. I have always dreamt of working as a K-pop dancer or choreographer, and “Forever 1” provided me with the chance to work with the SNSD members as their backup performer.

SNSD’s “Forever 1” is about living in the moment and celebrating with your loved ones. There is a line from the song when SNSD’s Seo-hyun sings about the present moment being the one that matters the most. I feel like this lyric taught me to fully appreciate the best memory of my summer when I got to appear in a K-pop music video. Instead of constantly worrying and calculating about what career opportunity would come next, I was able to fully celebrate my

Lee Eun-won (Soph., Dept. of Chinese Language & Lit.)

Recently, I have been listening to Green Day’s song, “21 Guns.” Green Day was popular during the 1990s, so they might sound a little old-fashioned, but their philosophical perspective on society makes their song richer with meaning that cannot usually be found in mainstream music.

“21 Guns” is about a lonely man walking down an empty street where he gradually overcomes the hardships in his life. Listening to “21 Guns,” recharges me by giving me the hope of persevering through difficult times. I have been doing a part-time job in a convenience store this summer. I usually do a night shift at my workplace, and it is both physically and mentally draining. Dealing with customers and having to do repetitive tasks can quickly get exhausting. However, even though I worked late hours during the humid evenings of the summer, Green Day’s upbeat tunes and hopeful message enabled me to push

Lee Da-yoon (Soph., Dept. of Mechanical Engineering)

My go-to summer band is Lime Cordiale, and their song that describes my summer this year is “Addicted To The Sunshine.” Summertime in Korea is quite exhausting for me because of the hot climate and humidity. However, whenever I play their music, it is like I am on a breezy beach with a drink in one hand, spending some time with my friends. It helps me romanticize summer.

Additionally, there is this line in “Addicted to the Sunshine” where he goes, “We wait for the sunset, for the day to die, And beauty is leaving with a bloody sky.” Their message is that people overthink so much about the future that they forget to enjoy the present. So as summer started, I started wondering whether I was wasting my time overthinking when I could be creating great memories. Once that thought hit me, I finally gathered the courage to stop worrying about what others might think of me and started putting on outfits I was too insecure to wear out in public. I also took pottery classes and tried hiking for the first time—activities that were always pushed to the side because I believed there were more



Lee So-mi (Jr., Dept. of History and Dept. of English Language & Lit.)

I have been constantly listening to “Isolation” by a DJ group called Planet Shiver. With “Isolation,” the DJs wanted to convey a feeling of alienation between superficial relationships. It fills me with a strange sense of nostalgia, so I often go on walks alone with this song on repeat, as it sets the perfect mood for solitary contemplation. My favorite lyric from this song is “my unfinished words have nowhere to go.” The lines just seem so poetic because they perfectly sum up the state of being content with loneliness.

Because I have been participating in the summer exchange program, I have been in London for the summer break. Since it is my first time in London and I do not know many people here, I do sometimes catch myself feeling lonely. “Isolation” has really helped me to be comfortable with my own company especially when I explore the city on solo walks in the summer. I would even go as far as to say that it has given me the motivation to try new things that I would