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The ten music (and not only) items I love, in random order:

1- Raindogs:

No need to spend time talking about how huge Mr. Waits is. We all know that.

What I love about his music in general and Raindogs in particular is simply this: I can listen to it every day, 2 or 3 times a day (and I have done it!) and every time something new grabs my attention. In other words: his music is full of surprises and never boring.

2- Hammel On Trial:

Another one who is the exact opposite of boring. He is outrageous, unpredictable and inappropriate. Ed Hammel is a recent discovery (a couple of years ago).

Hammer on Trial makes you laugh, makes you cry, makes you wanna scream "Fuck it!" at the top of your lungs.

This is just a little taste of it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY_zISuMxv0

3- Mozart's requiem:

There's nothing more beautiful and tortured than Amadeus' Requiem in D minor. He died in the middle of it, he didn't finish it. He died broke, disparaged, alone. This music is hell and heaven at the same time. And of course, there's a very fine movie.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b2pyEvp8ls>

4- Bach - Cello Suite:

If Mozart's music is like a disturbing mask that smiles at me mysteriously and sardonically, leaving me unsettled and uneasy, Bach's is like a divine hug that uplifts my spirit and soothes my soul.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGQLXRTI3Z0>

5- The Legend of 1900:

This is my favorite book, originally in Italian but translated into English and other languages and also turned into a delightful movie starring Tim Roth. It's super inspiring and makes you think about your place in this world.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Legend_of_1900

6- “The KKK took my baby away”:

Not much to say either than: all through high school and college. Played super loud. Dancing and jumping and “mosching”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx0zeMbLOCY>

7- “Live in Central Park”:

I was 8 when I found the cassette tape at home. It belonged to my father I think.

I wore it out. I listened to it so many times I learnt every detail of it, from the things Paul Simon says, to the order he introduces his musicians...

8- “Picacho Peak”:

Howe Gelb is a great writer, pianist and guitar player. He is also out of his mind and that’s why I love him.

I am lucky enough to have his phone number and to be able to call him every now and again and embark on delirious conversations.

He inspired me and advised me while I was making my new record. I was lucky enough to have him play piano and sing on it.

Listen to this while driving home at night:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArWvuiQMJC0>

9- Neil Young:

That’s another one I found among my dad’s vinyls.

When I was a little girl I could NOT stand his voice. “The old lady, shrill and out of tune” that’s how I used to regard him.

Then, one day, I was 15 years old and I fell in love. I don’t know why, don’t know how. But since then Neil Young is like “home” to me.

10- Nina Simone:

I just realized that there are no women in my list. She is the only one.

Because....She has bigger balls than all of these gentlemen together!

She was real. She was brave. She was wounded. She was misunderstood. She was alone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MK0B9FXU72A>

