

TAKE NOTE

Making a Playlist: Some Questions to Ask

These questions are a starting point for a conversation about a person's musical history – their experiences, what they enjoy.

If a person finds it difficult to remember, see if you can ask a family member. And you can always try playing them music from the time when they were teenagers or young adults and see if this elicits a positive response.

Some questions to gauge level of musical engagement

Do/did you play a musical instrument?

If yes, what did you play?

If yes, talk about their memories of playing, see if they remember some of the music they played.

Do/did you enjoy singing?

If yes, when do/did you sing? (e.g., around the house, at school, a choir, a band)

If yes, talk about their experiences of singing. Are there songs that they remember?

How often do you listen to music?

Do you listen to music on the radio?

If yes, what radio station/s do you listen to?

Do/did you like to dance?

If yes, what kind of music do/did you like to dance to?

Some questions to find out more specific musical preferences

What types of music do you enjoy?

Here are some examples to get you started:

Country and Western

Classical

Spiritual/Religious

Big Band/Swing

Pop, Folk, Blues and Jazz

Rock and Roll

Easy Listening

Different Cultures (e.g., Czech polkas, Ravi Shankar Indian sitar)

New Age

Musicals, Opera

Choral

Military, Brass Band

Importantly, are there types of music that you **don't** enjoy?

Are there any instruments that you particularly like to listen to?

Here are some to think about.

Guitar

Singing

Piano

Violin

Cello

Brass

Harp

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Sax

Classical Guitar

Instruments from other cultures

Accordion

Organ

Are there any instruments that you **don't** like listening to?

Once you have established what genre/s the person likes, ask further questions about the music within those genres. Knowing their favourite instruments will help to give you more information. For example, if they like classical music, what are their favourite composers, their favourite pieces. If they like pop, what are their favourite bands, performers, songs.

Some questions to draw out musical memories from peoples' younger years

Is there any music that you associate with your parents?

Is there any music that reminds you of special events or milestones in your life?

Can you remember buying your first record? Do you remember what it was?

Is there music associated with special groups you belong to? E.g., clubs, church or other religious congregations, hobbies.

Is there any music that reminds you of a particular place that's meaningful to you?

Useful websites

www.musicmemories.bbcwind.co.uk/home

www.playlistforlife.org.uk

www.musicformymind.com