

Human Rights and Music HRTS 500

The creation of the *Human Rights and Music* playlist stemmed from a desire to explore how music serves as a powerful medium for social commentary, activism, and cultural resilience across diverse global contexts. In a world where oppression, conflict, and inequality are common, music has consistently played a pivotal role in reflecting struggles, hopes, and calls for change. This playlist, featuring songs from the United States, Latin America, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Russia, aims to provide listeners with a deep sense of how artists have used their voices to confront injustice and inspire solidarity.

Each region in the playlist offers a unique perspective, highlighting specific themes. In the United States, the tradition of protest songs traces back to the civil rights movement, with tracks like *Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On"* calling for love and understanding amidst racial and social turmoil. Meanwhile, in Latin America, songs often reflect the painful history of colonization and dictatorship, such as *Rebeca Lane's "Ni Una Menos"*, an anthem against gender-based violence, and *León Gieco's "Solo le pido a Dios,"* emphasizing the need for justice and perseverance against injustice.

The playlist also includes music that addresses more recent conflicts in Ukraine and Myanmar, where songs have become urgent outlets for expressing resilience and defiance. Ukrainian songs like *Andriy Khlyvnyuk's rendition of "Oy U Luzi Chervona Kalyna"* and *Okean Elzy's "Misto Marii"* serve as tributes to those fighting against Russian aggression, evoking national pride and the hope for a peaceful future. In Myanmar, songs such as *"Arnarshin Sanit Asoné That Ya Myee"* by Generation Z MM rally the youth to resist the military junta, capturing the determination of a nation striving for democracy and freedom.

This project aimed to compile these diverse voices into a single, cohesive playlist, offering listeners an emotional journey through the themes of resistance, hope, and the quest for human rights. The selected tracks reflect not only the struggles faced by the people of each region but also their undying hope for change and justice. Each piece serves as a testament to the power of music to galvanize movements, memorialize pain, and celebrate the resilience of the human spirit.

By engaging with this playlist, listeners are invited to connect with the stories and emotions of those fighting for a better world. It offers a chance to appreciate how artists have used their creativity as a tool for resistance and how their messages continue to inspire and uplift those who challenge injustice. Through this collection, listeners can gain a deeper understanding of the universal desire for dignity, freedom, and peace that music so powerfully communicates.


English/United States

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the “right to peaceful assembly”. As a result, the United States has a long history of using music in civil rights protests and as a form of protest. This is especially true when trying to insight change (or revolution) over issues like racism, gender inequality, and war.


Link to Spotify playlist-

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3LWPYBumMCdQzzGYMFdGUz?si=xloidr1sQOie8rwApJIfUA>


1. “No More” Disturbed

- a. *Theme: Protests war for profit*
- b. *No More was released in 2018, during what seemed like a never-ending military involvement in the Middle East. At the time it seemed like military contractors and their investors were promoting “The War on Terror” as a way to profit off of death.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
“Once again we hear them calling for war
It doesn't matter what they're fighting for
They light the match and watch the whole world burst into flame
The story's always the same
So tell me, people, are you ready to kill?
Behold the propaganda, get your fill
A distant enemy is threatening our freedom again
How much would you like to spend?”
- d.  [Disturbed - No More \[Official Lyrics Video\]](#)

2. “Wretches and Kings” Linkin Park

- a. *Theme: Revolution*
- b. *2010's Wretches and Kings begins with a sample from Mario Savio's Body Upon the Gears speech. It is about a government that has become abusive to its people and it calls for the people to take back the power.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
“We, the animals, take control
Hear us now, clear and true
Wretches and kings, we come for you”
- d.  [Wretches and Kings](#)

3. “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” Gil Scott-Heron

- a. *Theme: Revolution*
- b. *Written in slam poetry style, The Revolution Will Not Be Televised lists things commonly seen on 1970s TV. The message is very clear, if you want change you have to make change, it is not in front of your television.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
“The revolution will not be televised, will not be televised
Will not be televised, will not be televised
The revolution will be no re-run, brothers
The revolution will be live”
- d.  [The Revolution Will Not Be Televised](#)

4. “For What It's Worth” Buffalo Springfield

- a. *Theme: Protest Song*

- b. *A 1960s folk song that was inspired by the clashes that took place between law enforcement and young demonstrators. It encourages people to listen and pay attention to what is happening around them.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“There's battle lines being drawn
 Nobody's right if everybody's wrong
 Young people speaking their minds
 Getting so much resistance from behind”*
- d. [▶ Buffalo Springfield - For What It's Worth | Lyrics](#)

5. “What’s Going On” Marvin Gaye

- a. *Theme: Protests against racism, sexism, war, and more*
- b. *This standard civil and human rights protest was inspired by an act of police brutality. It calls for less hate and violence in society and more peace and love.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“Picket lines and picket signs
 Don't punish me with brutality
 Talk to me
 So you can see
 Oh, what's going on (What's going on)
 What's going on (What's going on)
 What's going on (What's going on)
 What's going on (What's going on)”*
- d. [▶ Marvin Gaye - What's Going On \(Lyric Video\)](#)

6. “Strange Fruit” Billie Holliday

- a. *Theme: Protests against racial violence*
- b. *Strange Fruit is a graphic depiction of the lynching of African Americans in the early 20th century. At the time Racial violence was something the country at large wanted to ignore.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“Southern trees bear strange fruit
 Blood on the leaves and blood at the root”*
- d. [▶ Billie Holiday-Strange fruit- HD](#)


7. “A Change Is Gonna Come” Sam Cooke

- a. *Theme: Hope during hard times*
- b. *Written during Jim Crow segregation A Change is Gonna Come is about hope when the visible world is telling you “You aren’t welcome here”*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“There’ve been times that I thought I couldn’t last for long
 But now I think I’m able to carry on
 It’s been a long, a long time comin’,
 But I know, oh-oo-oh, a change gonna come, oh yes, it will.”*
- d. [▶ Sam Cooke - A Change Is Gonna Come \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)


8. “The Times They Are A-Changin” Bob Dylan

- a. *Call to action*
- b. *The Times They Are A-Changin was written during a time of huge political, civil, technological, and social change. The Atomic age had begun and we were in a race to the moon. There were people that social and civil advancement was unnecessary. Dylan was telling them to get out of the way.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
“Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block up the hall
For he that gets hurt
Will be he who has stalled
The battle outside ragin'
Will soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin'”
- d. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ-u-NUKtjU>


9. “Where is the Love” Black Eyed Peas

- a. *Theme: Anti-Discrimination*
- b. *Written in the wake of 9/11 Where is the Love was intended to show the hypocrisy of discrimination and call for tolerance in the wake of fear.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
“But if you only have love for your own race
Then you only leave space to discriminate
And to discriminate only generates hate
And when you hate, then you're bound to get irate, yeah”
- d.  *The Black Eyed Peas - Where Is The Love? (Official Music Video)*


10. “Killing in the Name of” Rage Against the Machine

- a. *Protests Racial Discrimination and police brutality*
- b. *Killing in the Name of was written in response to the beating of Rodney King in 1991 and the subsequent Los Angeles riots in 1992.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
“Those who died are justified
For wearin' the badge, they're the chosen whites
You justify those that died
By wearin' the badge, they're the chosen whites
Those who died are justified
For wearin' the badge, they're the chosen whites
You justify those that died
By wearing the badge, they're the chosen whites”
- d.  *Rage Against The Machine - Killing In the Name (Official HD Video)*

11. “War (What is it good for)” Edwin Starr

- a. *Anti-War*
- b. *War was a Vietnam-era anti-war song originally sung by the Temptations before being rerecorded by Starr. Its message is very clear, war begets death and more war.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
"I said, war, huh (good God, y'all)
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing, just say it again
War (whoa), huh (oh Lord)
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing, listen to me"
- d.  *Edwin Starr - War (What is it good for) + Lyrics HQ!!*

12. "This is America" Childish Gambino

- a. *Theme: Protesting Gun violence and racism*
- b. *This is America is calling attention to the systemic racism that still pervades many of our institutions and demands action on the larger issue of gun violence that has reached epidemic proportions in recent years.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
"This is America (skrrt, skrrt, woo)
Don't catch you slippin' now (ayy)
Look at how I'm livin' now
Police be trippin' now (woo)
Yeah, this is America (woo, ayy)
Guns in my area (word, my area)
I got the strap (ayy, ayy)
I gotta carry 'em
Yeah, yeah, I'ma go into this (ugh)
Yeah, yeah, this is guerilla, woo
Yeah, yeah, I'ma go get the bag
Yeah, yeah, or I'ma get the pad
Yeah, yeah, I'm so cold like yeah (yeah)
I'm so dope like yeah (woo)
We gon' blow like yeah (straight up, uh)"
- d.  *Childish Gambino - This Is America (Official Video)*

13. "Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos)" Woody Guthrie

- a. *Theme: Immigrant rights and migrant workers*
- b. *In 1948 a plane carrying 28 migrant workers back to Mexico crashed in Los Gatos Canyon. New coverage of the tragedy only listed them as "Deportees".*
- c. *Lyrics:*
"Some of us are illegal and others not wanted
Our work contract's out and we have to move on
Six hundred miles to the Mexican border
They chase us like rustlers, like outlaws, like thieves"

d. [▶ Deportee \(Plane Wreck at Los Gatos\)](#)

14. “Born This Way” Lady Gaga

a. Theme: LGBTQ+ Rights

b. *Born This Way* has an overall message about loving who you are and not changing for other people. Unlike other songs, it specifically calls for people having the right to love who they love.

c. Lyrics:

“No matter gay, straight, or bi

Lesbian, transgender life

I’m on the right track, baby

I was born to survive

No matter black, white, or beige

Chola or Orient made

I’m on the right track, baby

I was born to be brave!

I’m beautiful in my way

’Cause God makes no mistakes (’Cause God makes no mistakes)

I’m on the right track, baby (Right track, baby)

I was born this way (Born this way)

Don’t hide yourself in regret

Just love yourself and you’re set (Love yourself and you’re set)

I’m on the right track, baby (Right track, baby)

I was born this way, yeah”

d. [▶ Lady Gaga - Born This Way \(Official Music Video\)](#)

15. “Respect” Aretha Franklin

a. Theme: Female empowerment and women’s rights

b. Aretha Franklin’s version of *Respect* is about a woman demanding her husband respect her as his equal.

c. Lyrics:

“Hey, what you want

(oo) Baby, I got

(oo) What you need

(oo) Do you know I got it?

(oo) All I’m askin’

(oo) Is for a little respect when you come home (just a little bit)

Hey baby (just a little bit) when you get home

(Just a little bit) mister (just a little bit)”

d. [▶ Aretha Franklin - Respect \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

Spanish/Central and South America

Areas of Central and South America have had a long history of colonization and dictatorship. Such oppression results in the loss of open protests and the exploitation of

vulnerable groups. As a result, some human rights songs are dedicated to the memory of these events and the human suffering they left behind.

Link to Spotify playlist-

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7rKOpKnlIToAIKS6O5XJyE?si=S4ng73zuQoyYy_tQYA1lsA

1. “El Grito de la Tierra” [The Cry of the Earth] Tierra Santa

- a. Theme: Indigenous people's land rights
- b. The Cry of the Earth is a depiction of the damage done to Indigenous people's land during colonization and how that damage is passed down through time.
- c. Lyrics:


<p><i>Allí Donde un sueño existió Donde la vida floreció Solo se escucha el dolor El llanto amargo de un dios Y el grito de la tierra</i></p>	<p><i>There Where a dream existed Where life flourished Only pain is heard The bitter cry of a god And the cry of the earth</i></p>
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- d.  [El Grito De La Tierra](#)

2. “Solo le pido a Dios” [I Only Ask God] León Gieco

- a. Theme: Call to Action and Justice
- b. I Only Ask God is a call to the listener that the maliciousness of the world can't make you numb, You have to keep trying to make it better.
- c. Lyrics:

<p><i>Solo le pido a Dios Que lo injusto no me sea indiferente Que no me abofeteen la otra mejilla Después de que una garra me arañó esta suerte</i></p>	<p><i>I only ask God That injustice is not indifferent to me That they do not slap me on the other cheek After a claw scratched me this fate</i></p>
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- d.  [León Gieco - Solo Le Pido A Dios](#)

3. “Niños De La Calle” [Street Children] Mercurio

- a. Theme: Calling attention to neglect and exploitation of street children
- b. Street Children is about homeless youth who fight just to survive, they are extremely vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.
- c. Lyrics:

<p><i>Niños de la calle que Sabén que el pan no cae de los arboles Peleando por sobrevivir Niños de la calle que Nunca encuentran los caminos fáciles En un mundo demasiado gris</i></p>	<p><i>Street children who know that bread doesn't fall from trees fighting to survive Street children who never find easy paths in a world that is too grey</i></p>
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d.  *Mercurio - Niños De La Calle (Video Oficial) Ft. Varios Artistas*

4. “Desapariciones” [Disappeared] Maná

- a. *Theme: Disappearances during military dictatorships*
- b. *The mass disappearances caused confusion and pain to the loved ones left behind, Disappeared is a memorization to those that are still missing and the families that have not had closure.*
- c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Busca en el agua y en los matorrales (¿Y por qué es que se desaparecen?) Porqué no todos somos iguales (¿Y cuándo vuelve el desaparecido?) Cada vez que lo trae el pensamiento (¿Cómo se le habla al desaparecido?) Con la emoción apretando por dentro</i>	<i>He searches in the water and in the bushes (And why do they disappear?) Because we are not all the same (And when does the missing person return?) Every time his thoughts bring him back (How do you speak to the missing person?) With emotion squeezing inside</i>
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d.  *Desapariciones (Unplugged)*

5. “500 Años” [500 years] Los Cogelones

- a. *Theme: Colonization and Oppression of Indigenous People of Central and South America*
- b. *500 years is a tribute to the Indigenous people of the Americas, the oppression and abuse that was suffered over centuries of colonization. It memorializes heritage while hoping for a better future.*
- c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Desde hace tiempo Me has vendido un sueño Me has contado una historia falsa Y me atormenta el pensar Que esto nunca va a cambiar Hay cosas en la vida Difícil de explicar La magia en el momento perfecto Eres el recuerdo que jamás quiero olvidar</i>	<i>For a long time now You've sold me a dream You've told me a false story And it torments me to think That this will never change There are things in life Difficult to explain Magic at the perfect moment You are the memory I never want to forget</i>
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d.  *500 AÑOS (video oficial) - Los CogeloNes*

6. “Ni Una Menos” [Not One Woman Less] Rebeca Lane

- a. *Theme: Protests Violence Against Women*
- b. *Not One Woman Less is a Latin American feminist movement aimed at ending violence against women and girls. Rebeca Lane has become a dominant voice in this movement and Ni Una Menos an anthem.*
- c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Quisiera tener cosas dulces que escribir</i> <i>Pero tengo que decidir y me decido por la rabia</i> <i>5 mujeres hoy han sido asesinadas</i> <i>Y a la hora por lo menos 20 mujeres violadas</i> <i>Eso que solo es un día en Guatemala</i> <i>Muúltiplicalo y sabrás porqué estamos enojadas</i></p>	<p><i>I would like to have sweet things to write</i> <i>But I have to decide and I decide on anger</i> <i>5 women have been murdered today</i> <i>And at least 20 women have been raped every hour</i> <i>That's just one day in Guatemala</i> <i>Multiply it and you'll know why we're angry</i></p>
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d.  **Ni una menos - Rebeca Lane (Video Oficial)**

7. **“Canción con todos” [Song with Everyone] Mercedes Sosa**

- a. *Theme: Calls for resilience and strength*
- b. *Sosa was outspoken in a time that was very dangerous to be outspoken, Song with Everyone was a call for unity against authoritarianism and to stand strong against what might seem like overwhelming odds.*
- c. *Lyrics:*


<p><i>Todas las voces todas, todas las manos todas</i> <i>Toda la sangre puede ser canción en el viento</i> <i>Canta conmigo, canta, hermano americano</i> <i>Libera tu esperanza con un grito en la voz</i></p>	<p><i>All voices all, all hands all</i> <i>All blood can be a song in the wind</i> <i>Sing with me, sing, American brother</i> <i>Release your hope with a cry in the voice</i></p>
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d.  **Canción Con Todos**

8. **“Techos de Cartón” [Cardboard Roof] Alí Primera**

- a. *Theme: Calls attention to poverty and living conditions in Venezuela*
- b. *Alí Primera sometimes known as the people's singer provides an emotional ballad about shanty towns and extreme poverty.*
- c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Que triste, se oye la lluvia</i> <i>En los techos de cartón</i> <i>Que triste vive mi gente</i> <i>En las casas de cartón</i> <i>Viene bajando el obrero</i> <i>Casi arrastrando los pasos</i> <i>Por el peso del sufrir</i> <i>Mira que es mucho el sufrir</i> <i>Mira que pesa el sufrir</i> <i>Arriba, deja la mujer preñada</i> <i>Abajo está la ciudad</i> <i>Y se pierde en su maraña</i> <i>Es su vida sin mañana</i></p>	<p><i>How sad, you can hear the rain</i> <i>On the cardboard roofs</i> <i>How sad my people live</i> <i>In the cardboard houses</i> <i>The worker comes down</i> <i>Almost dragging his steps</i> <i>Because of the weight of suffering</i> <i>Look how much suffering is</i> <i>Look how heavy the suffering</i> <i>Above, the pregnant woman leaves</i> <i>Below is the city</i> <i>And it gets lost in its tangle</i> <i>It's its life without tomorrow</i></p>
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d.  [Ali Primera - Techos de Carton](#)

9. “Los Niños De La Guerra” [Children of War] Sergio Dalma

a. Theme: Child Soldiers

b. Child Soldiers is human rights violation seen all over the world. Children of War is about the loss of innocence that children experience when they are expected to fight as soon as they can pick up a weapon.

c. Lyrics:

Que piensas si te digo,
si te cuento que no saben el por qué,
son ángeles que luchan,
que se entrenan al momento de
nacer.
Sus juegos son batallas,
sus deseos van en busca de la paz,
no cruzan las fronteras,
se atrincheran, desertores de la edad.

What do you think if I tell you,
if I tell you that they don't know why,
they are angels who fight,
who are trained from the moment they
are born.
Their games are battles,
their desires are in search of peace,
they don't cross borders,
they entrench themselves, deserters
of age.

d.  [Los Niños De La Guerra](#)

10. “Clandestino” [Clandestine] Manu Chao

a. Theme: Migrant rights

b. Migrants sometimes cross into other countries illegally looking for a better life than the one they left behind. This act of self-preservation makes them criminals in the eyes of the authorities. Without status, they have fewer rights and the rights they do have are often ignored. Chao tells the story of The Clandestine, trying to stay ahead of the law.

c. Lyrics:

Pa una ciudad del norte yo me fui a
trabajar
Mi vida la dejé entre Ceuta y Gibraltar
Soy una raya en el mar, fantasma en
la ciudad
Mi vida va prohibida, dice la autoridad
Solo voy con mi pena, sola va mi
condena
Correr es mi destino por no llevar
papel
Perdido en el corazón de la grande
Babylon
Me dicen "el clandestino", yo soy el
quiebra ley

I went to work in a northern city.
I left my life between Ceuta and
Gibraltar.
I am a line in the sea, a ghost in the
city.
My life is forbidden, says the authority.
I go alone with my pain, my sentence
goes alone
Running is my destiny for not carrying
papers
Lost in the heart of the great Babylon
They call me "the clandestine", I am
the lawbreaker

d.  [Manu Chao - Clandestino \(Official Audio\)](#)

11. “Los Dinosaurios” [The Dinosaurs] Charly García

a. Theme: Disappearances during Argentina’s military dictatorship

b. While remembering all the friends that have “disappeared”, García is hoping that the dinosaurs (the military) will be the ones to disappear next.

c. Lyrics:

<p><i>Los que están en el aire pueden desaparecer en el aire</i> <i>Los que están en la calle pueden desaparecer en la calle, bah</i> <i>Los amigos del barrio pueden desaparecer</i> <i>Pero los dinosaurios van a desaparecer</i></p>	<p><i>Those in the air can disappear into the air</i> <i>Those in the street can disappear into the street, bah</i> <i>Neighborhood friends can disappear</i> <i>But the dinosaurs are going to disappear</i></p>
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d.  Charly García - Los dinosaurios

12. “La Puerta Violeta” [The Violet Door] Rozalén

a. Theme: Domestic Violence and gender-based violence

b. Full of metaphors about monsters and bondage, The Violet Door calls for the abused to break free, society to support the victims, and to reject violence.

c. Lyrics:

<p><i>Una niña triste en el espejo me mira prudente y no quiere hablar</i> <i>Hay un monstruo gris en la cocina</i> <i>Que lo rompe todo</i> <i>Que no para de gritar</i></p>	<p><i>A sad girl in the mirror looks at me cautiously and doesn't want to talk</i> <i>There's a grey monster in the kitchen</i> <i>That breaks everything</i> <i>That doesn't stop screaming</i></p>
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d.  Rozalén - La Puerta Violeta

13. “El baile de los que sobran” [The Dance of Those who are Left Over] Los Prisioneros

a. Theme: Economic inequality

b. Los Prisioneros is calling attention to the stark differences between the haves and the have-nots. Those without means are often excluded from higher education and high-paying jobs.

c. Lyrics:

<p><i>Oías los consejos, los ojos en el profesor</i> <i>Había tanto sol sobre las cabezas</i> <i>Y no fue tan verdad, porque esos juegos, al final</i> <i>Terminaron para otros con laureles y futuros</i> <i>Y dejaron a mis amigos pateando piedras</i></p>	<p><i>You heard the advice, the eyes on the teacher</i> <i>There was so much sun above the heads</i> <i>And it wasn't so true, because those games, in the end</i> <i>Ended for others with laurels and futures</i> <i>And left my friends kicking stones</i></p>
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d.  El Baile de Los Que Sobran - Los Prisioneros


14. “Latinoamérica” [Latin America] Calle 13

a. Theme: Colonization and enduurance

b. *It is a song about colonization and dictatorships, the trauma they leave behind, and the will to rise back up and fight for justice and peace.*

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Soy, soy lo que dejaron Soy toda la sobra de lo que se robaron Un pueblo escondido en la cima Mi piel es de cuero, por eso aguanta cualquier clima</i></p>	<p><i>I am, I am what they left behind I am all the leftovers of what they stole A town hidden at the top My skin is made of leather, that's why it can withstand any climate</i></p>
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d.  **Calle 13 - Latinoamérica**

15. “Antipatriarca” [Antipatriarch] Ana Tijoux

a. *Theme: Womens liberation*

b. *Antipatriarch is a women's liberation song that calls for women to resist historical oppression. It is an anthem about autonomy, independence, and self-determination.*

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>No sumisa ni obediente Mujer fuerte insurgente Independiente y valiente Romper las cadenas de lo indiferente No pasiva ni oprimida Mujer linda que das vida Emancipada en autonomía Antipatriarca y alegría</i></p>	<p><i>Neither submissive nor obedient Strong insurgent woman Independent and brave Breaking the chains of indifference Neither passive nor oppressed Beautiful woman who gives life Emancipated in autonomy Antipatriarch and joy</i></p>
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d.  **Ana Tijoux - Antipatriarca (Official Music Video)**

Ukrainian

Music has consistently provided solace, strength, and an emotional outlet in the chaos of war, and perhaps no one understands this better than Ukrainians. The people of Ukraine have faced authoritarian pressures and conflicts for centuries, and their songs evoke resilience, solidarity, and national pride. The songs have deep historical and cultural roots, often inspired by Ukrainian traditional folklore. Each of these songs, in one way or another, has become a symbol of resistance against Russian aggression.

Link to Spotify playlist-

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/33iQOWJbgVAF1IZTOEiPXi?si=BNjv8ldUR-Cptqc7faREJA>

1. “Oy U Luzi Chervona Kalyna” [“Oh, in the Meadow, the Red Viburnum”]* Andriy Khlyvnyuk/Boombox

a. *Theme: Ukrainian Patriotism, National Resistance*

b. "Oh, in the Meadow, the Red Viburnum" is a 1914 pro-independence anthem of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, written by cultural figure Stepan Charnetsky. It is a patriotic song, that experienced a resurgence in popularity in 2022, following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Andriy Khlyvnyuk, the leader of the band "Boombox," performed it at St. Sophia Square which went viral, inspiring countless people to create covers and share them on social media, including Pink Floyd. The song is banned in Russian-occupied territories, where people have been fined or arrested for singing it.

c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Ой у лузі червона калина похилилася Чогось наша славна Україна зажурилася.</i>	<i>Oh, in the meadow red viburnum bent down For some reason, our glorious Ukraine is distressed.</i>
<i>Приспів (повторити два рази): А ми тую червону калину підіймемо, А ми нашу славну Україну, гей-гей, розвеселимо!</i>	<i>Chorus (repeat two times): But we will raise that red viburnum! And we will cheer our glorious Ukraine up, hey-hey!</i>
<i>Марширують наші добровольці у кривавий тан, Визволяти братів-українців з московських кайдан.</i>	<i>Marching forward, our fellow Volunteers, into a bloody fray, To free our brother Ukrainians from Moscow shackles.</i>

d.  **Хливнюк & The Kiffness - Ой у лузі червона калина**

e. **Pink Floyd's version:**

 **Pink Floyd - Hey Hey Rise Up (feat. Andriy Khlyvnyuk of Boombox)**

2. “Enemy” Angie Kreida

a. *Theme: Ukrainian Incantation Against Russian Invaders*

b. In May 2022, the band Angie Kreida released the song "Enemy" based on the lyrics by Lyudmyla Horova, who shared the poem on Facebook. The song uses lines with magical motifs from ancient Ukrainian incantations.

c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Сію тобі в очі, Сію проти ночі. Буде тобі, враже, Так, як Відьма скаже. Скільки в святу землю</i>	<i>Sowing in thine eye, Sowing in the night. Thou shall get, my foe, By the Witch's word.</i>
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<p><i>Впало зерен жита - Стільки разів буде Тебе, враже вбито. Скільки, враже, півень Вночі кукуріка - Стільки днів у тебе Доживати віка. Богові - Боже.</i></p>	<p><i>How many rye seeds Went to holy soil, Just as many times, foe, Shall thou be destroyed.</i></p> <p><i>How many cries, foe, Rooster gives at night, That shall be the count, foe, Of days until thou die.</i></p>
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d.  **Енджі Крейда - Враже (Офіційний Видноград)**

3. “Місто Марії” [“City of Mary”] Okean Elzy

a. *Theme: Russian Invasion*

b. The legendary Ukrainian rock band Okean Elzy recorded the song, "City of Mary," on April 21, 2022, dedicating it to the heroic defenders of Mariupol. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, the band's frontman, Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, joined the ranks of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and was given a special mission by the Lviv Regional Military Administration — to travel across Ukraine, providing support and inspiration to soldiers, volunteers, and ordinary people.

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>І корабельні гармати Вони не зламують мою мрію Моє серце ніколи не зрадить віри Витримає вік Праведний Маріуполь Доки над гордим Азовом Сонце сходить</i></p> <p><i>Поки сонце зійде над вільним Азовом Поки сонце сходить над нашим Азовом</i></p>	<p><i>And ship guns They will not break my dream My heart will never betray faith Will stand to age The righteous Mariupol Docks over the proud Azov The sun rises</i></p> <p><i>As long as the sun rises over the free Azov As long as the sun rises over our Azov</i></p>
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d.  **Океан Ельзи - Місто Марії | audio Okean Elzy - Misto Marii**

4. “Lenta za Lentoyu” (Лента за лентою) [Tap by Tap] U PA Reble Song


a. *Theme: Defiance of invading armies/Reality of war*

b. This song serves as a tribute to those who fight with a spirit of defiance and hope in war, paying the ultimate price of war. This song tells the story of a young machine gunner who courageously fights (the chorus urges Ukrainian fighters not to retreat, even in the face of danger), but becomes wounded. A nurse who tends to him recognizes him, highlighting how war affects loved ones and sacrifices the youth. The song ends with machine-gun firing again, symbolizing the relentless

nature of conflict. From the perspective of Ukrainian rebels, this song captures the harsh reality of battle and the personal cost of war.

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>До нього санітарка поспішно іде, В обличчя вдивляєсь, його пізнає.</i></p> <p><i>Ах, лента за лентою – набої подавай, Український повстанче, в бою не відступай!</i></p> <p><i>Ах, лента за лентою – набої подавай, Український повстанче, в бою не відступай!</i></p> <p><i>Він в неї вдивляєсь, пече в грудях рана, Біля кулемета дівчина молода.</i></p>	<p><i>A nurse hurries to him, Looking in the face, she recognizes him</i></p> <p><i>Belt after belt – you give me the cartridges, Ukrainian rebel, do not retreat in a battle!</i></p> <p><i>Belt after belt – you give me the cartridges, Ukrainian rebel, do not retreat in a battle!</i></p> <p><i>He stares on her, the wound in the breast burns, A young girl is near a machine-gun.</i></p>
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d.  *Лента За Лентою*

5. “Як ти?” [“How Are You?”] THE HARDKISS


a. *Theme: Russian Invasion*

b. The song, recorded in April 2022, resonated deeply with Ukrainians after the Russian full-scale invasion. Julia Sanina, the frontwoman of THE HARDKISS, said, “Our love, care, experience, and fear are all combined in this phrase...I was overwhelmed with hatred and anger. And then I decided that I could not experience these emotions in any other way, I needed to yell about this pain. I feel that songs of gratitude and admiration for our nation in the fight against the Russian occupiers remain to be written. Songs about love, about hope... But for now – “How are you?”. All proceeds from streaming this track were directed towards humanitarian aid in response to Russia’s military invasion, and THE HARDKISS has been actively touring Europe, raising funds for the Ukrainian Armed Forces, and providing humanitarian support for displaced people.

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Боже, залиш мені трохи сили. Мій холодний розум затоплює люті злива. Я не просила, Не просила "рятувати" мене кулями. Той, хто прийшов, проросте тут</i></p>	<p><i>God, leave me a little bit of strength. My cold mind is being flooded by the heavy rain of rage. I did not ask, Did not ask to "rescue" me by bullets. The ones who came here will sprout here</i></p>
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<p><i>Травою отруйною. Поміняли мрії на приціл. Я тримаю твою руку в своїй руйною. Поміняли мрії на приціл. Я тримаю твою руку в своїй руці. Наші сльози на першій шпальті, А я знову питаю</i></p>	<p><i>As a poisonous herb. [We] exchanged the dreams for a scope. I'm holding your hand in mine, Our tears are on the front page. And I'm asking again</i></p>
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d.  **THE HARDKISS - Як ти? (official video) #StandWithUkraine**

6. “АЗОВ-СТАЛЬ” [Azov Steel] Kozak System

- a. *Theme: Russian Invasion, Honor*
- b. This song was written in dedication to the fearless defenders of Mariupol in May 2022. Serhiy Solovyi, the band’s trumpeter, wrote the song in half an hour following a charity concert in Lviv, saying, “At this time, the heart stops and bitter tears of pride appear, and the melody and words are born at the same time. Glory to the Defenders of the City of Mary! Glory to the heroes!” The 83-day defense of Mariupol significantly altered the course of the full-scale war between Russia and Ukraine. The defenders at the Azovstal plant thwarted the enemy's plans to seize eastern Ukraine and diverted substantial enemy resources. Ivan Lenyo, the frontman of Kozak System said, “We consider these people to be absolute heroes, a symbol of Invincibility, a symbol of faith in Victory, faith in Ukraine. A low bow to every defender of Mariupol. We very much hope that a mechanism will be found to free them from captivity.”
- c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Марія свята, ти їх збережи Мене не жалій - я вже на межі Ти бачила все, тут Бога нема Тут тільки вогонь і свіжа зола</i></p> <p><i>Моє серце - сталь! Моя кров - Азов! Не плач моя люба! Воскреснемо знов! Моє серце - сталь! Моя кров - Азов! Не плач моя люба! Воскреснемо знов!</i></p>	<p><i>Holy Mary, you will save them Don't feel sorry for me - I'm already on the edge You saw everything, there is no God here There is only fire and fresh ashes</i></p> <p><i>My heart is steel! My blood is Azov! Don't cry my dear! Let's resurrect again! My heart is steel! My blood is Azov! Don't cry my dear! Let's resurrect again!</i></p>
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d.  **KOZAK SYSTEM - АЗОВ-СТАЛЬ**


7. “У мене немає дому” [“I Have No Home”] Odyn v Kanoe

- a. *Theme: Russian Invasion, Displaced Peoples*

- b. "I Have No Home" is an older song that re-entered the top charts and became one of the most searched by Ukrainians in 2022, despite originally being released in 2016. This is no surprise, as over 6.5 million Ukrainians were forced to leave their homes due to Russian aggression.

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Справа в тому, Що в мене немає дому І за правилом доброго тону, Як за правилом доброго ременя, Я згадаю з якого я племені, Пригадаю з якого міста,</i></p>	<p><i>The crux of the matter is that I don't have a home, And by the rules of common decency, As if by the rule of good belt (force), I will remember the tribe I am from, Will remember the town I'm from.</i></p>
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- d.  [Один в каное - У мене немає дому | Odyn v kanoe - I have no home](#)

8. "Обійми" ["Embrace"] Okean Elzy

a. *Theme: Effects of War*

- b. "When the day comes, the war will end..." — it's likely because of these opening lyrics that this hit has regained popularity today, even though it was released nine years ago. Since the war began, many covers of Okean Elzy's "Embrace" have been recorded, and the song has been performed at various concerts. The most famous performance came from the British rock band Coldplay during their concert in Warsaw in July 2022. Frontman Chris Martin admitted that while he didn't understand the lyrics, he still loved the song. In August, Coldplay invited the song's original author, Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, to perform it with them at their concert in Brussels.

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Коли настане день, Закінчиться війна, Там загубив себе, Побачив аж до дна</i></p> <p><i>Обійми мене, обійми мене, обійми Так лагідно і не пускай, Обійми мене, обійми мене, обійми Твоя весна прийде нехай.</i></p>	<p><i>When come a day, The war will end, There I've lost myself, I saw it all the way</i></p> <p><i>Embrace me, embrace me, embrace So tenderly and don't let go, Embrace me, embrace me, embrace Your spring will come, I know</i></p>
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- d.  [Океан Ельзи - Обійми | Obijmy \(2013, official video\)](#)

9. "Razom Nas Bahoto" (Нас багато) [Together We are Many] GreenJolly

a. *Theme: Protests against political corruption and electoral fraud.*

- b. This hip-hop song became the unofficial anthem of the Ukrainian Orange Revolution in 2004, sparked by the 2004 Ukrainian presidential election run-off and reports of corruption, voter intimidation, and electoral fraud in favor of Viktor Yanukovich. The song deliberately resembles the title of the famous Chilean

song, “El Pueblo Unido Jamás Será Vencido,” or “The People United Will Never Be Defeated.” “Razom Nas Bahoto” was Ukraine’s 2005 Eurovision entry.

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Що ви хочете сказати своїм дочкам і синам</i> <i>Ви знаєте, що битва не закінчиться, поки битву не буде виграно</i> <i>По правді кажучи, ми не боїмося зброї</i> <i>Ми залишаємося непереможеними, тому що разом ми єдині</i></p>	<p><i>What you wanna say to your daughters and sons</i> <i>You know the battle is not over till the battle is won</i> <i>Truth be the weapon, we ain't scared of the guns</i> <i>We stay undefeated, 'cause together we're one</i></p>
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d.  [Greenjolly - Razom Nas Bahato \(Ukraine\) Live - Eurovision Song Contest 2...](#)

10. “Ne tvoya viyna” (Не твоя війна) [Not Your War] Okean Elzy

a. *Theme: Russian/Ukrainian war*

b. The central theme of this song is to fight for Ukraine and seize control of your destiny. Okean Elzy’s frontman, Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, said, “The key battle is within each of us, within our society. ‘Not Your War’ is the battle with your own prejudice and fears to change anything, to take control over events, and not just blame somebody somewhere. This is extremely difficult, however without this, there is no bright future for a person, the society or the country.”

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Бій на світанні. Сонце і дим.</i> <i>Мало хто знає, що ж буде з ним.</i> <i>Що буде завтра в юних думках?</i> <i>В когось надія, а в кого — страх.</i></p> <p><i>Гілля калин похилилося.</i> <i>Мама, кому ж ми молилися?</i> <i>Скільки іще забере вона</i> <i>Твоїх дітей, не твоя війна?</i></p>	<p><i>Battle at dawn. Sun and smoke.</i> <i>Few know how it will end.</i> <i>What will be in the young minds tomorrow?</i> <i>Someone will have hope, someone fear.</i></p> <p><i>Viburnum’s branches bent.</i> <i>Mother, to whom did we pray?</i> <i>How many more your children</i> <i>Will the war that’s not yours to take?</i></p>
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d.  [Океан Ельзи - Не твоя війна | Ne tvoya viyna \(official video\)](#)

11. “Tini zabutykh predkiv” (Тіні забутих предків) [Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors] Alina Pash


a. *Theme: Ukrainians long fight for independence*

b. Alina Pash is looking to the past with hopes for the future. Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors is remembering Ukraine’s centuries-long struggle for independence

and self-determination. The Slavic sky gods, Perun and Dazhbog, are credited with bringing peace.

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Трембіти плачуть за мій вільний народ Котре століття жиє поміж негод Племен молитви чули і Перун, і Дажбог Віче формувало код етнічних спільнот Аби було добре всім вельможам і панам Боронив із козаками землю отаман Моя Батьківщина — як дівчина молода Буде проростати — як пшениця золота</i></p>	<p><i>Trembits are crying for my free people What century lives in the midst of bad weather Tribes heard prayers and Perun and Dazhbog Viche formed the code of ethnic communities May it be good for all nobles and lords I plowed the land with the Cossacks chieftain My Motherland - like a young girl It will sprout - like golden wheat</i></p>
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d.  [Alina Pash - Тіні Забутих Предків \(Lyric video\)](#)

12. “Rozy/Donbass” (Троянди/Донбас) [Roses/Donbas] Dakh Daughters

- Theme: The Cost of War, the loss of identity, and home
- Donbas is a war-torn region of Ukraine on the Russian border now largely under Russian occupation. In a prophetic song recorded before the 2022 invasion, the Dakh Daughters describe a ghost town, devoid of joy and identity.

c. *Lyrics:*

<p><i>Больше не скорби о том, что ты сделал У роз есть шипы, а у серебряных фонтанов грязь. Облака и затмения окрашивают луну и солнце И отвратительная язва живет в самом сладком бутоне Больше не скорби о том, что ты сделал</i></p>	<p><i>No more be grieved at that which thou hast done Roses have thorns, and silver fountains mud Clouds and eclipses stain both moon and sun And loathsome canker lives in sweetest bud No more be grieved at that which thou hast done</i></p>
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d.  [Dakh Daughters "Rozy / Donbass" \(live acoustic\)](#)

13. “Home Back,” Jinjer

- Theme: Anti-War
- “Home Back” expresses what day-to-day reality is like for Ukrainians with war surrounding them. The lyrics are written as if the war is being seen through the eyes of a child and witnessing magical things instead of the horrors of war.

c. *Lyrics:*


	<p>Are those the fireworks? No. it's a military quirk. Is it a mermaid singing? No. it's a siren screaming.</p> <p>Is it an angel watching over us? It's an air-fighter making a fuss. Why is this party looking so bizarre? A party? No! this is W.A.R.</p>
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d.  JINJER - Home Back (Official Video 4K) | Napalm Records

14. “Bayraktar” Світоглядець

- Theme: Ukraine War
- “Bayraktar” is a Ukrainian patriotic military recruiting song released just weeks after the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. Dedicated to the Baykar Bayraktar TB2 combat drone due to its successful deployment against Russian troops, the song mocks Russian troops and the invasion. It is a song that quickly became popular in protests.
- Lyrics:

<p>Прийшли окупанти до нас в Україну Форма новенька, воєнні машини Та трохи поплавився їх інвентар Байрактар... Байрактар...</p> <p>Веде пропаганду кремлівський урод, Слова пропаганди ковтає народ. Тепер нове слово знає їх цар...</p>	<p>The occupiers came to us in Ukraine, With the brand new uniform, military vehicles, But their inventory melted a bit, Bayraktar... Bayraktar...</p> <p>The Kremlin freak is conducting propaganda, The people swallow the words (of the propaganda). Now their tzar knows a new word...</p>
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d.  Bayraktar - Ukrainian War Song (English subtitles, napisy polskie and other...)

15. “Діти” [Children] Zhadan і Sobaky

- Theme: Ukraine War through the eyes of children
- “Children” is a song focused on children and the potential aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine War. It emphasizes the effects of the war and the importance of winning the war for the future of the children.
- Lyrics:

<p>Ті, що повернуться і ті, що прийдуть, Кого згадають, кого тут приймуть, Кому віддячили, кого не забули, Хто носить, як шрами, ламане</p>	<p>Those who will return here, those who will come home, those who'll be remembered, those who'll be gone, those who have been thanked, those who have fresh scars</p>
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минуле	and live in a nightmare, recalling the war
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- d.  Жадан і Собаки – Діти (Повна версія) | Анімаційне відео

Russian

Pro-democracy Russians have powerful songs in the fight for freedom against the authoritative Russian government. Their anti-war songs speak of peace, and the musicians' statements are enough to become targets for the Russian authorities. Their songs have been blacklisted, their concerts canceled, and they have been forced to flee their homeland to escape persecution for criticizing the government.

Link to Spotify Playlist:


<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2NjWgLtP0LkaZABnRJHgg9?si=IX4OTR7XTu6EYhmily3R-Q>

1. “Bezvremene” (Безвременье) [Timelessness] Vladi

- a. Theme: Toll the Russian/Ukrainian war on the Russians
- b. The Ukrainian war has taken a heavy toll on the entire country of Ukraine, and border towns in Russia have not been spared. Vladi places the blame for pain and destruction on the Russian government. Timelessness is one of many songs from the artist Vladi and his group Kasta that is banned in Russia.
- c. Lyrics:

<p>Зачем учить детей на всеобщем примере? Люди — злейшие звери Эстетика, культура и куча подобной хери Чё с этим делать теперь, а? Когда ракета в дом прилетела прямым курсом Как быть с актёрским мастерством и с искусством? Как с медициной быть, с рейтингом ВУЗов? Когда людей взрывают и грузят, как мусор, в кузов? Мы перешли порог, пересмотреть надо И то, что жизнь — игра, и то, что ты — игрок Что такое «народ»? Что такое «мы»?</p>	<p>Aesthetics, culture and a bunch of other crap What should we do with it now, huh? When a rocket flew into the house on a direct course What to do with acting and art? What to do with medicine, with the rating of universities? When people are blown up and loaded like garbage into a truck? We have crossed the threshold, we need to reconsider Both the fact that life is a game, and the fact that you are a player What is "the people"? What is "we"? Who are "ours"? It's all old now</p>
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Кто такие «наши»? Это всё теперь старо	
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d.  [Влади - Безвременье](#)

2. “Marsh” (Марш) [March] IC3PEAK

a. Theme: Protests control propaganda can have over a population.

b. Now banned in Russia, IC3PEAK protests the never-ending state propaganda and the effect it has on a population. It can tear families apart and result in political prosecution.

c. Lyrics:

Твоё лицо совершенно такое же А это здание есть в каждом городе Вместо гирлянды, колючая провода А за заборами нет горизонта Окна забиты, я в двух капюшонах Кто там на улице помимо холода? Танк, припаркованный прямо за воротами Он не стреляет, стоит тут для понта	Your face is exactly the same And there is this same building in every city Instead of garlands, there are barbed wires And there is no horizon behind the fences The windows are clogged, and I'm in two hoodies Who is it
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d.  [IC3PEAK - Марш](#)

3. “Мясо” [The Meat] Zemfira

a. Theme: Anti-war

b. A Russian musician who left fearing persecution, The Meat illustrates the violence, desperation, and dehumanization of war and how civilian casualties are sometimes seen as “meat.” The lyrics convey intense imagery such as lungs full of nails, newspapers, and tar, roads lined with corpses and arterial tubes, and freezing nights with rationed food. Zemfira now lives in Paris and is listed as a foreign agent by the Russian government.

c. Lyrics:

Смотри на меня, сдавайся Или оставайся человеком и сдохни Жена ждёт ребёнка Ждёт меня и кроссовки Весна в календаре, а в реальности Окопы и ракеты высокоточные большой дальности В Мариуполе полночь	Look at me, give up Or stay human and die My wife is expecting a child My sneakers are waiting for me Spring is on the calendar, but in reality Trenches and long-range precision missiles It's midnight in Mariupol
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d.  [Земфира — Мясо / Zemfira — The Meat \(2022\)](#)

4. “Vorozhba” [Divination] Boris Grebenshchikov

a. Theme: Anti-war

b. Boris Grebenshchikov has been a vocal pacifist since the 1980s, writing a number of anti-war songs. At the time of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Grenenshchikov canceled his concerts in Russia, and Russia canceled his educational radio program. “Vorozhba,” which was written after the invasion, describes the war as black magic and a thief of the future while criticizing the justifications for the invasion.

c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Меж воронок жгут огни Всё это не мы, всё это они Гой еси, ядрёна вошь Против самого себя не попрѣшь</i>	<i>Fires burn between the craters All this isn't us, all this is them Be well, god damn it, You have to face yourself</i>
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d.  **Ворожба | Аквариум | AI Music Video**


5. “Pokhorony voyny” [Funeral of War], Yuri Shevchuk and Dmitry Emelyanov

a. *Theme: Anti-war*

b. Yuri Shevchuk is another musician known for his pacifist songs from the Soviet era. In August 2022, he was fined for “discrediting the Russian armed forces on stage and has been banned ever since. Funeral of War is an unexpectedly upbeat song meant to be sung in unison by big crowds in a stadium, but uses death symbolism for the war.

c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Льются дождями сны, Музыкой тишины Снятся нам эти сны Вместе устроим мы Все вместе устроим мы Похороны войны</i>	<i>Dreams rain down, As a music of silence See we these dreams. Together we'll make, Together we'll all make A burial of the war.</i>
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d.  **Юрий Шевчук, Дмитрий Емельянов — Похороны войны**

6. “Nazad, Rossiya!” (‘Back off, Russia!’), Nogu Svelo

a. *Theme: Anti-war*

b. “Back off, Russia!” is written like a football chant (even using the ever-popular Olé chant throughout), but it’s a call to Russians to stop the slaughter following the Ukraine invasion. Songs by Nogu Svelo include satire and direct accusations against the Kremlin.

c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Оле-оле-оле-оле Ждут дома мамы солдат. Оле-оле-оле-оле Назад, Россия! Назад!</i>	<i>Ole-ole-ole-ole At home the mothers are waiting for the soldiers. Ole-ole-ole-ole Turn back, Russia! Back!</i>
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d.  **Нору Светло! - Назад, Россия!**

English Version:  **Russia, Go Home!**

7. “Вуду” (Voodoo), Noize MC

a. *Theme: Anti-war*

b. Russian rapper Noize MC has been known to criticize the ruling United Russia party and has consistently performed anti-war songs his entire career. After the 2022 invasion, Noize became an outspoken supporter of Ukraine and enraged Russians by performing Voodoo on stage.

c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Семь раз отмерь — один раз отрежь. Одна задница, два стула — не садись между. Выбери, в какой висок разрядить патрон, Или станцуй на минном поле — покажи нутро. Каждое слово — как в мозгу патогенный тромб. Ты, что ли, в цирке, что так манит голову зевом зверь? Тоже мне канатоходец — мы тут все за мир! И будем за него аж до ядерной зимы.</i>	<i>Measure seven times, cut once. One ass, two chairs - don't sit between them. Choose how high the cartridge will discharge, Or dance on a minefield - show your insides. Every word is like a pathogenic thrombus in the brain. Are you in the circus, beckoning your head with the jaws of a beast? I am also a tightrope walker - we are here for peace! And we will be for him until the nuclear winter.</i>
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d.  **Noize MC — Вуду**

8. “Peremen” [Change], Kino

a. *Theme: Political, social, and economic change for the people*

b. “Peremen” has become an anthem for political movements and protest in post-Soviet Russia and throughout Eastern Europe due to its broad lyrics of change. It was used during the 1991 Soviet coup d’etat attempt, the 1993 Russian constitutional crisis, in 2011 in Moscow and in Belarus to protest Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko, respectively, and in 2013 during the Euromaiden protests in Ukraine.

c. *Lyrics:*

<i>Peremen! — trebuyut nashi serdtsa. Peremen! — trebuyut nashi glaza. V nashem smekhe i v nashikh slezakh, I v pul'satsii ven — Peremen! My zhdom peremen!</i>	<i>Change! - our hearts need. Change! - our eyes need. In our smile and in our tears, and in our veins - Change! My heart changes!</i>
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d.  **(Kino) Viktor Tsoi - Change (Peremen) English subtitles**

9. “Мама, не смотри телевизор” [Мама, Don’t Watch TV], Pussy Riot

a. Theme: Anti-war, Russian censorship

b. Ten months after the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, Pussy Riot released a new song centered around Russian disinformation. The chorus of the song is based on words from a captured conscripted Russian soldier who told his mother, “Mum, there are no Nazis here [in Ukraine], don’t watch tv.” In a statement that accompanied the song’s release, the band said, “Russian propaganda daily poisons the hearts of people with hatred. The law on foreign agents is used to silence opposition activists and journalists, to stop the activities of the last independent human rights organisations.”

c. Lyrics:

<p>мама, я в плену, не смотри телевизор Мама, здесь нет никаких нацистов Мама, почему войну называют "операцией специалистов"? специалистов - я не пойму</p>	<p>Mama, I've been taken prisoner Don't watch TV Mama, there are no Nazis here Mama, why is the war Called a "special operation"? Special - I don't get it</p>
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d.

▶ Pussy Riot — МАМА, DON'T WATCH TV / МАМА, НЕ СМОТРИ ТЕЛЕВИ...

10. “OYDA” [Oh, Yes], Oxxxymiron

a. Theme: Anti-war

b. After the Russian invasion in Ukraine, rapper Oxxxymiron left Russia and starting touring under the banner, “Russians Against War.” With his song, “Oyda,” which detests the normalization of war and the exile of activists, Oxxxymiron was immediately put on Russia’s banned list, labled as an extremist by the Russian government, and even was officially designated a foreign agent for his songs.

c. Lyrics:

<p>Я убил в себе Империю Хозяин багровеет Нас не выселить никак На нашем флаге Белый снег и синяя река (И всё)</p>	<p>I killed the Empire in me The owner turns purple We can't be evicted On our flag White snow and blue river (And that's it).</p>
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d. ▶ OXXXYMIRON – ОЙДА (2022)

Burmese

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is home to diverse ethnic groups and abundant natural resources in Southeast Asia. The country gained independence in 1948. Despite the national anthem's assurance of basic human rights for its citizens, Myanmar has endured the world's

longest civil war and frequent military coups, with the most recent occurring in 2021. Music has emerged as a powerful voice for the people, calling for democracy, peace, and public participation in revolutions. As a result, songs advocating for human rights have proliferated.

Link to Spotify playlist-


<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1DqWH4WL1UsrdFvYkdj1Lz?si=o9vfGHViT5yqllgll2jSGA>

1. “Thway Thitsar” (Blood Oath)

- a. Theme: anti-military rule and pro-democracy marches
- b. The well-respected singer-songwriter Htoo Eain Thin wrote the song while in hiding after the 1988 uprising. It was subsequently recorded in a studio in Bangkok. Since then, it has been used in public street protests.

c. Lyrics:

*“It’s a crucial time, brothers,
Let’s unite and march together.
We wrote our new history with our blood,
Here we keep blood oath.”*
*“We give our lives for the nation,
We will march together with the peacock’s blood,
For our freedom and peace,
We must fight the last battle.”*

- d.  'Thway Thit Sar' 'သွေးသစ္စာ' (Orchestra Version)


2. “Kabar Makyay Bu” (Till the End of the World)

- a. Theme: Democracy heroes
- b. The melody of the 1977 hit song “Dust in the Wind” by the American rock band

Kansas served as inspiration for the song “Till the End of the World.” The composer Naing Myanmar wrote this piece to honor the unsung heroes who lost their lives in pro-democracy movements.


c. Lyrics:

*“We will not forget the history written by our blood
Till the end of the world.
Oh our fallen heroes, you gave your lives for the revolution.
This is the country of the martyrs and brave people.”*

- d.  ကမ္ဘာမကြေဘူး (with English lyrics)


3. “Khun Arr Phyaе Meenge” (Don’t Give Up, Little One)- Khin Maung Toe

- a. *Theme: Resilience*
- b. *Composed by Ko Ne Win, this uplifting song is a popular anthem at rallies, inspiring participants to motivate one another and remind the public to stay resilient. It has been reported that political prisoners also offered encouragement to one another by singing it while incarcerated.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“After passing through the night after the sunset,
 The new day will come with the sunrise.
 If we endeavor with commitment,
 we will succeed and escape one day.
 As the road of ‘samsara’ is not smooth,
 Please keep your spirit alive to face hardship, Meenge.”*

d.  [ခွန်အားဖြည့်မိငယ် ~ ခင်မောင်တိုး \(Lyrics Video\) \[Khin Maung Toe - Kun Arr Phya...](#)

4. “ Arnarshin Sanit Asoné That Ya Myee” (The Dictatorship Must Come to an End)

- a. *Theme: anti-dictatorship*
- b. *Just a few days after the military coup on February 1, 2021, this new revolution song was created by Generation Z MM. It calls for national unity in the face of power-hungry dictators.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“Our bones and blood are to defeat the dictator.
 We can’t be tied up by fear.
 We are ready for the revolution.
 They are power-crazy people.
 We all have to stand up to end the dictatorship.
 We must end the dictatorship.*

d.  [Revolution အာဏာရှင်စနစ်အဆုံးသတ်ရမည် \(အာဏာရှင်\)](#)


5. “ Alo Mashi” (We don’t Want it)

- a. *Theme: Freedom of Expression*
- b. *This lively song became a sensation among Myanmar’s youth during the early days of the Spring Revolution in 2021. It encourages the public to express their opposition to the military junta by banging pots and pans, symbolizing the expulsion of evil.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“Let’s drive away the junta.
 We don’t want it!
 We don’t want it!
 Let’s reject the dictatorship.
 We don’t want it!
 We don’t want it!*


*Let's bang pots and pans together
To show our brave hearts for truth.
Let's express our desire
We'll stand for truth forever"*

- d.  အလိုမရှိ - ALo Mashi Music Video

6. “ We are the World”covered by Chinlung Chuak Artists

- a. *Theme: Highlights on human rights violations and atrocities, call for unity*
- b. *“We Are the World,’ composed by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, was covered by Chin ethnic artists, gaining international recognition during the Spring Revolution. In addition to the original lyrics, these vocalists incorporated their own verses, highlighting human rights violations and atrocities committed by the military junta in Myanmar.”*
- c. *Lyrics:
“Help! Help!
Calling for help to the world
Hope! Hope!
Hoping for their voice to be heard”*
- d.  We Are The World | Cover By CHINLUNG CHUAK ARTIST

7. “Dictators must Die”

- a. *Theme: Rap against Junta*
- b. *This song was created by Floke Rose and Cori Rey from Myanmar, in collaboration with artists from Indonesia, India, Taiwan, Thailand, and Hong Kong. This movement united artists from around the world to spread an important message, significantly contributing to social change.*
- c. *Lyrics:
““Myanmar people struggle to survive in hell,
Day by day, comrades fall, can't you see?
Junta forces unleash their fire at home,
Morning and night, we're never alone.
No one dreams of this waking nightmare.”*
- d.  Rap Against Junta - Dictators Must Die [Official Music Video]

8. “ Naut Sone Pwe” (End Game)

- a. *Theme: Revolution*
- b. *This became a rallying cry among the youth during the 2021 revolution. It emphasizes that the Spring Revolution must be the final step in overthrowing the military dictatorship, ensuring that the people endure such suffering for the last Time.*
- c. *Lyrics:*

*“The end game!
This is the end game!
We, the public, must win!
The truth must win!
We must uproot the military dictatorship!”*

d.  [END GAME \(Yair Yint Aung, NAY, Adjustor, Yung Hugo, GRACEe, D-Vision, ...](#)

9. “ Kyal (Star)”

- a. *Theme: Fight for democracy*
- b. *This song, crafted by a group of young artists, pays tribute to the fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for democracy. It also challenges those who ignore the country's plight, asking if they can truly have a clear conscience about it.*

c. *Lyrics:*

*“Some can never return home
Some can never be reunited
Some are lost in the dark
On the day of victory
With the light of dawn
Are you sure you will have a clear conscience?”*


d.  [Kyal \(Lyrics Video\) - Various Artists](#)

10. “ Yaung Ni (Dawn)”

- a. *Theme: Hope*
- b. *Lynn Lynn, a celebrated artist in exile, conveys a message of hope in this song, asserting that there is always a glimmer of brightness at the end of the darkest night.*

c. *Lyrics:*

*“Towards the dawn
Towards the mornings with light
We are heading
Towards the world without dark”*

d.  [လင်းလင်း - ရောင်နီ \(Lynn Lynn Authentic Live Concert Ver.\)](#)

11. “Thuma (Her)” - Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein

- a. *Theme: Political prisoner*
- b. *One of the artists in exile composed and performed this song in honor of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, a political prisoner, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and symbol of democracy in Myanmar. It was released on her 79th birthday, which is celebrated on June 19th.*

c. *Lyrics:*

“They are cruel

And they've done such a thing
 She never says these words
 She just gives a smile behind the bars
 You must be united
 And strong-minded
 You must go on without me
 Don't take me into consideration
 She says these words from the prison."


- d.  ဖြူဖြူကျော်သိန်း - သူမ ~ Her (Official Music Video)

12. “Ma Lo Chin Bu Sit” (I don’t want war at all)- Ni Ni Khin Zaw

- a. Theme: Anti-war
 b. Due to the ongoing local conflicts, towns were engulfed in flames and increasing numbers of people were displaced across Myanmar. Wai La and Ko Htet composed this song with heartfelt wishes for peace, not war.

- c. Lyrics:

“War, I don’t want you at all
 The terrible days you have left behind
 And the dark nights without my dears near me
 I go on with all the might though.
 War, I don’t want to see you at all
 The towns on fire
 And the lifeless homes
 Who will stop the hatred?
 I just wish for peace!”

- d.  မလိုချင်ဘူးစစ် - နီနီခင်ဇော် | Ma Lo Chin Bu Sit - Ni Ni Khin Zaw (Official Music...)

13. “Lu Nyi Mya Chin Lu” (Human = Human)- Saw Pho Kwar


- a. Anti-racism
 b. Saw Pho Kwar, one of the few reggae artists in Myanmar, performed this song to express that all human beings are equal, regardless of their race. He also conveys his heartfelt wishes for peace and joy to children and the world.

- c. Lyrics:


“Hey! Don’t say what groups you belong to:
 Chinese, Indian, Karen, Bhamar, Rakhine, Kachin or whatever!
 We all are human!
 Humans are equal to humans!”

- d.  လူညီမျှခြင်းလူ - စောဖိုးခွား (Reggae)

14 “Lu Go Lu Lo Myin Pay Par”(Freedom)- Kaung Sitt Min (composed by Water)

- a. *LGBTQI+, Anti-discrimination*
- b. *The song portrays the social, employment, and attitudinal discrimination faced by the LGBTQI+ community in Myanmar. It also advocates for equality, urging society to recognize them simply as fellow human beings.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“In our lives with restrictions
 We long for freedom
 Oh freedom!
 Come to us quickly!
 See us just as fellow human
 May these sufferings end with us!
 No more discrimination among humans!”*
- d.  *Freedom - Kaung Sitt Min (Official Music Video)*

15. “Kabarmyay Atwet Thachin” (Song for the World)

- a. *Theme: Diversity*
- b. *This group song explores a variety of individuals and their diverse attitudes. It also acknowledges that, despite these differences, everyone shares a common humanity.*
- c. *Lyrics:*
*“Some try their best for themselves
 Some focus on the common good
 Some still feel inferior
 No matter what, they all are human!
 Some prioritize their ego
 Some value sharing
 Some ignore right and wrong
 No matter what, they all are human!”*
- d.  *ကမ္ဘာမြေအတွက်သီချင်း - ဘိုဖြူ၊ ဟန်ထွန်း၊ အယ်နောင်း၊ ကိုအောင်၊ လှိုင်ဦးမော်၊ အစိုင်း၊ ...*

Reference:

[Anthems of Social Change](#)

[In Myanmar, Music is the Voice of Protest](#)

[From classical musicians to breakdancers: Myanmar youth sound off against military coup](#)