

## The Voice of the Dodgers

This article was requested by one of you guys, so thank you.

If you've had the privilege to go to a Dodger game, the sounds are uncanny: the roars from the fans, the walk up music for each player, the boos for the opposing team, and Dieter Ruehle on the organ. On a side note, if you don't know who Dieter Ruehle is, he's the hilarious organist for the Dodgers who's one of the biggest trolls you'll ever see.

<blockquote class="twitter-tweet"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">Here's a montage of five (!) ocean-themed songs Dodgers organist <a href="https://twitter.com/DieterRuehle?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">@DieterRuehle</a> played for Madison Bumgarner and Max Muncy tonight 🎵🎹🎷 <a href="https://t.co/isJoOIBBCV">pic.twitter.com/isJoOIBBCV</a></p>&mdash; Organist Alert (@organistalert) <a href="https://twitter.com/organistalert/status/1141967625087590400?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">June 21, 2019</a></blockquote> <script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>

After [Max Muncy](#) hit a homer to the Bay against [Madison Bumgardner](#), Ruehle played 5 ocean songs (*Under the Sea*, *The Dock of the Bay*, *Smoke on the Water*, *Cake by the Ocean*, and *The Ocean*) when Bumgardner pitched in LA. Oh, and he also added this sound effect for the game.

<blockquote class="twitter-tweet"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">Splash cued up for tonight! 🌊🎹🎷 <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/GoGetItOutOfTheOcean?src=hash&ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#GoGetItOutOfTheOcean</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/LABleedsBlue?src=hash&ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#LABleedsBlue</a> <a href="https://t.co/jqvLtVbQyY">pic.twitter.com/jqvLtVbQyY</a></p>&mdash; Dieter Ruehle (@DieterRuehle) <a href="https://twitter.com/DieterRuehle/status/1141860168772116486?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">June 21, 2019</a></blockquote> <script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>

Anyways, if you don't have the luxury to view these games in person, you've probably watched the games on TV or over the internet. That also means you're spending the rest of the game listening to whoever the commentators are.

Commentators are what bring the life of the game right to your living room/bedroom. They add a depth to the game that even people who are at the game don't get to experience. When I think of some of the best commentators in baseball, I think of Harry Caray, Vin Scully, Joe Davis, and Matt Vasgersian. But what makes a baseball commentator great? Each of the men I've listed bring their own flair to the game, making each of them unique. In my opinion, it's the passion and genuine love for the game that allows us, the viewers, to feel as if what we're watching right now isn't just a game, but a moment in history.

Allow me to explain by using a terrible example. October 10, 2011. The Detroit Tigers and Texas Rangers are tied 3-3 in the 11th inning of the ALCS. The Rangers have a 1-0 series lead, but Detroit has the chance to tie up the series and have home field advantage for the next 3 games. [Ryan Perry](#) loaded the bases, and has a 1-2 count against [Nelson Cruz](#). This is what happened next.

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With that swing, Nelson Cruz became the first player in MLB history to hit a walk off grand slam in the postseason... and Joe Buck sounds like he's falling asleep. Absolutely boring. If I were listening to this on the radio, I would never have believed a walkoff happened, let alone a WALK OFF GRAND SLAM, something that has a less than 0.1% of happening. As Dodger fans, however, heaven and earth has blessed us with the best commentator in our lifetime: the honorable Vin Scully.

If you don't know Vin Scully, you don't know Dodger Baseball. Vin has been THE voice of the Dodgers since 1950 when the Dodgers were still in Brooklyn. He was the voice that saw [Jackie Robinson](#) win the World Series in 55, announced the craze of Fernandomania ([Fernando Valenzuela](#)), and several other moments of history in his 67 years of commentating. While he wasn't vocal or energetic, Vin has a soft, gentleness to his voice that made it seem like he was there in your house telling you stories of the Dodgers AND the game that was happening at that moment. He was seriously like a second grandpa for me.

### My Favorite Vin Scully Moments

These 3 clips aren't based on "what" he called, but instead encapsulates who he was as a broadcaster.

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What I love about this clip, aside from one of the most iconic moments in sports history, is Vin Scully. He does his usual play by play, but once he sees that ball fly off the bat into left field, he does something that's a bit strange: he stays quiet. No comments, no unnecessary facts about the game, just silence. Instead, he lets the cheers from the crowd explain exactly what had just happened. Vin had just seen an injured [Kirk Gibson](#), who wasn't supposed to play at all, hit a walkoff homerun off the greatest closer at the time [Dennis Eckersly](#) on a full count in the World Series. No words can ever match this historic moment. And when he does speak, it captures exactly how we feel.

"In a year that has been so improbable, the *impossible* has happened!"  
Hearing it still sends chills down my spine.

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Instead of a baseball clip, I chose Vin speaking to fans after the events of 9/11 because he showed me just how much baseball means not as a sport, but as a way of life. In this one minute speech, he addresses the emotions the country had just experienced, whether that be fear, anger, or sadness. And while he empathizes with those in pain, he also encourages us to continue living our lives and to continue with baseball. Vin Scully showed me that baseball isn't just a fun sport, but it's a symbol of hope that everything is ok; that when things are uncertain in life, baseball is still there (which is why it hurts so much right now). Baseball is America's pastime. As a pastime, it's goal is to pull the viewer away from the perilous world we live in and, for a moment, be taken away where the only thing that matters is what happens on the field.

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In every game, no matter whether the Dodgers were winning or losing, Vin showed that baseball was about having fun. He would always have a fun story, an interesting fact about a player, or just make fun of them in the middle of the game (like when [Scott Van Slyke](#) had his [shoe on fire](#)). While he treated the intense moments of the game with respect, he also showed that it's ok to laugh because that's what the game was for! Austin wrote why baseball is fun to watch, but the commentators add a totally different aspect of fun to the game, and Vin Scully was a league above the rest.

#### Final Thoughts

I could've gone on and on about how much I treasure Vin Scully, but Austin doesn't like it when I ramble on and on (like in my [Clayton Kershaw analysis](#)). In short, Vin is as important to baseball as some of the hall of famers themselves. I would argue he was the face of the Dodgers more than the players. While players come and go, Vin has always been there for generations and generations! That's also a reason why I was so upset when the Astros cheated, because that could've been the last LA World Series championship in Vin's lifetime (knock on wood). Nothing but love and respect for you Vin, hope you recover well and come out to more Dodger games.

EDIT: Congrats to Vin Scully for being named [the biggest sports icon in LA history](#)!

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