

#fanletters2U2

A Compilation by U2tour.de



#fanletters2U2

To all fellow U2 fans worldwide, who share passion, love and respect and sometimes even the same stories and experiences as can be seen in this little book: Thank you – this whole journey would not be the same without all of you!

To U2! Adam, Bono, Edge and Larry, you are an inspiration for so many worldwide and have been for many decades. You have taken us fans on your journey from innocence to experience, musically but also through your humanity and grace – in this little book you can see what you have done (in the most positive way imaginable)!
Thank you!

We all are pilgrims on our way...
together!

Preface

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge and Larry,

<< Love is bigger than anything in its way...! >>

The little book you are holding in your hands is printed proof of how right you are and you will hopefully enjoy the journey through your worldwide fans' lives, stories and feelings – all somewhat different and very individual but still connected by the love of your art.

You are probably experiencing the following on an everyday level: once musicians (or any other artist) present their art to the public, it may take on a whole different life from how it was initially written or intended. The audience might associate completely different experiences, emotions, events etc. with it, making it part of their own life story. Here in this book, we present to you an amazing collection of letters from your fans to you, describing exactly that: how your songs changed their lives, how close they feel to certain songs and why.

While we are fully aware that, especially during tours, you always seek close contact with your fans (something we all highly appreciate), we feel that the limited time available during these precious occasions doesn't always allow your fans to fully say how they feel. You have influenced, shaped, impacted (and so many other verbs) the lives of so many fans worldwide and it is important to us that you know how much you and your art are loved and appreciated.

Please enjoy the read, you may find your own experiences and feelings in some of them, you may be moved to tears or joy (or both) and possibly inspired to revisit some of your own songs after reading about them, maybe even seeing them from a completely different perspective.

All that remains for us to say: THANK YOU from the bottom of all our hearts!

*<< One life but we're not the same
We get to carry each other, carry each other
One >>*

Your U2tour.de team from Germany
on behalf of U2 fans worldwide

About

This project is a result of total coincidence: a few days before Bono turned 60 on 10 May 2020, one of our U2tour.de staffers had the idea to publish his personal fan letter to Bono, explaining what the band meant to him and how it shaped his life. We had no idea that the same day, Bono would release a list of his 60 life-saving songs accompanied by fan letters to the artists, explaining why these songs are so important to him. Again, pure coincidence.

When we asked our fellow U2 fans on Twitter, what their life-saving or life-changing song from U2 was, the response was overwhelming [from all over the world] and we received some truly great suggestions. We decided to collect as many (but at least 60) fan letters from U2 fans to the band, publish them on our website (www.u2tour.de/specials/fanletters/en.php) and, finally, at some point, to print four copies of all the letters and to try to get them to U2. Since June 2020, we have proof-read all letters several times and converted them into a printable format – this is the result of our efforts.

Our deepest thanks goes out to our friends all over the world who supported this project by promoting it, helping with the proof-reading and by giving us new ideas. You know who you are!

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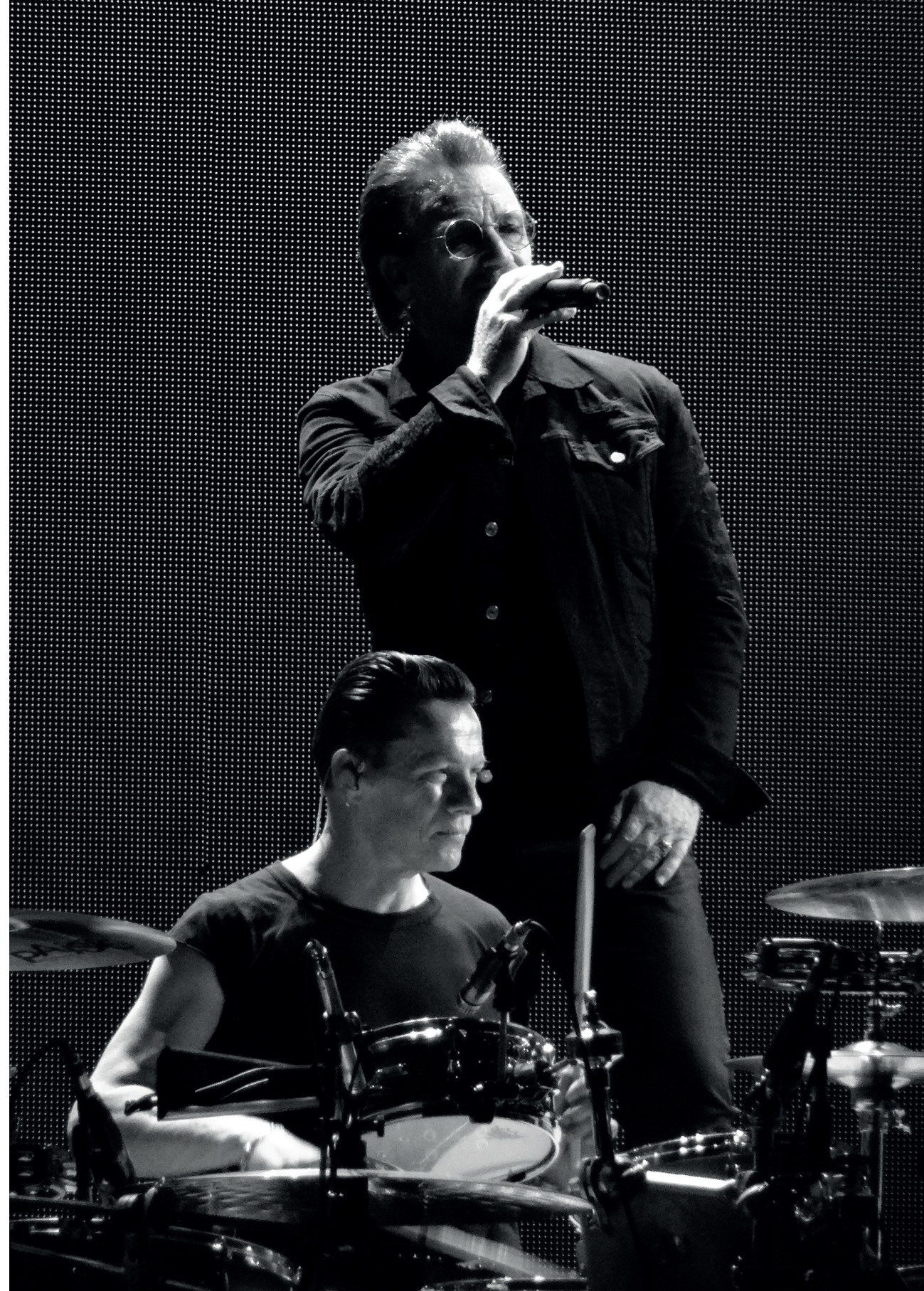
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I. Boy (1980)

Dear Larry, Adam, Edge and Bono

I WILL FOLLOW

This is a big place, but U2 and you are much bigger.

As every Monday, I would take the underground towards the school in Barcelona. It was a hot afternoon, I had a cassette tape, there were themes from the groups that I liked, I grew up in an environment of Symphonic Rock, Psychedelia and Rock, Pink Floyd, Mike Oldfield, Supertramp... but still listening to this music. On that tape, he had The Clash, The Smiths, Ramones and U2.

This song... were like a storm, rhythm and personal sound, a voice that did not leave you indifferent with a young and new image. But the best of all were this theme, I put them until the piece of heat was hooked and I had to repair it at home with a pen and adhesive tape. They were from an easy and quick group to name: U2.

The first one was catchy and I couldn't stop listening to it...
"walkaway, walkaway, walkaway, walkaway... I WILL FOLLOW...

Continued...

At that moment I realized that it was music that you could participate in and feel proud to hear it.

So when I got to raise the money, in a matter of hours, I went to the store, "Discos Martin's" and took that Vinyl.

The first BOY today I heard so much that I wore it down. And so my love for this group of ethereal beings began that for a 14-year-old boy, in the Spain of the 80s. I began to follow some Irish, land of great artists, but that we knew them from the cinema, John Ford, and hundreds of actors and actresses emigrated to Hollywood. But musicians not so much, Geldof, Morrison or the crazy The Pogues.

This is how "War", another masterpiece, came out and I began to carry the folder lined with photos of U2.

Years passed with new records, but they never performed in Barcelona, Under a blood red sky came out and I bought that 80s tank top, with the image of Bono squatting holding the mike.

Continued...

Barcelona begins to germinate international performances, Bruce, Police, Dire Straits, Level 42, Eurythmics, Simple Minds, The Cure, but... and U2? With Unforgettable Fire, we touched the post, the madness, they are going to play here, but for reasons of space, the Sports Palace of Barcelona was small. It was a great disappointment. And for my 17 years old then it was impossible to leave Spain.

And the bomb is coming, The Joshua Three, with the song that I hope the most, I am the happiest guy in the world "Where The Streets have no name" and the rest of jewelry made music. They don't choose Barcelona, I can't go to Madrid, apart from running out of tickets. The Refugee Fan Club founded in 1984 U2 The Refugee, my favorite War song, perhaps because we are all refugees from something. Together friends, we started to create the club. To take refuge in the bar and having the idea of setting up the Fan Club.

Continued...

At first like everything, we were two cells, but we began to divide rapidly, like spores. We did not have the fanzine, but we started to contact those from Europe. We bought a post office box and I started going to Radio programs (Tarda Tardà, Albert Malla, Catalunya Radio) or even television, on TV3 with Miki Moto Club. We put an ad in several music magazines of the time, the internet did not exist.

They started to become members from all over Spain, we were not 400 members at all, and with contact with BMG Ariola and U2 we officially became a fan club after two years asking for it and doing favors for the record company. Now yes, with my friend Valerie Albac, President of the U2 fan club in France, she gets me a resale ticket, to see them in what for me is the best tour to date, the Lovetown Tour with BB King.

Diego Correa

U2 The Refugee 1984

OUT OF CONTROL!!!!

Dear Bono, The Edge, Larry M.J., Adam

18 years old at dawn,

was that age, when my first dream came true... 12/07/1993 Torino Delle Alpi stadium, to be present at my first live with the band that would mark my whole life, that band that immediately kidnapped my soul and never let me go.

A dream desired for 5 years, since 1988 when I started singing the sound of those who gave me stimuli, arousing emotions, the sound that made me grow and gave me one more reason to hope in a terra, which unfortunately, for kids like me, offered very little and often for many from hope it turned into a very dangerous life made of drugs and crime.

That moment in which for a 13-year-old boy many distractions begin, for me the soundtrack of my life began made up of many songs (some of which imprinted inside me and I couldn't live without them), with a single signature... U2.

Continued...

That band that for me represents music, the one made of guitar chords, drum roll, shrill voices, a riff, a genre, but above all it represents an emotion for what it has created since the beginning and what it still creates today.

Unique sensations...

That band that sends me "out of control" as much as I listen and sing songs at the top of my voice, so much as to attract the curiosity of many... in reality it is my way to express emotions, the way to feel free.

My older brothers... with your music you help me, you accompany me, you exalt me, you make me rejoice, you make me relax, you make me feel peaceful even in difficult moments, you calm me in moments of agitation, you give me a hand when I'm sad or when I am unsatisfied, when I do some shit, when I need to reflect or simply when I need to be alone and above all with your music you make me love...

Continued...

Today that I am writing this letter I realize that a lot of time has passed, but the passion is constantly on as it was over 30 years ago.

You have been my favorite therapy and if I am who I am today, it is also thanks to you.

I just have to tell you

THANKS Bono, The Edge, Larry M.J., Adam

THANKS U2...!!!

Speppe 75

U2 - Out of Control

Dear Bono, Edge, Larry and Adam

As a teenager, love is all encompassing and while young love is fraught with danger, the emotions are real. The need to love and be loved is primitive and sought.

This song came as a surprise. Slane Castle in 2001 broadened the horizon and taught the ears to stand up after barely touching it before. So many had come before it. All I Want is You stood in pride and place to ease the emotion of a teenage crush. A girl I went to school with, now I work with - talk about a twist of fate.

1980, Boy, the year that I was born and preceded only just by your first single. Who knew that by eighteen years of dawning that your band and the sounds you produce would be such a fabric of those formative years but really not cool enough for school. The moment of alignment really came, curiously, with ZooTV and your song Lemon. On learning about the context of

Continued...

the absence of your mother Bono, it held me to believe that it was my grandmother who wore the lemon dress. A figure who stood out, angelic, gentle and maternal until her end.

On reflection through life experience, it really is largely Out of Control. The key moments of life are not in our control. But what we can control is how we respond. The choice to ask an Irish lass to wed, that was a good decision - I didn't want it to be too late. She has carried me and now we get to carry each other.

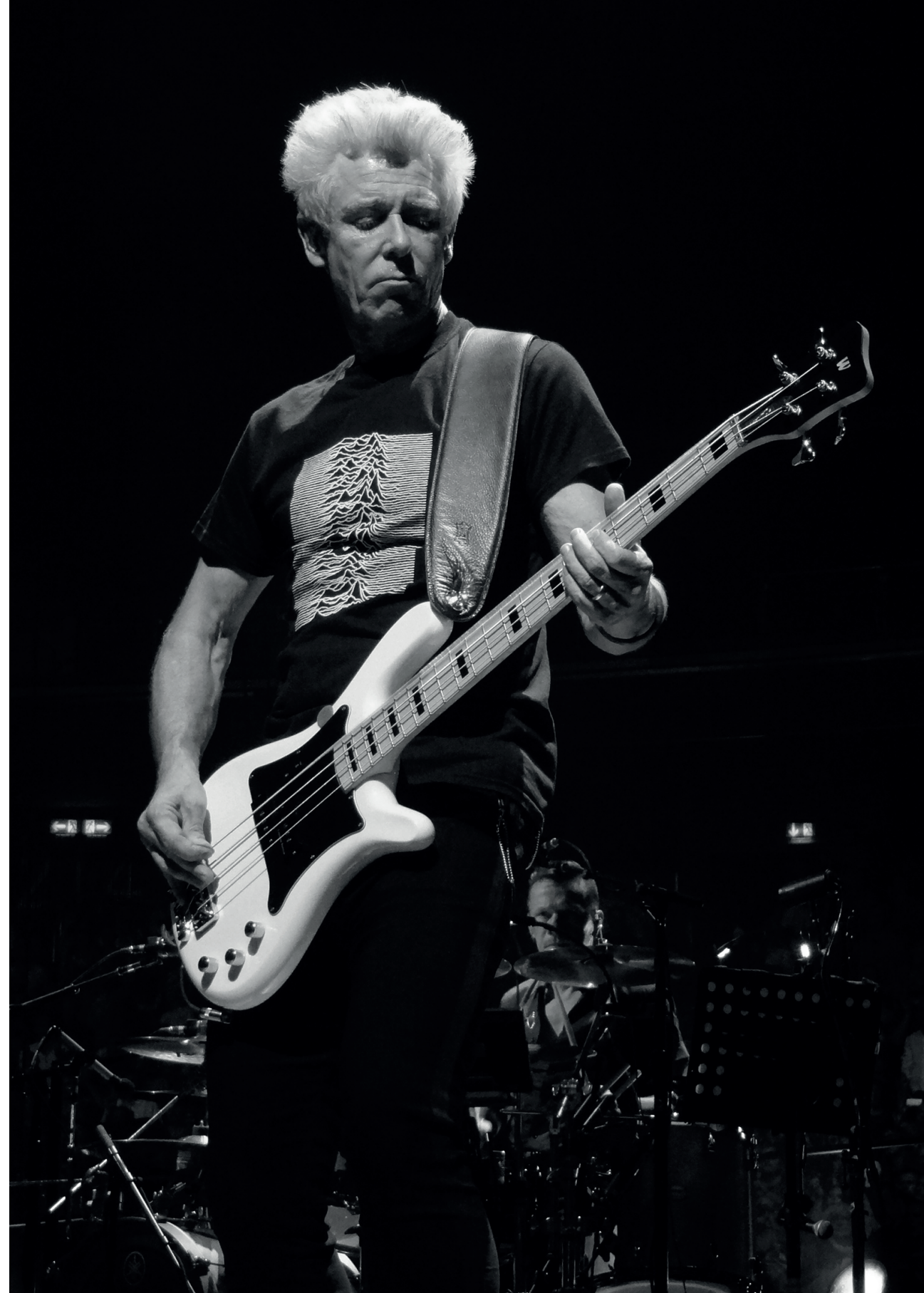
Your music is every bit of my psyche as are my wife and daughters. It has been loved and has given love. It exults, it cries, it is pined for but most importantly it is there, always there. It is a part of who I am and I could not have lived without it.

Thank you are words that do not say enough or truly reflect the gratitude.

Your fan

Shon(o)

Van Diemen's Land



II. October (1981)

U2 - Gloria

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam & Larry

My constant memory of this song is my dad.

Your song video came on TV (1981) and I was mesmerised.

My dad decided to name your band "the Glorias" from this day forward; it always made me smile. No matter my correcting him "it's U2 dad" every time! He knew and I knew and it was a just a game we played along a special bond we shared.

My dad loved music, from Elvis to even Boy George fascinating him, and of course "the Glorias".

My dad was my rockstar and he too believed in God, love, family and had the most impressive moves on the dance-floor.

U2 music has been what I've turned to no matter how sad or happy or what there's always been a U2 song that lifts.

And the day I lost my dad (2018) I cried (of course) but I also smiled as the memories flooded back, and never more was "the Glorias" music what I needed that day.

Continued...

From tears of joy (U2 Croke Park 2017) to tears of sadness (Dad R.I.P. 2018) U2 has been my constant.

U2 are also my rockstars. U2 community are also my family. I too believe in love and that God walks into every U2 concert.

So thank you "the Glorias" for sharing your music with me and so many;

and I thank you dad and U2 for giving me a great life.

'Gloria in te domine'

Your fan,

Annette

Perth, Australia

Dear Irish Uncles!

That's what our kids call you. Ha!

Probably because as my wife, Holli, says, "Your music helped us raise our sons."

We have followed you since the North American opening of the War Tour in Chapel Hill North Carolina thru to The Experience Tour in Dublin City.

As children growing up in the southern US, rocknroll, particularly The Eagles & Led Zeppelin, was our soundtrack for personal liberation.

The songs Gloria, New Year's Day & Pride arrived to give us a wiser & more deeply joyful soundtrack that fit with our emerging young adult's awareness for social transformation, liberation & justice.

Now we're raising our 2 granddaughters on your tunes!

MLK & Love is Bigger being their current favorites.

They're just 4 & 6 years old. Some songs are your life, indeed!

Here's to Grace inside a Sound!

You & I are Rocknroll -

Kevin & Holli Rainwater, Ohio USA

U2 - With A Shout

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry,

For some reason, the U2 songs that move me the most are those from the beginning of your career, the early days. Among them, one is very special to me, With A Shout. I explain. In 2001, right after the fall of the Twin Towers, my brother-in-law, with whom I lived for 5 years, died suddenly. And, most painful, my sister had a stroke and became quadriplegic. In the same year, I was finishing college (uncertainty about my future haunted me). At that time I started listening to a special playlist of U2 songs, only those that transmitted faith to me, or that lifted my soul, or made me talk to God with sincerity.

Before going to sleep, I heard them with the lights off, immersed in the lyrics. It gave me a peace that words cannot explain. Your songs helped me to talk to God better than many gospel songs.

One night I dreamed about you.

Continued...

In the dream I met you at a school and I was grateful for all the songs that helped me so much. You asked me which one I liked most, so I started singing With A Shout: "Oh, and where do we go. Where do we go from here. Where to go. To the side of a hill..". At that time I woke up and it was playing exactly With A Shout. I was moved by the dream's realism. In 2006, when you came to Brazil, I had the opportunity to thank you personally at the airport, in Sao Paulo. You, Bono, got out of the car and came kindly to autograph everyone. In the middle of that euphoria I remembered to thank you for With A Shout, I said how much I liked it and I started to sing the beginning. And, to my immense surprise, you recited it at the end of the first show in Sao Paulo, before singing 40. Without you knowing, your songs were instruments of God that helped me to cross an inhospitable desert.

Thank you. From your fan,
Suderland



III. War (1983)

Dear Larry Mullen Jr. Band,
(By name: Larry, Edge, Adam and Bono)

"There's been a lot of talk about this next song, maybe, maybe too much talk. This song is not a rebel song, this song is Sunday bloody Sunday..."

It was in summer of 1985 when I listened to these famous words the first time in my life, followed by an amazing song!

I really can say, it changed everything to me!

Thank you for some of the best moments in my life!

Since today I can't remember a day without listen to your great music!

Your fan
Frank
Germany

U2 - Sunday Bloody Sunday

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge, and Larry,

After arriving home from school one day in 1983 I turned on MTV and next thing I know I'm watching a band called U2 perform Sunday Bloody Sunday, live at Red Rocks. Watching this performance, it didn't take long before realizing this band was something different and unlike any other type of music I'd ever experienced. Growing up in a relatively small town in America, my go-to genre's in those days consisted primarily of metal and classic hard rock, therefore, to be drawn into your particular style of music were way outside my typical listening boundaries at the time. The video piqued my interest in such a manner that I had to explore further so I went out to the local record store and picked up the War cassette. Upon popping in the tape, one of the first songs, besides Sunday Bloody, that stood out was New Year's Day. From that moment I was hooked and as they say, the rest is history.

Continued...

Not only musically and lyrically gifted, but you've always been consistent in standing by your higher principals. ONE, RED, Walk in My Shoes, Music Rising, human rights, family...I could go on. Another factor that separates you from many other bands is your connection with the fans. For example, putting in the overtime by going out of your way to walk the meet-and-greet lines, while spending hours at a time talking with fans. Whether its shaking hands with The Edge in Singapore, a bit of bantering about Landlady with Bono in Milan, or simply getting a smile and wave from Larry in Tokyo at his showing of Man on The Train. these are very special moments which I'll cherish forever. If you're able and healthy, please continue bringing on the tunes because we need your voices- instruments now more than ever!

Sincerely from a fan,

Jim

May 21, 2020

Dear Larry, Adam, The Edge and Bono,

Let me take you back to a searing hot day in Melbourne, Australia, late 1989. The words "Eyes swollen like a bee sting" float out of a Radio Shack transistor and into the ears of a wide-eyed 13-year-old.

He tells a school friend about this song he has heard. "Oh yeah, that's U2. The singer's name is Bono and the guitarist is The Edge. My brother is a big fan." the friend says.

A few days later, the friend brings a mixed tape to school.

Sunday Bloody Sunday...

I Will Follow...

New Year's Day...

Pride (In The Name Of Love)...

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For...

40...

Electric Co....

Party Girl...

...a feast for the senses.

The 13-year-old was me and that is how I became a U2 fan. I've been one ever since.

It hasn't always been a rosy relationship. For example, us Aussies have had to wait years between tours or missed out altogether.

But I'll still defend you to the end of days. And I'll tell anyone who is willing, or unwilling, to listen that you are the GOAT.

Your music unites people - an extraordinary feat. You have proven that rock'n'roll can save lives, mend relationships, fix a broken heart and lift spirits.

For that, I and millions of others thank you.

Your fan since 1989,
Sandro Olivo at U2 Australia

Cari Bono Edge Adam e Larry

Ho iniziato ad ascoltarvi per caso. Tutto avvenne con semplicità, una meravigliosa Sunday Bloody Sunday mi spinse ad ascoltarvi. Non riuscivo a non ascoltare la vostra musica, entrai scoprendo un meraviglioso mondo di sentimenti che permisero alla mia anima di volteggiare leggiadra. Cocolata da quelle note che gli aveva mai donato, rinvigorita da quella musica rimase delicatamente intrappolata dal suo avvolgerne senza mai uscirne..

La vostra
Stefy

U2 - Seconds

Dear Bono, Adam, Edge and Larry

"Seconds" was the first U2's song I ever heard, almost 35 years ago, and even if it is not the best song of the band it was very important because it was my first contact with U2. In that particular moment I started a strong relationship with you guys. Something like a brotherhood, a friendship.

That relationship lasted until now and in this long trip I went through for several moments in my life, good ones and bad ones, but always with you by my side.

"Seconds" was the spark that turned on this love for your music, for your lyrics, for your compromise.

This love gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of great people around the world, friends, lovers, beautiful people and that was like a gift for myself.

Took a second to know that you would be my "friends" in this life, thank you for this, thank you for saving my life.

Long life U2!

Your fan, Ezequiel

U2 - New Year's Day

Dear ... Bono, Adam, Edge, Larry -U2

The music that saved my life is New Year's Day, this song is part of all my victories and achievements.

This song brought me closer to the band all these years and has a very special meaning in my life, the first time I heard this song my heart overflowed with emotion and an Infinite Love for this wonderful band ...

I love U2, I love Bono and I learned from him to be more supportive, to have more Faith ... to believe in Love, to believe in Friendship, to believe in Family and to believe in God.

The U2 band has been my rock band since 1981 Forever ... U2 My Family

Thank you

Bono - U2

Your Fan

U2BonoLoveofficial

Dri Olivares

"New Year's Day' changed my life in 1983." That was what I had planned to say to you, Bono, when I had the opportunity to meet you. It was some meet & greet line at some reception in some non-descript hotel some 15 years ago. That was my chance. I had a captive audience. But I freaked out while I was shaking your hand [and never got to say any of it].

I've often said that The Cars were the first band with a sound that could be my music. MY music. Music that sounded like the 80s. Not my older brother's music. Which sounded like the 70s. Although The Cars were the first to be that sound, U2 were the first to be that band for ME.

New Year's Day had it all. With that catchy groove. Those intense vocals. A memorable riff. And, holy cow, the simple little piano bit that just took it to another place. To ME, it was the perfect song. Right when I needed it. You had the Ramones. I had U2.

I was raised in a family who loved sports.

Continued...

I liked sports when I was growing up. I liked them a great deal. But I wasn't very good at any of them. So, music would become my hobby. Music would be MY thing that I had.

And not my brothers' things that they did. So, in that way, New Year's Day did save my life. It was exactly the right song. And it came around at precisely the right time.

If I ever get to try that conversation with you again, Bono, I'd tell you about how I got married since we last met [and about how she saved my life, too]. About how we wrote our own marriage vows. And about how I included "I want to be with you be with you night and day" in mine. But, I suppose, this note will just have to do for now.

U2

"New Year's Day"

Dear Bono,

How do I thank you for a 40-year musical love affair? An affair that began as an idea and then grabbed hold of my heart, mind and soul and hasn't let go since? You were like a lover from across the sea that I never saw but always felt. Your siren's songs still tug on my heart strings and lead to a secret, knowing smile when I hear your voice.

My awakening began with "New Year's Day." This beautiful anthem was on heavy rotation on radio stations and in clubs I frequented in Austin, TX where I attended college in the early and mid-1980s. Full of idealism as I entered university, no one was a stranger, and I made fast friends with girls in my dormitory. Every experience was intensely new, and I discovered myself a little bit at a time.

We lived for Thursday nights. We dressed in our finest punk rock attire (think:

Continued...

denim mini skirts, satin ties, low-heeled pumps and sometimes even leg warmers over our pants) and headed to one of Austin's hottest clubs, Angles, to dance the night away. Angles was our place. Our Lypton Village, if you will. Our refuge from the world for a few hours.

I connected with you through that dancing. As soon as I heard Edge's distinctive opening keyboard notes and your "Yeeeeahhhh," I ran to the dance floor and danced with abandon. I closed my eyes and moved to the music, hearing only your voice and internalizing the beat of Larry's drums and Adam's brilliant, steady bass line. I danced like we all did in the 80s, knees bouncing and arms swinging to and fro. I twirled. I lost myself in the music. No one else was present in my universe. I let go.

I am a huge fan of War, and "New Year's Day" carries a serious and urgent message even today.

Continued...

I never tire of it, and I love how you've changed the arrangements over the years to adapt to every era in our world's history.

For me, it was a coming-of-age song. One that is frozen in time and preserves precious memories. Thank you for giving me what was my song of innocence.

Your fan,

Becky

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam & Larry,

Drowning Man from War helped me through the death of my dad back in 1990.

Tomorrow from October helped me through that time as well.

I cannot recall the songs that have helped me through other issues but so many songs have been there for me to give me comfort.

U2 ☒ Drowning Man

Dear Larry, Adam, The Edge & Bono,

The first song where I felt all the pieces (drums, bass, guitar, vocals) deep in my soul.

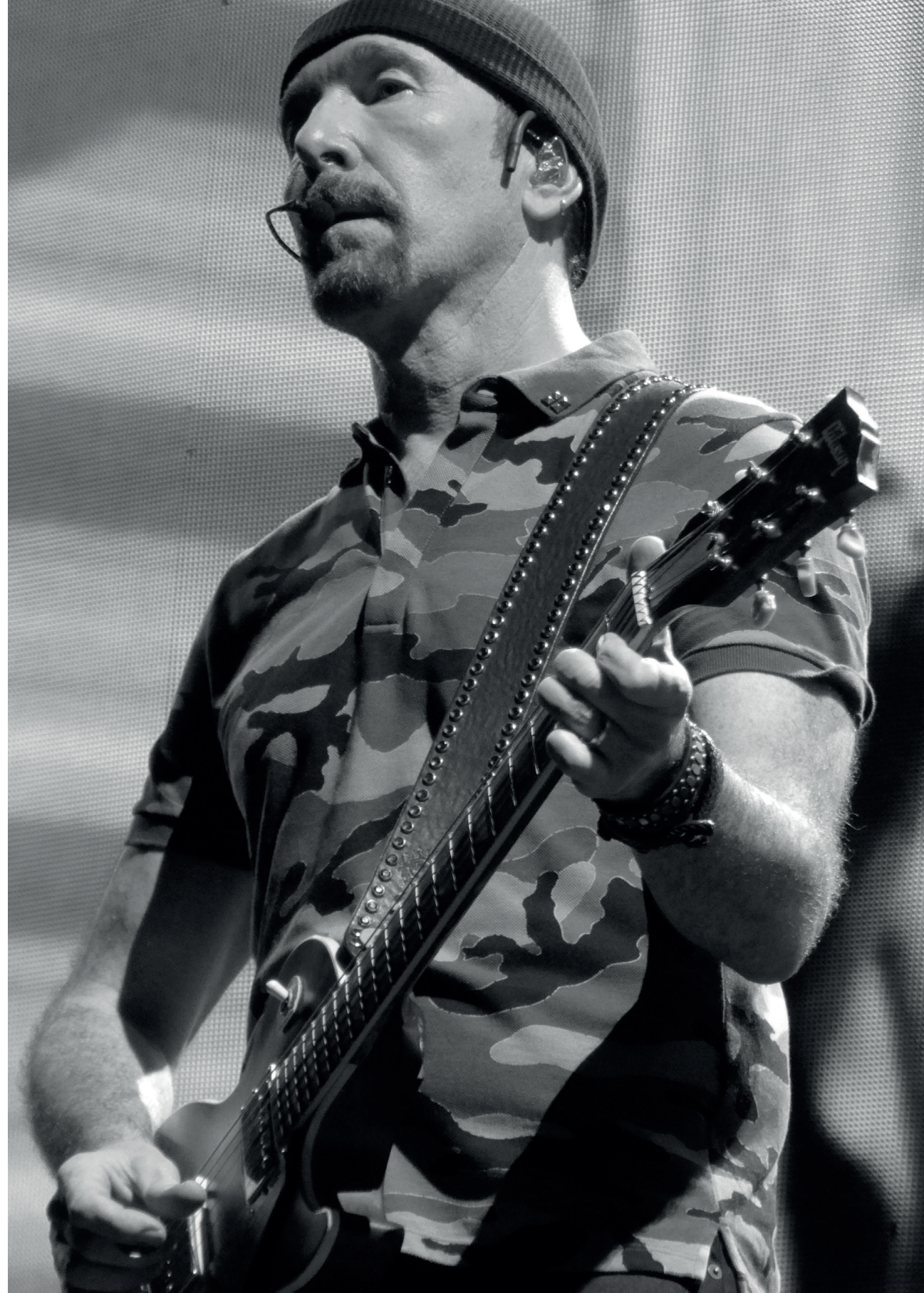
As cliched as it sounds, thank you for being the soundtrack of my life... through births, deaths & all the joyful messiness in-between.

"Without music, life would be a mistake"

Nietzsche

Fan forever,

Alexa



IV. Under a Blood Red Sky (1985)

U2 - Sunday Bloody Sunday

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge and Larry,

I became a fan when I was 13, going on 14 - today, a few weeks before turning 50 and looking back at the past half century, I cannot imagine what my life would look like or how it would have developed without your music.

Though I cannot date the exact day, it was very likely in spring 1984, when I was first introduced to your music through Under A Blood Red Sky in our school's discotheque. I fell in love with the whole album, in particular with Sunday Bloody Sunday. Though I did not initially understand the lyrics as I had only started learning English a couple of years earlier, the sound, the rhythm, the urgency in Bono's voice immediately mesmerized me. I felt the emotion and it has never left me since, even more when I was able to understand the lyrics and the background some time later (and, unfortunately, the song's lyrics are as true today as back then).

Continued...

This song was the beginning of an incredible journey for me that is still ongoing decades later filled with your incredible songs and live concerts. It certainly sounds somewhat cheesy but becoming (and staying) your fan and understanding not only your music and lyrics but the humanitarian beliefs you have always been standing for has certainly shaped me as a person, in particular when growing up but remaining until today, always trying to be a good (or at least a better) person.

About 15 years ago, I joined the U2tour.de forum, first as a user, later as staff and a few years back as admin and the turn my life took since then was again totally unexpected. In this close-knit community I started traveling to shows (in the early years, I only went to local shows), always knowing I would not be alone - quite the contrary. During these years, the community I felt at home with grew international - meeting so many people from all over the world, meeting so many fellow fans.

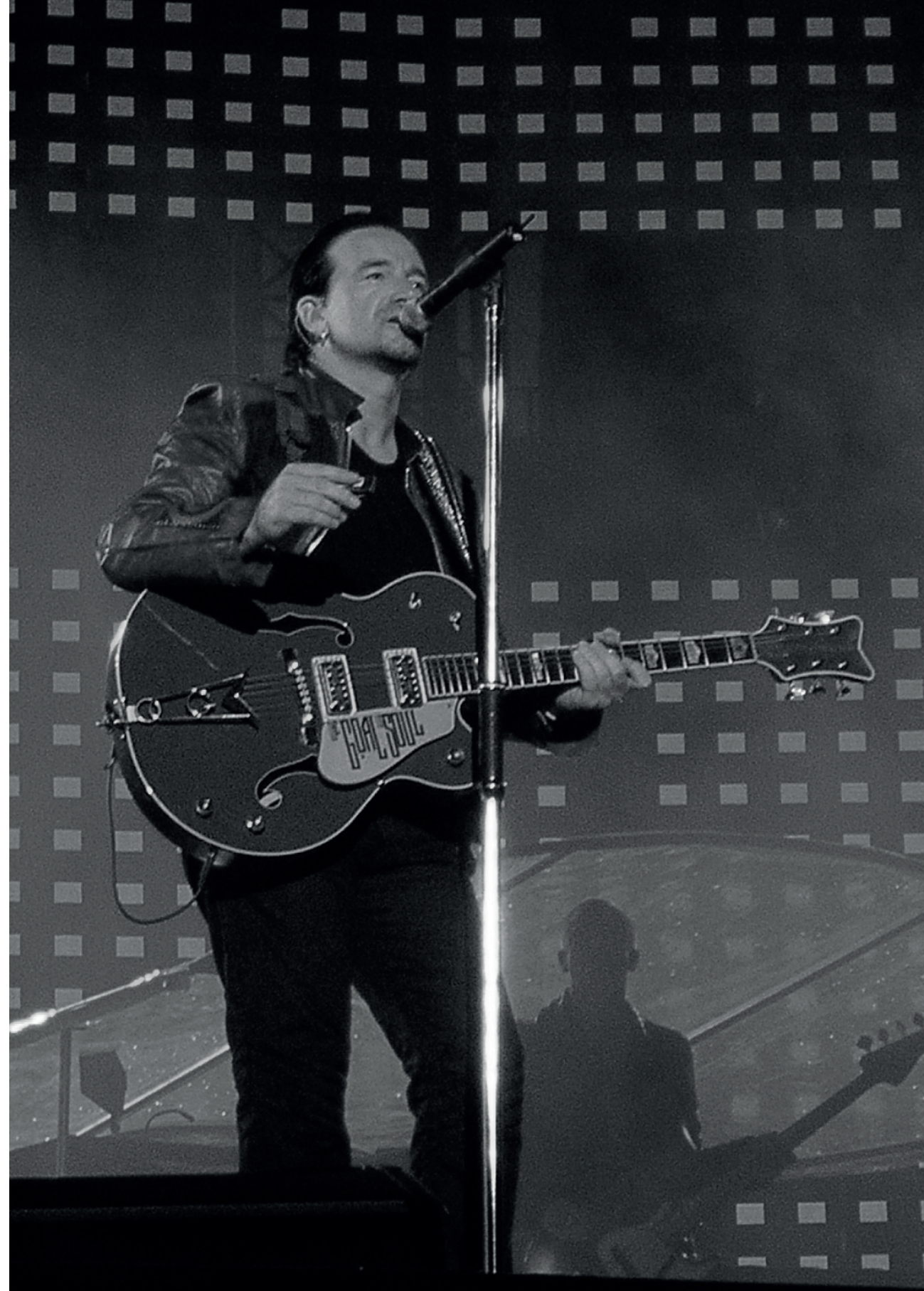
Continued...

And making a few really close friends I could not imagine being without.

I could go on and on, writing about your songs being a part of my life for 36 years now, about what they mean to me or meant in specific situations, about how some of them changed my life or my thinking - it all started (for me) with the live version of Sunday Bloody Sunday in 1984. Since then, I've seen you play it live on stage 55 times and I sure hope that there will be many more times coming...Standing surrounded by many fellow fans, screaming at the top of my lungs "Cos tonight, We can be as one, tonight".

To cut a (very) long story short: all I really want to do is thank you for being an important part of my life for so long and not only mine but for so many. "Love is bigger than anything in its way"!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,
your (almost) lifelong fan Sabine



V. The
Unforgettable
Fire
(1984)

U2- A Sort Of Homecoming

Dear Bono,

This song is my earliest memory of U2. This is the song that linked me to U2.

When I first heard it, the 14 years old teenager that I was then couldn't understand all the lyrics, but definitely could understand its drive and its power. I remember spending the whole summer listening to the Unforgettable Fire album in my backyard, in my mountain.

From this moment, your music has always been present in my life, lifting my spirit up. I almost lost this precious gift recently, what would I have done without U2's music?

My mountain, my hometown have always been my oasis of peace.
We run and don't look back.

Thanks for still being there and sing to us.

Your forever fan
Nat

Cari Bono, Adam, The Edge, Larry,

E' molto difficile scegliere una vostra canzone che per me ha significato piu di tutte nella mia vita.

Proprio per questo ho deciso di scegliere A Sort of Homecoming, solo perché è stata la canzone che, tantissimi anni fa, mi ha fatto innamorare di voi.

Avevo 12 anni, era il 1988, e dopo aver visto la Vhs di Under A Blood Red Sky, un giorno vidi uno speciale in tv dove c'era A Sort of Homecoming, il video diretto da Barry Devlin.

Mentre partivano le note e le immagini, sentii uno strano colpo allo stomaco, un colpo al cuore. Il mio cuore si era acceso del vostro fuoco, indimenticabile.

Da quel giorno vi ho amato, adorato e mi avete regalato una vita bellissima.. nonostante negli anni la mia vita ha subito tanti cambiamenti, lutti e difficoltà.

Voi mi avete accompagnato, sempre, facendomi sentire meno solo. E soprattutto fortunato ad avere avuto voi come i miei migliori quattro amici.

Continued...

Sono passati tanti anni, il mondo è cambiato..ma io quando ascolto una vostra canzone, o vado a un vostro concerto, o vi sento parlare in una intervista, o vedo una vostra foto, sento lo stesso colpo al cuore che mi diede A Sort of Homecoming quel giorno tantissimi anni fa.

Vi ringrazio per avermi insegnato tante cose, in primis il rispetto per le disuguaglianze, la solidarietà, la pace. E soprattutto mi avete fatto capire quanto è importante essere umili e coerenti. Come siete sempre stati voi.

Grazie perché per me gli U2 sono da sempre i miei migliori amici, perché la vostra musica e i vostri ideali sono il mio sangue.

Grazie Larry perché dopo aver fondato gli U2 li hai resi grandissimi, perché l'ultima parola è sempre la tua, mi hai insegnato che bisogna restare se stessi nonostante i cambiamenti dei tempi.

Grazie Adam perché mi hai insegnato che nella vita conta rialzarsi dopo gli errori, e fare tesoro delle esperienze fatte.

Continued...

E che non si deve mai smettere di lottare per rimediare agli errori e diventare una persona migliore.

Grazie The Edge perché mi hai insegnato che si può essere artefici del suono più bello del mondo restando in silenzio, dietro le quinte, e che non bisogna mai smettere di pensare che esiste un suono migliore, e bisogna dedicarsi tutta la vita per ottenerlo.

Grazie Bono perché mi hai insegnato che non bisogna mai smettere di lottare per i propri ideali, e che non bisogna mai reagire alle critiche e alle prevaricazioni. Perché l'amore annega l'odio solo continuando a credere fermamente nelle proprie idee.

Grazie U2 perché mi avete dato una vita bellissima, mi avete fatto conoscere persone speciali, e perché mi fate ancora battere il cuore come quando mi sono innamorato di voi. Grazie perché non mi avete mai tradito e mi avete sempre fatto credere in voi stessi. Siete una religione, un culto, i miei migliori amici da sempre.

Continued...

Grazie per non avermi mai fatto smettere di sognare ad alta voce e di immaginare un mondo migliore dove vivere. E che un ponte tra il mare e la terra lo si costruisce se ci si crede davvero, nonostante tutte le difficoltà di questa amara vita, che avete reso bellissima. Per me sarete sempre il mio più grande privilegio e onore, la vita più bella che avrei potuto vivere è stata quella con voi nelle mie vene.

Vi voglio bene.

Angelo

U2 -Pride (In the name of love)

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry

Pride (In the name of love) was supposed to be a song about Ronald Reagan before you made it an epic anthem for Martin Luther King. That was probably the best decision you could make.

Hard to believe that the song is more than 35 years old, it is of timeless beauty and -unfortunately - incredibly relevant after all this time.

There is this story about a planned assassination attempt on Bono and how Adam stood protectively in front of him during the song. Hurts to say that something like this would still be conceivable today. I am sure Adam would still be there willing to catch the bullet for him today. Without your valuable friendship and loyalty, it would not have been possible to write all this outstanding songs as a band for decades.

Pride was the first U2 song I have ever heard and I still get goosebumps when a whole stadium starts singing the last chorus (oh-oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh-oh).

Continued...

Dr King had a dream - thank you for keeping this dream alive!

Your fan,

D.

U2: Pride (In The Name Of Love)

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry,

Believe it or not, I can name the exact date I became a U2 fan: January 18, 2009, watching the We Are One concert for President Obama on TV in my parents' room. I had never heard of you or heard a second of your music. Hearing this song for the first time was an awakening that completely changed my understanding of what rock and roll could do and be.

Themes of love, loss, religion, advocacy, resistance - I had no idea music had the power to bring these things to the forefront of our minds and collective consciousness. I mean, this was a rock and roll band singing about Dr. King! I listened to it over and over. I learned it (clumsily) on guitar. I wrote high school papers about it. I felt my heart skip two beats the first time I experienced it live, then the second time, then the third. It's my anthem, my hymn on April 4, my energy source.

Continued...

There's so much more to say, but hopefully a humble "thank you"
may suffice.

Your fan,

Miles

U2 Pride (in the name of love).

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry

Pride is not only the song that made me fall in love with U2 and
your music, It's the song that almost represents me and what I
believe. It's as if God is playing a rock masterpiece! I see me again
14yrs to enter timidly in this great U2fam ... singing in a very loud
voice with young Bono in Modena in 1987 and every time that I
listened U2, until at last in Milano. Such a great emotion every
time! You are soundtrack, shelter, reflection, joy. In one word ...
brothers.

Pride is the history of a just man, of anyone has injustices, but
also the beginning of a beautiful story, mine story with U2.

Thank you Bono, you surprise me always. Still once you make as a
great gift: 60 great songs.

Never stop to write poet so I could listen "the most beautiful
sound I'd never heard".

Your fan

Francesca

U2 - Pride

10th Oct, 1985

I'm 11 years old, at home with my Nana, waiting for a phone call. And sadly it comes - my Dad, calling from the hospital tell me my Mum has just passed away. I run to my room, lock the door and crawl into bed. Tears streaming down my face, I look at the radio cassette player Mum had given me only a week earlier - a present from her trip back to England to see her family. Until that moment, I had only played the cassettes she gave me on it. Hadn't tried the radio. I flicked the switch on - she had tuned it to a station for me. That first song I heard was Pride. I cried and cried. At the end of the song, I sat up, wondering who was that band and that song, at that very desperate moment?

And so began 35 years of connection, comfort, travel, experience, dreams, hope, friendships and joy..... what more indeed

Your fan,
Georgia
Australia

I was 9 years old. A song came on the radio in the car. My uncle Butchie (his name was Tom, but he was called Butchie, which given that his brother was called Hawk and his friends were called Cookie, Fear [or maybe pair?] and Dookie [I'm dead serious], he kinda made out ok) told us all we needed to listen up "This is a band from Ireland that has the audacity to come to America and talk about Martin Luther King Jr. You need to pay attention to this band."

The song was Pride.

"Early morning, April four
Shot rings out in the Memphis sky.
Free at last, they took your life
They could not take your pride."

My cousin Mike, whom I adored and thought was the epitome of everything that was cool (and who also despite me growing up an only child made sure I got the proper ribbing of an older brother) piped up and said "I know this group, it's U2!" Well that was it. I was sold.

Continued...

It would be a few years before I could see the video to Pride that features these towers (I didn't have cable and MTV until I was 15) and it was only recently that I learned they still stand and are called the Poolbeg Chimneys.

I'm thankful that my uncle told me I had to pay attention to this band. For 32 years I've had an oft changing soundtrack that didn't just entertain but educated, informed and challenged my thinking on serious issues. I'm grateful to my cousin who in the years to come would lend me some of his tapes, which I copied (really sorry to U2, but I'm pretty sure I've more than made up for it by now.) I'm thankful to this band for never giving up, breaking up or selling out. For constantly reinventing itself and its sound so that I never tired or lost interest and for writing songs that never age even if the reason they never age is because the problems that inspired them never change.

"In the name of love. What more in the name of love?"

Dear U2,

My favorite song by you guys definitely is pride. When I was a little kid, my father brought home a CD from his office. It was best of '80 to '90. I played it and that's the first track that came on. You guys inspired me to form my band.

Thanks!

U2 - The Unforgettable Fire

Dear Larry, Adam, Edge and Bono

Even though I only became a dedicated fan of yours after seeing the Vertigo ad in 2004 (yes, things like that can happen!) The Unforgettable Fire got stuck in my head after the very first listen.

This song has this certain mystic sound that made me immediately fall in love with it. One could say it was love at first listen. Or may be it is the fact that it was released a few days before my birth... there's also the super cool coincidence I share the same date of birth with Bono (born to be a U2 fan?) ;)

I actually never imagined I was gonna hear it live. In 2009 I couldn't make it to the opening nights in Barcelona but downloaded the first bootleg of the first show just a few hours after the concert.

Continued...

I just pressed play without looking up the setlist and after some time I had tears running down my face as I realized my favorite song made it to the setlist and I'm going to hear it live at least once during the 360 tour.

Your music has enriched my life since then and always will I've met the most amazing people and best friends because of you.

Thank you for everything!

Your fan. Always. Forever.

Stefanie

U2 - Promenade

Dear U2,

Few albums evoke memories of my childhood than The Unforgettable Fire. It's a proper album that always sounds better on vinyl than any other format.

The segue from the strings at the end of The Unforgettable Fire into Promenade instantly send me back to summer holidays in the south of England, brook jumping with my mates, and family teas on a Sunday afternoon.

It's trippy, warm and comfortable. Words that you might not associate with some of your music, but it's a place I like to return to often.

Up through the spiral staircase, to the higher ground.....slide show, seaside town, Coca Cola, football, radio radio radio, radio radio.

A fan

Simon

Dear U2,

When I was 17 in 1985 I was lost dropped out of school lost contact with friends, no job and on unemployment benefits.

One day on the radio I heard a song called Pride (In The Name Of Love). I went to my local record store and asked the man at the counter about this song, he said "that's a U2 song and we have the album". I purchased "The Unforgettable Fire" cassette album, and a song called "Bad" literally saved my life.

I was contemplating suicide, however I would play this song "Bad" as a form of therapy.

Long story short I end up becoming a U2catholic and your songs are the soundtrack to my life. Thanks for saving my life when i was a lost kid in this world.

From a forever grateful U2 fan.

Luis

Bono, The Edge, Adam and Larry,

Having been a U2 fan for 27 years now, it's not easy to pinpoint just one song that saved my life. U2 has very much been the soundtrack of my life. Sunday Bloody Sunday ruled my boom box as a kid. Acrobat dominated my CD player in my teens. Invisible commanded my iPod as a young adult.

The song I finally chose is Bad. Being raised in a household where alcohol and drugs were as much a part of the family as my sister or brother, this song was relatable to me.

Wishing there was something I could do to help my loved ones, I sang along with Bono, "If I could, through myself, set your spirit free, I'd lead your heart away".

When the world felt like it was spinning out of control, U2 was my rock. Music is a vital part of life for me and I have U2 to thank for that!

Thank you for always making music that was there for me when times were tough.

U2 always got me through!!

Your lifelong fan,

Jen

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge And Larry,

I Know This Sounds A Cliche,But Bono And U2 Have Been A Constant Soundtrack And Inspiration In My Life . Have Many Favourite Songs But Have To Say When I Seen Bad Performed At Live Aid 1985, Truly Realised How Special U2 Were To Me. The Performance That Day Was Awesome. I Was Lucky Enough To See U2 At Twickenham In July 2017 With My Nephew On The Joshua Tree 30th Anniversary Tour, The Rendition Of Bad That Night Will Live With Me Forever Honestly Made Me Feel Privileged To Be There.

Thank you Once Again U2 For All The Fantastic Music And Memories You Have Given Me

Dear Bono, The Edge, Larry and Adam

I have been a fan of yours since 1987, I was 16 and my aunt was going to see you at Elland Rd Leeds. I was really jealous and so wanted to go. I played The Joshua Tree constantly, and vowed, even back then, that seeing my favourite band in their home city was top of my bucket list.

After several intervening years I was fortunate enough to see you on ZooTV tour Leeds, 360 tour Sheffield and Vertigo tour Manchester, and but it wasn't until IE Tour that my fandom elevated (pardon the pun).

My discovery of Twitter led me to discover like minded U2 fans from around the world and friendships grew. In 2017 I can safely say I had the best weekend ever with strangers who had become friends and made all the better by my all time favourite song being played. In my 33 years of fandom I had waited for Bad live, I cried, and hugged Angelo, who I had only met that same day!!

Continued...

Thank you U2 for helping discover a U2 family, some members of which I hold very dear to my heart.

Much love

Siggie

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge & Larry

in 1985 your song "Bad" built the foundation for my further life. Of course, at that time I couldn't have guessed that. I only knew that this song touched my heart deep inside. Your first Record I bought was the „The Unforgettable Fire“ and I played it up and down the whole day. "Bad" was an exceptional Song. I don't know how many times that song gave me goose bumps all over my body. It is still my favourite song and will remain so until the end of my days!

Since 1985 there were so many memories connected to your music. Your songs have accompanied me through all the ups and downs of my life. Sometimes I need a little break - but only sometimes. Due to your music I have made many friends. Real friends! The best thing is that I met my wife many years ago through our mutual love for U2. Without U2 this would probably not have happened and without U2 there would not be our wonderful three children.

Continued...

This all started in 1985 with "Bad"...thank you very much for that!
It's more than a musical journey!

Your fan Torsten

BAD

U2 , un nome che nella mia vita ha un posto Fondamentale da 35 anni..

È difficile scrivervi e difficile ringraziarvi perché credo di averlo fatto milioni di volte , ogni volta in cui una vostra canzone mi ha confortato ...e Grazie è stata l'unica parola che sono stato in grado di dirvi piu di 20 anni fa incontrandovi di persona..

C'è però un momento il cui il mio Ringraziamento x voi è iniziato.. e a quello voglio tornare..

A una sera in cui vi vidi esibirvi in uno stadio Gremito x fare del bene.

La sera del Live Aid!!

Quella performance mi colpì...ed ebbi la necessità di saperne di piu di voi...che conoscevo appena.

Alcune vostre canzoni mi piacevano ma in quella BAD c'era qualcosa di diverso!

Mi feci fare una cassetta da un amico vostro fan.. dove Bad però si interrompeva prima del finale, inaccettabile! ...così comprai The Unforgettable Fire... il mio 1° disco U2

E tutto cambiò per sempre!

Continued...

Nell'85 svolgevo il servizio militare... ero un ragazzo semplice ed introverso.. un po' razzista e un po' omofobo.. cresciuto in un paesino all'antica.

La naja era molto pesante , mesi lontano da casa , vessazioni dagli anziani , disciplina ferrea , ordini assurdi..

Tutti ne fuggivano allo stesso modo, con la droga! Leggera e pesante che fosse scorreva come un fiume che nessuno arrestava..

Me la proponevano ogni giorno... non volevo cedere ma era sempre piu difficile resistere alla tentazione di scappare perdendosi in quei mondi fittizi..

Non so se avrei ceduto... so che la tentazione e il fascino li subivo..

Il fascino del male... subdolo e pericoloso..

Mi rifugiavo nella musica , cassetta e cuffie, non sapendo bene l'inglese era difficile capirvi del tutto. ma " Quella canzone"... sentivo il bisogno di sapere..

Così me la feci spiegare... capii che parlava proprio di quello ...

Continued...

del non lasciarsi andare , del resistere alle tentazioni... del non farsi distruggere dalle avversità o del sapersi risollevarsi una volta caduti.

Fu un lampo... Quella canzone fu la mia molla!

Diventò il mio modo di fuggire alle tentazioni , sì, credo mi abbia salvato.

Lo ha fatto allora e da quel momento è la mia Ancora , il mio rifugio ..a cui si sono aggiunte tutte le altre.

Mi ha cambiato, mi avete cambiato voi insegnandomi valori come Tolleranza , Solidarietà, Rispetto delle diversità di ogni genere: di colore ,razza ,religione e gusti sessuali...

Da 35 anni siete un punto di riferimento , oltre ad ascoltarvi ho condiviso i vostri ideali , le battaglie di Bono x un mondo migliore..

Grazie di avermi sostenuto , di avermi aiutato a diventare un uomo migliore , di esserci ogni volta in cui ho bisogno di una mano tesa come canta Drowning Man ..

Di avermi fatto conoscere centinaia di persone meravigliose , x

Continued...

perché che ho scoperto che essere fan degli U2 spesso significa essere persone di valore... Ho vissuto grazie a voi oltre alle emozioni degli ascolti e di oltre 20 concerti memorabili molte Amicizie , vere , solide , importanti e qualche Amore.

U2 non è solo musica...è un modo di pensare e un ideale di Mondo da perseguire... forse un'utopia , ma già l'idea di provarci è importante e rende più vivi...

Da allora BAD e gli U2 sono il battito del mio Cuore.

Con voi mi sento Sempre a Casa.. siete come la Lampadina sul palco del vostro tour ... una Idea , una ispirazione continua..

E non credo ci sia un GRAZIE abbastanza grande per questo.

Marco Calosi

VI. The Joshua Tree (1987)

U2 - Where the Streets Have No Name

Dear Larry, Adam , Bono and The Edge:

Is my song choice too obvious? It's everyone's favorite moment in the live show! But let us consider the majesty of the studio version. It's better than you remember. It's better than Brian Eno remembers. The cathedral of sound contained within that 5:37 is a church I want to attend again and again. And I hope I won't be excommunicated when I say that I prefer the proverbial "LP Version" over any live performance I've heard. There's simply nothing else like it.

Growing up with you has been a blessing. I jumped on the bandwagon with The Joshua Tree when I was still in high school. It was amazing to be caught up in the frenzy of a band conquering America. The L.A. roof top video for "Streets" says it all.

Continued...

You have never failed to challenge and enlighten...from the evangelistic fervor of the 80s, the misunderstood genius of Rattle and Hum, and the disorienting assault of Zoozopa and Pop to the spiritual rebirth of No Line on the Horizon and the one-two punch of Innocence and Experience...your music has been with me through road trips, break-ups, marriage, children, anger, joy, shame.

Not to be morbid, but you're a dying breed. You made a name for yourselves in an era when a record collection was something to be curated, touched, and experienced as more than just sound. I wish the kids today could understand the archeological joy and frustration/satisfaction of seeking out b-sides, imports, and remixes without having Every Single Song delivered to them instantaneously through a digital fire hose. For me it all started with The Joshua Tree on cassette, experiencing "Streets" over and over through the cutting-edge tech of the Walkman <<rewind>> button.

Continued...

Thanks for being a part of that journey with me. God bless the lot
of you.

Don

U2Songs.com

U2 - WTSHNM

Dear U2, and U2 Community

This fan letter celebrates our U2 community's common message: being
thankful to a group of storytellers that crafted and packaged a
sound and a message that raises one's spirits, energy, and/or
passions.

Like all, I have that song. That one that when I first hear that
first sound, raises the hair on my neck, my fist, and gets my voice
to call out.

WTSHNM is that song.

It embodies, for me, the 'U2 experience'; rock and rock that captures
messaging (political, or hopeful, or reflective...) with riffs that
resonate through your body.

Even, after all these years, it still comes together every time I
hear the opening of Joshua Tree and/or WTSHNM.

The organ. The rising pitch. The opening guitar riff. The opening
bass thumping. That opening Snare! The opening of the storyteller's
voice. The opening line. The opening verse. The opening chorus. It
all merges.

It gets my spirits raised each and every time.

In June of 1987, this LP was everything. For me, and, of course, for many others. Bad had been an incredible song to launch my U2 journey. But Joshua Tree had now consumed me. This LP was now defining what rock and roll provides. What it could offer. I was supposed to be studying for my high school exams. I had intended to play this LP in the background. But... I couldn't. I kept being drawn into the opening song on Side A. I listened to that side of the album until, I'm pretty sure, I practically wore down the plastic. Each time, I kept singing out loud, getting drawn into the energy, the reflection and the passion.

For me, WTSHNM is a painting that brings what rock music offers: the message, the craft, the packaging, the visuals of the live rock experience. ... in short, for me, the entirety of U2 experience is captured in that song.

Thanks for reading.

Trevor

Where the Streets Have No Name

Choosing one song from your amazing catalog is not an easy thing to do, as your songs have meant sometime to me at different times in my life. The lyrics "I want to run/I want to hide" describe the way I felt for a long time. My father is from the USA, my mother is from Germany. We live in a small town and some of my classmates were very cruel about my German heritage, teasing about the way I dressed, the way I talked, and many other things.

I know others had/have it much worse, but for a kid, it was horrible. I remember hearing Streets in my 7th grade art class. I just stopped what I was doing, and listened- lost in the beauty of the song. The lyrics "tear down the walls that hold me inside" hit me. I was not going to let anyone make me feel ashamed of who I am. It helped me go from feeling like a nobody to being happy with who I am.

Continued...

I still get goosebumps every time I hear this song, whether on the stereo or live in concert. Music has always been a big part of my life, and your music especially so. Your music has always been there for me. Thank you for the people I have met, the experiences, the memories, the music.

Bono, Adam, Larry, and Edge - Thank you!

Your lifelong fan,
Nicole

Where the streets have no name

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam, Larry.

Choose one of your song to say thank you is barely impossible.

But I have no doubt.

This song really save my life and gave me the strenght that I need in certain moment. I listen it when I had exames at the Uni.

I listen it at inimmaginable volumes. It was not important if were the 6 in the morning or in the afternoon.

I receive back such a spin, such a strenght that's not explicable.

I listen it every time I catch a plane. The same song. From Sidney.

I had it in my ear when the girl who became later my wife wrote "hello" on my Facebook chat, a minute before I had to close my smartphone to fly to Dublin, to left my past and kiss the future.

I listen it every time I need to be strong. When I need to feel the sunlight on my face. You know. Streets is the Queen. Streets is red. Streets is probably one of your 3 top songs of all time.

Continued...

I wanna thanks Larry's way and Adam's bass line for the powerful
rithmyc section. Bono's voice, Bono's lyrics and the way you Bono
pay respect for this song, the way you sang it. The way you succes
in waving my mind like a rollercoast.

Edge's guitar for that riff. Who scratched my soul and lift it up
and up over the stratosphere.... There... Where the streets have no
name. Grazie.

Your fan.

Francesco

Where The Streets Have No Name

Dear U2,

It could be Bad or Acrobat. But if transcendence ever had a name
other than God, it would be this. Every U2 fan knows the feeling,
getting ready to leave the ground, being swept into that other
place, not coming down. We go there with you...

Your fans.

U2-Where the Streets Have No Name

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

I've tried for about a week now to create this letter. I don't know why it has been so difficult to do.

Maybe the thought of the four of you reading this is a little much for me right now. Or maybe

allowing myself to be a little transparent is kind of scary. I'm about to share my heart in a personal way, about the song that has been the anthem in my life. A lot of U2 songs are special and beyond comprehension but Streets is extraordinary. When I say extraordinary, it's supernaturally extraordinary. It takes you to a place where anything is possible. It encourages you to break beyond the walls that are holding you in and let go. To discover peace, joy, hope, God and yourself. A place of transcendence. This was lifesaving to 13 year old me when I first heard it in the fall of 1992. I NEEDED to go to that place to escape from the chaos around me.

Continued...

I needed the comfort that the beautiful intro offers. Way before Edge's signature notes begin to play, it already begins to calm the soul as soon as it starts. The chaos going on around me was instantly drowned out by it and it felt like a warm welcoming hug that I could collapse into. It still feels like that 27 years later. Then when Edge's beautiful signature notes start playing and I heard Bono sing the words of the first verse, I grabbed on to it because it was exactly what I was feeling. "I wanna run, I want to hide I wanna tear down the walls that hold me inside." I instantly grabbed on to those lyrics because that's exactly what I wanted to do to escape the chaos around me. I remember hearing this through my headphones as I played the song through my portable cd player in my room and it became meditation for me. This song became a place of refuge for me and almost 3 decades later, it still is. It takes me to a place where I can feel the sunlight on my face.

Continued...

Where whatever

challenge that I might be facing, has a solution because anything is possible in the place that Bono describes. This is why it's my anthem. Bono, I believe that you have said before that you feel like the song is incomplete. I disagree. Maybe it was never yours to complete but for the fans to complete with their own story on how U2's music has taken them to that place as well. I am forever grateful for this song and your music. It's part of my soul.

Forever your fan,
Michelle

Dear Bono, dear Edge, dear Adam, dear Larry,

I remember very clearly this evening in spring 1987, when I started to listen a record from a band, my brother told me; the band was called "U2" and the album was "The Joshua Tree".

Coming from classical music, I didn't know much about your band... I didn't know yet, that the first seconds of "Where The Streets Have No Name" would change my life...! The intro with this upbuilding sounds like the creation of the world overwhelmed me completely and hit me like a stroke in my heart and my brain...! Up from that moment, you won me for life! Your music, your spirit, simply YOU changed my inner and outer life in a breathtaking way. And still you give to me freedom, spirit, love!

What more can we experience in life??

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all that!!!

With much love, may you be blessed,
Daniel

U2 - Where the streets have no name

Dear Bono, The Edge, Larry and Adam:

I really had to think for a moment which song to choose. Should it be „All I want is you“ which was the song we chose for our wedding dance? Should it be something from „Achtung Baby“, remembering the birth of our beautiful daughter? Or „Running to stand still“ because it always gets me while listening and tears came down my face when I heard it live for the first time.

Somehow I always came back to „Where the streets have no name“, maybe because it is THE ANTHEM at every U2 concert, maybe because it makes me believe that anything is possible. That song has such an energy. I love it so much, that it was the song played after „All I want is you“ at our wedding and I wanted all my friends to stand up and to start dancing and hopefully feel the same way I always do when listening to it.

Continued...

For 15 years you have been a huge part of my life, I have seen several concerts and you always surprised me, you made songs alive again, that I haven't heard for a while and you always touched my heart. You always reinvented yourself and never really seemed to be satisfied, you always wanted to be better. For me you were always the best.

Bono, I know you sometimes get criticized for your political or humanitarian work and talking about it at your concerts. I am glad that you don't let anyone tell you, that it doesn't belong there. I am glad that you want to make the world a better place. I just want you to know that I love what you do and I truly look up to you. You inspire me and many others. I have never met you in person. I have been quite close though on our holiday on the island Hvar/Palmizana in Croatia in 2016. On that day we found out that I was pregnant and walked down the promenade of Hvar.

Continued...

One day later I also found out that you were sitting in a restaurant that we walked by and just a few minutes later you came out. The next day you posted a picture on Instagram sitting in another restaurant in Palmizana. We went there, had lunch and made a picture in the same position as you did the day before. Somehow I was sad that I didn't get the chance to meet you, but on the other hand you were on holiday too, so it was good that you had your privacy. I just took it as a sign, founding out to be pregnant again after two miscarriages and you being so close, I believed that this time everything would turn out fine. And it did! Lena ist now 3 years old and we love her with all of our heart. Even if I had met you, I'm sure I would have been to nervous to tell you, what I feel. So I am taking this second chance by writing this letter and maybe one day you will see this.

Thank you for your music, thank you for what you do and what you stand for.

Continued...

Thank you for everything.

Love, Ines

U2 - I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam, and Larry -

I discovered you through the Live at Red Rocks concert, and your band has been an important part of my life's soundtrack ever since.

While many of your songs speak to me depending on my mood, the one at the top of this letter is me and my life. Ever since I was old enough to be even a little introspective, I've always been looking for something - something that grounds me and gives me wings to fly.

I've found those things not in things but in my faith and in the people dearest to me - my parents and my husband, all of whom are dead now. After those transitions, my searching intensified, and this song reminds me that, while my faith and core values remain, the whole of life is a journey, and to live that life in such a way that honors the people I loved the most means that the searching and growth never ends.

Continued...

Thank you for this song, and so many others, that have given me life, brought me wonderful new friends, inspired me to act, sing, dance, live and love!

Thank you for everything from a fan for life,

Verlinda

U2 - "I still haven't found what I'm looking for"

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry,

The Joshua Tree was released the year I was born; 1987. My mum was pregnant with me in Ireland when it came on the radio & my grandad would tease & question "can someone help that fella find whatever it is he's looking for". He passed away that year, but he knew about my mums pregnancy, and so although we never met, this song connects us.

Like many Irish families, U2 was part of my childhood. I grew up with their songs, & when I was old enough I saw them live. After I moved to Australia I missed 2 of their tours, until they announced their return to Aus, not with their Experience + Innocence tour, but with the Joshua Tree Tour. I got my tickets, woke at 3am, rushed to the stadium to wait in line. We managed to get front row by the stage where I spent 27 Nov 2019 dancing, singing & crying to the best album of all time.

Continued...

I was on the other side of the world, the 3rd generation of my family to hear this music & I felt my grandfather in that stadium. Songs unite us, and great songs last a lifetime. That is the power of Music, and that is the power of U2.

Thank you! - Kathryn

What I'm looking for

It is 1987 or 1988 or 1989 or 1990.. it lasted awhile... it persists not my favorite but unquestionably the one that saved my life. It didn't keep me out of the abyss... it was the soundtrack through the valley of the shadow.

It was a constant traveling companion for this pilgrim's progress I struggled to articulate thoughts that didn't fit my faith and the blank stares of the believers around me made everything worse.

Thank God for this song, for four friends not offering empty answers... just asking questions that sounded like mine

WITH OR WITHOUT YOU

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry

It's 1987 and I'm 11 years old. My dad is driving me to football in the pouring rain and this sound comes over the radio... It fits the weather perfectly. This isn't Shakin' Stevens or Adam Ant, Duran Duran or The Frog Chorus. This is something else. This is weird. It feels dark, just like the rain. It sounds like nothing I've ever heard before.

And it's building up... "And you give yourself away, and you give yourself away. You give, you give, you give yourself away" What does it mean? But I know it means something. It has to, because hear the voice! What a voice!

My god "ohhhhhh ohhhh oh oh". The feeling in the voice, like it's crying with hurt,, Then the beauty of the end - is this opera? Chiming guitars, with Larry drumming in a way which makes me want to drum... Even that's emotional

What have I just heard? What is this? That wasn't a song... That was a moment.

Continued...

From that moment I was gone - U2 - yes from live aid but I was 9 - I remember Sunday Bloody Sunday but it got turned off because "the singer is too loud!". The dude who sung the best line on band aid - yes he can sing and now this mini opera in one song. I need to hear more.

That was it. The song that hooked me in. The song that moved me more than any other. The song that is heartache for me and that after probably thousands of listens, never fails to get me..

Choosing one song is impossible, but if it wasn't for this moment, I might not have found all the others!!! Acrobat does the same and probably 50 or so more - every record a triumph, and challenges my feelings of life. Thank you for the soundtrack of my life.

Always your fan,
Matt

U2 - With or without you

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam & Larry

My brother bought The Joshua Tree album in 1987. With or without you had me at the first base note and has been with me since. I got a tape recording of the album. Press play, listen, reverse, play again.

You guys stayed with me year after year. I was too young to see you at Eriksberg 87, too out of money to see you at Scandinavium or Globe Arena in 92 or Stockholm stadion in 93. But since 1997 I have met you at all Sweden shows and a couple of more abroad. Every time you shine like stars in the summer night. Every time has been a true feeling of belonging.

With or without you I can't live, because life wouldn't be the same without that song. It lifts me up when I'm down and pairs with me when I am happy. It fills me with joy and companions me with melancholy.

Continued...

Many times I have been thinking about what it is that made this particular tune hit and affect a young boy and then stay with him year after year when boyhood turns to manhood and when innocence turns into experience. The answer isn't possible to dress in words but lie in the power and mystery of music.

Thank you for your music!

Thank you for staying with us!

Thank you for believing in a better world!

Love,

David

U2 - With or without you

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry

When I first saw the video for 'With or without you' as a teenager I was once again reminded of this Irish band U2, which I saw already on Live Aid two years ago. TV Broadcasts of concerts and Music TV stations were pretty rare these days, but U2's appearance at this worldwide event was (besides Queen) talk of the even smallest towns.

Coming back to 'With or without you': I rushed to the nearest record store to grab my vinyl copy of 'The Joshua Tree', which should get an almost permanent place on my record player. Edge's guitar accompanied by the E-bow, Adam and Larry as one of the best rhythm sections of the music world and then this charismatic singer, Bono Vox, the name says it all.

'With or without you' is one of this rare songs that don't age. I've seen and heard it countless times, and it still sends me shivers down my spine.

Continued...

You often used it at your gigs to give a fan the chance to get up on stage, where Bono gave the fan some moments which will never be forgotten, and the rest of the crowd often had tears in their eyes.

When it comes to U2, the phrase 'With or without you' is easy to decide. Having spent more than half of my life with your music, it can only be WITH YOU. And even the question Why? is easy to answer, because, you give yourself away!

Your fan,

Franz

Dear Bono, Lany, Adam & Edge,

with or without you has become my favorite song,

On August 2018 I was in Berlin and wanted to treat myself to a weekend in the city with my girlfriend for your concert and myself. We were just about to go to the Mercedes-Benz Arena when my husband told me that my son had a bad burn accident. We didn't go to the concert. I gave the concierge the tickets so that they would not expire. I drove back to Hanover in my car and went to the hospital. My son was in an artificial coma for over two weeks. That was August 31st.

On September 1st, when my husband and I went to the hospital from home after a few hours of sleep with or without you was playing and I screamed and cried and screamed on. The song hit me to the core. But your songs helped me. They gave me strength.

But I've heard your songs from over a year, nothing else just U2, especially the album Songs of Experience.

Continued...

It helped and put me back together bit by bit.

Thank God my son is fine today. And I'm so happy about it. But there is nothing worse than almost losing a child.

Your fan since 1993,

Patricia Schneider

U2 - With Or Without You

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge and Larry,

Some songs are like love at first sight. You may not know much about them, where they came from, what they're about or whom they're for, sometimes you don't even understand the lyrics, because they're in English and you're 5 years old, and Greek.

But you do know that you want to spend the rest of your life with that song.

Then you grow up together, and you can finally begin to make sense of it. So you naturally fall even deeper in love: the unbroken bass line, eternal yet contrasting with each iteration, the heartbeat of the drum beat, as recognisable as some of the biggest guitar riffs ever written, this soul piercing infinite sustain, shining like a star in a summer night, the lyrics that somehow tell a different story every time you hear them, every night you sing them.

If songs can represent a point in time and space, WOWY would be my (0,0,0) on a Cartesian system.

Continued...

That moment in time in April of 1987 signifies the genesis of a universe in me, one that's still expanding.

Efharisto.

Your fan,
Harry

Dear Larry, Bono, Adam, and The Edge,

I'll take you back to 1987. I was a painfully shy nine-year-old girl when I heard With or Without You for the first time. My friends told me they heard the band was coming to Kansas City. Thus began the campaigning to get my mum to take me to the concert; it would be my first concert. At the time, my mum was quite conservative in regards to what her kids listened to, watched, participated in, so, it required a little white lie (sort of),

I told her U2 was a band you'd hear in Church. Now, to be clear, I'm not sure if she finally listened to U2, or if she just blindly believed me (likely the first), nevertheless we got tickets. On November 26, 1987, I went to my first U2 concert with my mum.

A few years later, Achtung Baby was released. This album... how can one possibly write enough to thank a band for saving their life? AB got played on repeat for hours, days, weeks, months.

Continued...

We'll leave it with tween girls are M E A N, but your music got me through. Still, to this day, whenever I'm in a funk, my go-to is putting my beat-up AB album on and blasting it in my house. So, needless to say, when you all performed Acrobat on May 2, 2018, as I was about to celebrate my 40th birthday the next month, I leaned in and hugged my mum as one of my favorite songs surrounded me in BOK Center.

Like so many U2 fans, your music has been the soundtrack of my life. The good, the bad, in times of joy, in times of much sadness, beginnings, and ending of friendships, relationships, you've been there. A couple of years ago, I finally got the tattoo, which had been many years in the making. It says, You give it all, but I want more-one of my favorite lines from my favorite song, and my first love. I didn't know as a nine-year-old, going to the concert almost 33 years ago would change my life, save my life, but it did.

Your fan,
Leslie

P.S.

Continued...

I have to give a special shout out to my mum, who has gone with me to at least one U2 concert on every tour since 1987. She's the rockstar who stands with me in the GA line, and I wouldn't have it any other way. Thank you!

U2

"With Or Without You"

Dear Bono,

This is the only song that has the ability to awaken me during the wee hours and challenge me to sort out its pronouns. Every 22 seconds, my mind cycles through your lyrics and makes substitutions, such as:

I=Bono, she=music, you=Ali

I=Bono, she=Ali, you=music

I=Bono, she=Ali, you=lover

I=Bono, she=lover, you=Ali

I=Judas, she=God, you=Jesus

I=Jesus, she=God, you=Judas

I=fans, she=music, you=Bono

I=me, she=Bono, you=sleep

Every combination works. How?

Also, how is it possible that you were half my present age when you wrote this? How did you, already married to your high school sweetheart and presumably a stranger to devastating romantic heartbreak, write a song that shepherded me through decades of loneliness, longing and disappointment?

Continued...

Thank you for inhabiting and escaping this black beauty of a song 841 times on stage, accompanied by a rhythm section that approximates the sounds of life in the womb and a guitarist who is clearly operating on a different, better level than the rest of us.

It's a long and strange story, but I can trace the trajectory of my current happiness back to the first time that I saw you on the big screen. Your hands, chin, nose and eyebrows were lit from below. Children hold flashlights under their faces to look scary while telling ghost stories. That same light only made you simultaneously the most beautiful man and woman in the world.

Yeah, you.

How?

Your fan,

Kelly Eddington

There are 4 songs I will mention one for each member, New Years Day, I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For, Running to Stand Still, Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own...

Each of these songs like Bono, Larry, Adam, and Edge, are meaningful to my core. These songs, in lyric, melody, rhythm are like sympathetic, best friends, knowing and expressing my feelings when I couldn't speak, or be heard. All within the timelines of our parallel ages, the yearning, and seeking, the wanting to have outlets and understanding.

U2 has always provided what I needed even when I didn't know it myself, not until I heard it, till I received the Miracle Drug, song by song. They have made me stronger for Life just by knowing they are here too, together, and caring, enough to keep doing their very best for their fans, and the world, that humbles, thrills and keeps me ignited until my light dims to darkness.

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam & Larry,

I'm not sure how old I was when I first heard this song. All I know is that I was small enough to still hide under beds with my plush toy but old enough to steal my brother's Walkman.

Music was already my escape. Pressing play meant drowning out the shouting, the doors slamming and the people sobbing around the house.

I couldn't understand those strange words in a stranger language, but I could make sense of the plaintive guitar and that voice softly singing my sorrows away.

I was too small to make sense of concepts like depression, or heroin, or violence. It was normal. That was life.

And I didn't like it.

I was just a kid praying god to die expect on those moments when music made me feel alive.

I hang on. I grew up. I learned English and made sense out of those words. And I realised it was no coincidence that this very song had been my lifeline. So I sought that sound again.

That voice again. That light again. And I found you. Or maybe it was the other way around...

And the rest is history.

Thank you U2.

Your fan,

Jo

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam and Larry,

Running To Stand Still has saved my life at least 60 times.

In moments of stress and anxiety I sing it in my head.

The music and the lyrics help me to calm down and be in a better place.

I saw it played live in Croke Park 1987 and 2017, it's a song that epitomizes all that is U2 for me.

Thank you for this beautiful song,

Valerie.

Running to Stand Still

Cari Bono, Adam, Larry, The Edge,

scrivere e trovare le parole giuste è difficile.

Da dove iniziare... "And so she woke up she woke up from where she was lying still" la amo così tanto che me la sono tatuata sulla mia pelle.

Ero una ragazzina di 14 anni, e grazie a una mia cara amica, ho conosciuto voi e fin dal primo ascolto mi sono innamorata, mi avete accompagnato per tutta la mia vita. "I see seven towers but i only see one way out" la mia via d'uscita a tutti i miei problemi, preoccupazioni, siete voi "You got to cry without weeping talk without speaking scream without raising your voice" ecco questa sono io, ma grazie a voi mi sento rinascere.

Il mio primo concerto è stato a Roma, partita dalla Sicilia, non ho dormito per tre giorni, ero emozionata al solo pensiero di vedervi, la fila del giorno prima, gli amici ritrovati e altri conosciuti li che porto sempre nel cuore, e poi ecco voi, le grida insieme al pianto.

Continued...

15

Mi sembrava un sogno da cui non volevo svegliarmi mai. Poi Berlino partita insieme ad amici speciali, l'emozione di rivedervi di nuovo, non sentivo nulla, né la stanchezza né il freddo per l'attesa.

Ma purtroppo hai avuto un problema alla voce, che per me è il suono più bello del mondo, e lì il pianto, la preoccupazione per te, è stato un miscuglio di emozioni.

Il 13 novembre non lo dimenticherò mai, ritornare a Berlino solo per voi è stato bellissimo, dopo tanta attesa ho avuto la possibilità di salutare Edge, dargli la mano e sentire il contatto, è stato meraviglioso.

Edge sei un uomo dolcissimo, oltre che un chitarrista straordinario, ti adoro.

Dopo una lunga attesa tra freddo pioggia e vento, ecco finalmente voi di nuovo, solo il pensiero mi viene da piangere di nuovo, lo spettacolo e il suono più bello del mondo... con la vostra musica piango, grido allo stesso momento ma sto bene, quindi grazie per aver salvato sempre la mia vita, siete la mia cura a tutto.

Continued...

15

La vostra fan che vi ama non so quanto.

Elisa

Dear U2,

Many thanks for Running to Stand Still

Your lyric and the music all comes together in a beautiful
evanescent waterfall.

I see the towers, longing & hear the loss & hope.

We all navigate the world with eyes painted red and in the rest
between stand & still.

Love Jara

U2 - One Tree Hill

Dear Bono, Edge, Larry and Adam,

I think back to my youth in the late 80's, coming of age as an
adult, becoming aware of the glories and tragedies of the world in
which I lived and growing into my appreciation and respect as a
fan of U2.

Several months following the release of The Joshua Tree, I endured
the loss of my mother after a long illness. Living with the
disillusion of feeling prepared for the inevitable, it became
painfully apparent with the naivete of youth I was never really
prepared for the loss of the person that loved and believed in me
perhaps more than no other. Shortly thereafter in the Summer of
87, I recall reading about your story of losing Greg Carroll and
how it inspired the writing of One Tree Hill.

Curiosity combined with seeking out anything that would provide
comfort in the darkest of times, I went from hearing One Tree Hill
to listening and internalizing it.

Continued...

They say time heals all wounds and the slivers of light that shines through are the roadmap from things will never be the same to the new normal.

Ever since first seeing you perform One Tree Hill live in Austin in 87 though every performance I made it to in 2017 and 2019, the words

"I'll see you again when the stars fall from the sky and the moon has turned red over One Tree Hill" always reignite one of those slivers of light that inspires the grateful feelings I have for my mother and keeps my love and hope alive for her wherever she may be.

Forever grateful and a fan always,

Rob



VII. Rattle and Hum (1988)

Angel of Harlem

Dear Bono, Edge, Larry, and Adam,

It was probably not a cold and wet December day when I first heard this song. The big band blaring through my speakers. A love song to New York, a city I've never been to, and her angel, whom I've never met. But I feel like I have. This song will put me in a good mood and I can't help to sing (yell) right along with it. As this Nebraska boy cruises in his truck, the street sounds like a symphony - a reminder that love reigns supreme.

Then I put on the "Live from Sydney" tape and see this magnificence of a rock band from the north side of Dublin strip it down and all I can think of is "pure unbridled joy".

This love won't let me go. Thank you for being the soundtrack to my life.

Your fan,
Cody

U2-Heartland

Dear U2

When I first met your voice I was 14 years old. The album was Rattle and Hum, the song was Heartland. I couldn't understand English then, I thought 'Hmm, who is this man with loud and a bit noisy voice...'

It was you, Bono.

Since then I've been fascinated your voice and U2 songs.

I want to listen Heartland and more new songs someday.

Thank you for your songs and giving me great experiences.

Your fan agri.

VIII.

Achtung

Baby

(1991)

The song that saved my life and helped me on the road
"Zoo Station"

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and of course Larry,

There are many songs that helped on the way, and are still helping me. The most recent song that is motivating me is "Zoo station" And I'll tell you why. This song is about someone who want to take a walk on the wild side (Lou Reed). Thing is, I'm a 15 year old boy still in the third grade of high school (or last grade of middle school, I do not know how that works in other countries) And I am going to my fourth year (or first year) into a new class. And I wanna become a better person in that new class. My old class or the one I am in now, aren't people I can relate to. No one likes Rock and no one likes U2. This class also made me take myself too seriously, what I don't want to do anymore in my new class."I'm ready, ready for the laughing gas". I bought The Fly glasses and can be my most self when I wear them.

Continued...

Meaning that my new class is gonna be the class that sees the real me, and I'm ready for that. They chose the same direction as me (culture and art, I wanna be a singer. Who's fault is that?) So I am already closer to them then my previous class, and I don't even know them.

What this song has also learned me is to take chances. The thing I have difficulty with is talking to a girl I like. I've messed up some things with crushes because I talk to late to them or just do not talk. This year, that's gonna change. The lyric "I'm ready, ready for the crush has a different meaning then I think you (Bono) thought about while writing this. This lyric is about me ready to have a crush and to talk to them. And I'm ready to be crushed by them. (Heartbroken) Because that's alright, I at least tried talking to them. Maybe they even say yes, and if I never tried, it would've always be a "no". (Hopefully I get a girl that likes U2, would be awesome!)

Continued...

In summary what this song has learned me / helped me with is take chances. Talk to your crush and do not take yourself too seriously. That's why the Joshua Tree Tour and Zoo TV tour are a metaphor for my life. I was in the Joshua Tree era, but now I'm going in the Zoo TV era. And I'm gonna rock the whole world with my friends and your music. Thank you, U2. You guys made my life so much better, and I found meaning. Thank you. Let's move on to Zoo TV y'all.

I'm Ready!

Your fan,
Luciano from Holland

U2- Zoo station / Acrobat.

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry

It was the summer of 1993, I was still thirteen and until then I had only listened to Italian pop music. One day, left alone, eager to grow and evolve, I decided to listen to something new. I chose a random LP from my brothers' collection and put it on the turntable. My choice fell on a very colorful record that, by a strange coincidence, I had given them two years before, without ever having wanted to listen.

I took it and, in the exact moment when the needle touched the record, my world, my whole life changed. Not only because from the first notes of "Zoo station" I was literally transported to a world of sounds, images, emotions that I never imagined but, above all, because that record has given birth in me the unconditional longest love bond of all my life.

Why unconditional? Because I am grateful to you for all that you have done for me.

Continued...

In fact without even knowing me, you supported and helped me in the darkest moments of my life. You accompanied my smiles and my victories. You were even on my wedding day (and my husband doesn't like you!). There is your own song for every mood of life: songs for love, songs for happiness, songs for sadness, songs for anger... And maybe, the last two are more useful to me in large part of past years. Every time I was depressed, on the verge of letting me go forever, and I had to react; everytime I was angry and I had to let off steam, you were there.

And if now, I have achieved all the goals that I made me when I was a young girl, it's also thanks to you. Your music helped me to shape my way of seeing the world and saved my life because everytime someone tried to step on me, "Acrobat" rumbled in my head and so I get up and start fighting again.

Continued...

You helped me to have a degree, a post-graduate specialization, even my current job is partly your merit, supporting me during several personal and economic problems.

And today your music helps me whenever my diagnosis of leukemia or lymphoma makes me feel bad for the person I was diagnosed with. So thank you guys for who you are, for your music, for the way you give yourself to your fans totally but, above all, thank you for the help you gave me to be here now, happy to be!!!

With love,

Your fan

Patrizia.

U2 - ZOO STATION

"Time is a train
Makes the future the past
Leaves you standing in the station
Your face pressed up against the glass"

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam and Larry,
it all started this way... with a cassette tape and with this song
"Zoo Station", the title might already seem strange to a 6 year old
girl but that sound and that voice... the more I listened to it, the
more it attracted me and I wanted to listen to it again. Fate traces
invisible threads sometimes and this often happens with me. I can't
explain it but whenever something happens to me, to remember or
forget, you are there, with your music, your words, your "advice",
there is your voice dear Bono, who has the strength of a rope that
takes me and drags me away from falling down a cliff. You are a
close relative, a friend, a brother or perhaps more.

Continued...

You who have gained your strength from your thousand problems,
have sung and told your "hole in the shape of God", and at the
same time you console and reassure us for ours. Life is not easy at
all and often it is not how you would like, but it does not matter...
we go on, smile, laugh, love and everything passes, we survive. You
taught me that love is greater than anything else and that
everything can and I believe it.

That invisible thread that binds me to you dear U2, after 27 years
from those first listenings of Zoo Station, led me to that Berlin
U-Bahn stop, waiting for you and finding you, simple, kind and
available as few... I had to get right there to Berlin to be able to
say a few words to you, even if I wanted to tell you many more. But
fate, once again, had not yet finished weaving its plot. And he
brought me and you back to Berlin again to close the circle.

Continued...

That November 13, 2018, you were back on that stage in Berlin, I was back in your audience. You Bono were there for your revenge, to forget one of the darkest nights of your career, your band was there to support you. Edge, Adam, and Larry wonderful as always. I love you. For me it was a "due" thing to come back. I owed this to you my dear Bono. A night that at 6 years old I could only have imagined.

The previous days were sad anniversaries for me, and for this I wanted to visit the Gedächtniskirche, to leave my pray there, and again the Siegessäule, with that wonderful angel on the top. That angel who continually reminds me of your masterpiece song "Stay (Faraway, so Close)". My Song that I have always loved. That angel, mine, faraway but so close, that probably gave me that night impossible to forget.

Continued...

Two songs so important to me, that you brought back with all your heart to the stage, "Zoo Station" and "Stay", in the city where they were born and where fate played with me.

"And if you look you look through me
And when you talk, you talk at me (...)

Stay, and the night would be enough"

That night I came back, I stayed and it was enough to look through your eyes Bono, and to sing and pray through you. I followed you "until the end of the world", and I would do it a thousand times more.

God always bless you U2. See you soon!

Your fan,

Daniela

U2 -Zoo Station

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

I've struggled lately, I've struggled to embrace opportunity. There's no lack of it, but there's been a lack of effort on my part to seize it. How ironic considering that my favorite song of all time, Zoo Station, is a song I interpret to be a call to action in the presence of opportunity, and yet I don't follow through when opportunity presents itself. I chant along with the music, "I'm ready! I'm ready for what's next!" Now I need to act on it. You've shown me that you are. You've used your position to help others. You've worked to better the world around you. You've inspired countless others to do the same.

You've shown time and again that you were ready. It's time I do the same. I don't want to be left standing in the station with my face pressed up against the glass as the train of time passes me by. There's no better time than now.

I'm ready for the push.

Your fan,
Justin

U2 - One

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

I grew up in northern Germany in the eighties. And the school mates with whom I spent most of the time, listened to a lot of music. Especially The Doors, The Who, David Bowie, Pink Floyd, Dire Straits. But my heart has always been beating for U2. It was the time of Where The Streets Have No Name, Sunday Bloody Sunday, Pride, Still Haven't Found..., With Or Without You. We had a lot of school parties. And those were the songs we danced to.

I went to concerts and the older I got the more I dealt with the lyrics and with you. Your texts are not easy to understand. Especially when English is not your mother tongue. But that was exactly what appealed to me and I was totally fascinated by so much depth and spirituality.

At some point I came across ONE. I have always loved the song and with live versions I develop a childlike anticipation that tears will almost come when it's over.

Continued...

Every live version is different but when Edges guitar finally increases and Bono sings with passion and dedication, there is no stopping it. Adam and Larry, you do the rest and make this moment unforgettable.

In addition, your harmony and loyalty to each other is simply incredible.

Always a fan

Gundi

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam & Larry,

One, but in reality Achtung baby, back in 1991 I fell in love for the first time, and I guess Marie's feelings weren't the same.

At the tender age of 20 my heart was broken into a thousand pieces.

One saved me, along with every other track on AB.

U2 - One

One is one of my favourite songs of U2. I combine so many things and feelings with this song, that I am getting goosebumps listening to it. While writing these words I can remember being at the gig in Berlin and singing the song together with Bono and the whole Olympia Stadion, feeling each word while tears are running over my face. Tears of being lucky taking part at this concert, getting the chance to listen U2 live and remember moments in my life One was a special song for. Thank you, guys. Thanks for such a great song touching my heart. Best wishes and hopefully I can see you again. One of my wishes is still coming once to Ireland for a gig.

So CU soon.

Yours, B.

U2 - One

Dear Bono Edge Adam and Larry

It was a lovely winter when some friends invite me to hear a new album, the name Achtung Baby! And What is the meaning of the word: "Achtung"? Why in German? But wait, this is the same irish band of the not rebel song and white flags?

And then, between all that pedals, effects, distortion, messages, biblical poetry... I found my song, and what a song. I remember playing thousand times. For me was a key to a new and incredible world.

One was the first, the rest is history.

Thanks, your fan Pepe

I choose one as a song for fan letters U2 because my father, who's a U2's fan, told me that this song was my lullaby. He sing it to me every night before sleeping, and so it was my first approach to U2.

This song change my life, I love the band and all its tracks that help me in every moment of my life.

Love you guys!

Dear U2,

"One" is a pivotal song for me. I believe it was your first major transformation and showcased a different type of anthemic song, brilliant actually. "One" can be interpreted in several ways, therefore applicable to all.

The construction of lyrics, the sweet flow of guitars and percussion, and hit-you-in-the-heart vocals mean so much to me. Did "One" save my life? No. Did "One" have a deep impact on my life? It most certainly did. There are so many lines in this song that I use daily and, truthfully, who doesn't? "We get to carry each other", "we're one, but we're not the same", "one love, one blood, one life".

My sister, also a U2 fan, gifted me with wall art and it consists of the entire lyrics to "One". My father helped me to hang all the individual lines of this lyric art on my main entrance (foyer) wall of my home. It spans over an area of approximately 12 meters x 12 meters. I see it every day and am inspired.

Continued...

I see it every day and am reminded of the love for my sister and my father. I see it every day and am thankful for U2. Sadly, my father passed three years later. Now I see the wall daily and am reminded of all the projects we did together, everything he taught me, and most of all, taking turns on the tall ladder to hang the lyrics. I miss my father more and more each year that passes and it pains my heart. I will never remove those lyrics from the wall. To honor my father, we requested a pianist to play "One" at his funeral in church. She was simply amazing. My sister and I exchanged knowing glances as my father undoubtedly smiled in Heaven. I have "one love" tattooed on my arm as a tribute to my father, for the best sister anyone could possibly have, and for "One" being my most cherished song.

Thank you, U2, for affecting my life in a very positive way.

With much love from your Dedicated U2 Fan On Board,

Barb

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge & Larry jr.,

sometimes I play your music over and over and then again not for a long time. Sometimes a song appeals to me particularly, more often a certain album. But there is one track that I have especially taken to my heart. It was probably in 1991 that I heard "Until the End of the World" for the first time and it was in the cinema - in the movie of the same name by Wim Wenders - and before "Achtung Baby" was released.

And then I remember Frankfurt in 1993. The concert in the old Waldstadion. The German philosopher Schopenhauer once wrote: "No art has such a direct, such a deep effect on human beings as music, because no other art makes us recognize the true essence of the world as deeply and directly as this one."

Continued...

Listening to great, full-voiced and beautiful music is like a bath of the spirit; it washes away everything unclean, everything petty, everything bad, tunes everyone up to the highest spiritual level" On this day during "Until the End of the World" I felt exactly that. It sent chills down my spine. It is a kind of moment you rarely get at a concert. Since that day this song is the song of U2 par excellence for me. I heard "Until the End of the World" live a few more times, but this feeling didn't come back. It doesn't matter. It's timeless and right now in these strange times this timelessness shows maybe more than ever.

So thanks a lot,

Marcus

Who's gonna ride your wild horses?

Dear Lawrence, Adam, David, and Paul,

The year is 1989, I don't really grasp the concept of what music is - mind you, I was barely eight.

I remember this red-cased VHS tape... my brothers used to play it. A lot. As it goes, you look up to your older siblings. Surely, they know what's cool?

Tilted camera angle, rain, fog, a white flag, girls storming the stage... but above all: that thunderous noise! Mesmerizing for an eight year old and the start of something.

Fast forward to 1992 and this 11-year old has explored the world of music. Not necessarily good music for the most part, but we all have that one band from our youth we don't like to talk about, don't we? In the midst of all that, your sound had stayed with me since that day in '89. Right up until your most glorious release, and with it this song - nay - jewel.

Continued...

There are few moments from your childhood you remember well - ironically sometimes those without much meaning and for the most absurd of all reasons. And then there are moments like this, obeying your "watch more TV" slogan unknowingly at that time and taking in that video on 'the MTV', hearing something click inside me. It's hard to put in words, but then again so is the song: nostalgia and pain, or realization and joy? Whatever it is, it struck a nerve that day.

Granted, it's not even your best work. This particular song itself also didn't save my life, to be honest. But it opened the door to your back catalogue, your school of thought, your concerts, your own musical tastes which opened new doors... and as such, maybe in fact life-saving after all? So many of your songs that come to mind when I think about certain chapters in life. Each have your music attached to them.

Continued...

Music...I can't even describe to any of you what it means to me - "a sacrament - you almost have to take your shoes off in its company" - those are your own words. I couldn't agree more. If your song was what ignited that fire in me, I'm forever grateful. For your art. For the art of others. But above all, this one song.

"Don't turn around, and don't look back."

I never did.

Yours truly,

A fan

U2 - Who's Gonna Ride Your Wild Horses

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry,

I've always been someone with a "mixed heart": one side really believes in love and sees the brain as an enemy, and the other sees it as an ally and dances cheek to cheek with him, denying everything that should sound romantic. They are partners in crime which mix a good dose of pessimism, seasoned with a touch of neuroses, a pint of panic finished with an extra shot of reality.

So, I had never found a song that could explain love or relationships for me. Not that we need to explain this kind of thing, but you know better than anybody that we need a rebel song, a love song, a comfy song...And that was the point: for me it was impossible to find a love song to call mine.

Until one day I found an old friend, but we have a serious conversation for the first time... You're an accident waiting to happen... Well, you tell me things I know you're not supposed to...

Continued...

The doors you open... I just can't close... Oh, my dear
Horses you know exactly what is falling in love! It's not a calm sea,
it's a storm. It's not easy, it's not a yes, it's not a no.
It's not the right person. It's not a sweet ROMCOM. It's being afraid
of the other and of yourself. It's being alone, even being on the
side of your chosen one. It's so much to say, even when you can't. It's
fear and sometimes is all that you really need.

That's it, thanks for always saying what I'm not able to.

Your fan,
Vicky

U2

"Who's Gonna Ride Your Wild Horses"

Dear Adam, Dear The Edge, Dear Larry, Dear Bono,

First of all, I hope you're all safe and secluded and having a nice rest after the insanity of the last five years. It feels good to have ridden all the best rides before the amusement park closed!

Based on some of your past comments and the comments of people who worked on Achtung Baby (my favorite album of yours, in case you were wondering), "Who's Gonna Ride Your Wild Horses?" (I don't care what you say, there should be a question mark! It's more tantalizing that way.) is a song you fellas never felt you got right.

There are an unusual number of alternate versions floating around. Some are great! Some are very good! But it feels like more than just about any other song, "Wild Horses" has been a stone in your respective shoes ever since. It's had its moments though!

Continued...

A brief revival on the Vertigo Tour brought with it hope that you figured out how to make it work, but then for three consecutive tours (one of which became an Achtung Baby anniversary tour towards the end) it remained dormant. This bronco needed breaking in, so why the trepidation?

That's a question I could ask of myself, as the song never became one I'd listen to all the way through until the encore of a certain gig in a certain place where a certain young-adult literary classic was set on a certain groggy day. When I first heard the sound of a robot suffering from IBS echo through the halls of the BOK Arena, I had to check my pulse and note my surroundings, making sure I was in Tulsa and not the Upside-Down. "Why 'Wild Horses'?" I asked myself. "What are they playing at?" I pondered. "Why does it sound so good?" I realized. Then, before you know it, I was pogo-ing and screaming the words to a song I had stowed away in the "Save for Later" section of my brain.

Continued...

Apparently, you all had it there too.

One plane ride later, I'm back home, and I tune into a live-stream only to find that the horses have disappeared from the stable. They're running free, never to be seen again. I'm sure of it. Flash forward a few months, and I'm at the Apollo Theater, drenched in sweat and a little tipsy, and what's that I hear? It's the robot, and oh boy, it sounds like he had some bad shellfish. Without thinking, I turn to my dearest Jill Marino and scream in her face, to which she does mine, and we both come to find that a lightbulb has appeared over your heads. The eureka moment has arrived! Twenty-seven years after the fact, you figured out who is going to ride those wild horses.

Dear Adam,

This is your song. The propulsiveness of that bass guitar is what makes the song work. I don't know a lot about the job a bass guitar is supposed to do in a given song, but you do, and that's all that matters.

Continued...

This is some of your finest work. Bravo.

Dear The Edge,

You've said before that your aim isn't to be a guitar hero, rather to push the instrument to its limits and find sonic landscapes to explore. Your work on this song should have those guitar heroes shaking in their boots. Their sexy boots. Bravo.

Dear Larry,

While the machine gun fire finale has to wait until the European Leg of the E+I Tour, your work on this is just as brilliant. I hear your playing on this song, and my mind always drifts to Keith Moon. I hope yours does too. Bravo.

Dear Bono,

To date, I still don't know what the hell this song is about. And truthfully, I don't want to. You use words the same way The Edge uses his guitar, painting a picture rather than describing it. Because of that, you could convince me it's about a breakup as easily as it's about a bad experience at a McDonald's drive-through.

There will be a time to examine these words and why they're ordered how they are, but it's not today. Just promise to keep singing them, alright? Bravo.

Thank you all for never giving up on a song. And thank you for showing me why I should do the same.

Your fan, your erzähler, your occasional neighbor,

Mason

Dear Adam, Larry, The Edge & Bono baby pussycat

We're cut adrift... how those words resonate and hit you straight between the eyes, 5 seconds in and I'm already on the floor. It's 1991 and I'm listening to Achtung Baby and it just feels like perfection to me and this song more than any other encapsulates the mood of the album. The heavy bass and drums want to kick you whilst your down but then the beauty of Edge's guitar lifts you up, It quietly whispers in and soothes the ache of it all "You need her like a drug" that angst in Bono's voice as he sings the lines like a tortured sinner in a confessional box. The pleasure and pain of the song runs all the way through ..in this song there are no rules.

John

U2 - The Fly

Dear Larry, Edge, Bono and Adam,

I'm so grateful to be alive in this time so that I can bear witness to your genius and your music. I cannot imagine what my life would be like without your songs, of which, there are so many that have carried me through some of life's toughest moments.

For this fan letter, however, I have decided to write about The Fly. I remember the first time I heard the song. I checked my speakers to see if there was something wrong because the noise emanating from my stereo sounded so awful. I was dismayed at the thought that my beautiful idealistic band of the 80's was now making unintelligible noise. But then I listened to the song again. And I listened to the whole album. And I realized what a masterpiece it was. The acerbic aphorisms. The sonic barrage of the guitar. The chunky bass line and syncopated beat. I grew to love every part of the song, even the falsetto!

Continued...

I now love hearing it live and seeing how The Fly evolves on each tour. I love how you continue to challenge me and your audience, how you push us into finding beauty and majesty in new and different ways. I love that you are not afraid to take risks and that you invite us along to explore that journey with you. Thank you for saving my life, but thank you also for making it so interesting.

Your fan,

Vid

Achtung Baby

Dear Bono, Edge, Larry, & Adam,

How do I pick one song that saved my life or is important to me. I can't pick one so I am choosing an album. U2 always seems to deliver an album on or near my birthday in November (Birthday is November 20), which is always a special gift. However, in 1991, the release of the song "The Fly" in October and album in November honestly saved me.

I was 20, a junior in college, and I lost my father suddenly in October. He was suddenly ill for a month and passed. How do you continue to study mid semester with the loss of your father. I honestly had the hardest course load at the time and was not in a great state of mind. Fall was a blur and music was all I had to keep me going.

When "The Fly" came out it was what I needed. I needed something to reinvent me, reinvigorate me if that was possible. This included excitement of a new album and to see U2 on tour.

Continued...

Zoo Station to Love is Blindness, blew me away. I swear I played it over 1000 times that fall. Stuck in my moment of misery this album gave me something to look forward to. Future release of songs and a tour. Ever since that album, I always set a goal of planning into a vacation or a concert. We will always have death, loss, and sadness but that is part of life and we need to continue to be strong and walk on.

I can't pick a song, I choose this album, Achtung Baby, because it made me wake up and start to live again.

Your fan always,

J

Mysterious Ways, Miracle Drug and other lifesaving music

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry!

You don't know it, but in the summer of 2014 you were shouting at me from the radio speakers in our car whilst we were driving some small country road in the Czech Republic.

EVERYWHERE YOU GO YOU SHOUT IT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SHY ABOUT IT

It was a short family trip right before I was going to start a new job. I was so intrigued by the lyrics of songs that I had heard many times before, that I wanted to find out more about the music, my favourite band U2 and where it comes from. I didn't have to wait for long because a couple weeks later Songs of Innocence were released and with it came stories about the early days of U2. It was the perfect opportunity for me to dig deeper.

I have been your fan since the early 90s. Your songs mean so much to me. They help me pray and remind me of some basic truths.

Continued...

Like the MIRACLE DRUG I was hoping and praying for when we had a difficult time with one of our sons. I kept praying for it. The prayers were answered, though in a different way than I had expected.

Time and time again I realize that the Spirit moves in MYSTERIOUS WAYS and that IT'S ALRIGHT. That's why - should I have to pick a favourite song this is it!

Your songs tell me that THERE IS A LIGHT, that LOVE IS BIGGER THAN ANYTHING IN ITS WAY and that I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

Many, many thanks for everything you do and the music you make.

Your fan forever,

Mona

I think sometimes you don't know a song is going to grab you. I was counting down until the new album came out and was studying for end of year exams. My brother bought the CD home and I was too excited to really take anything in. Then track 8 started.

The guitar I loved and you could sort of dance to it! I played it again reading the lyrics as it went along. After 28 years it still excites me. But that last verse. "One day you will look back and you'll see where you were held, how by this love...". You could substitute love for death loss or time and it would still fit. It moves me every time, spirits move me.

It lifts my days light up my nights.

James

Mysterious Ways

Dearest U2,

I discovered U2 when I was 12 or 13. Everything just resonated with me, all those songs I heard on the radio and always turned the volume up for were yours. One, The Unforgettable Fire, I Will Follow, Bad, Beautiful Day, New Year's Day, all from the same band... Mind. Blown.

School wasn't particularly fun at that time to put it mildly, but listening to U2 I always felt that "It's alright."

No friends ...

"It's alright."

Why me?

"It's alright.

She moves in mysterious ways"

And it really did turn out (more than) alright now 17 years later! Thanks for always lifting my spirits in the good and the bad times.

Your fan,

Anna

U2 - Ultraviolet

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge and Larry,

Growing up in the 80s with two sisters a lot older than me, I was introduced to your songs unknowingly. Your music always seemed to be there when my sisters had friends over and I was singing along, or at least I thought I was ;-)

Then MTV came along and I think the first music video that caught my attention was for "One". The sound of Bono's voice was familiar, as I heard it through the years. But there I was, ready to hear more from that band. So I "borrowed" my sister's LP and listened to it over and over again while reading the lyrics. And there it was: ULTRAVIOLET. Not having heard anything like this before, I couldn't stop listening to this song. The tension that builds up, the driving guitar and those high notes. And just the word "Ultraviolet" really got me.

The first time I saw you in concert was in 1997 on the Popmart Tour. From then on I think I attended nearly every tour.

Continued...

But for "Ultraviolet" I had to wait many years. Finally in the summer of 2017 it was included in the setlist of your Amsterdam concert. It felt like everything falling into place when it started: "Sometimes I feel like I don't know..."

Thank you for your music, it has been a soundtrack in my life. Sometimes far away, sometimes so close. And always when "I feel like I don't know ... feel like checkin' out".

I am grateful to live in the same era as you, so I get to listen to you expressing your feelings and thoughts through your sound.

From my heart to yours.

Your fan

K.At

U2 - Ultraviolet (lights my way)

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry

1991 was a special year for me. With ups and downs, moments of happiness, great upheavals and hard knocks in this period of adolescence. Life is thus made, it was necessary to live with these alternations between all these emotions.

Achtung Baby was a long-awaited album for me, my first long wait in my fan life. At the beginning of this winter of 1991 you gave us this album... It was a big slap, a huge change. In the middle of these titles Ultraviolet enlightened me immediately. I listened to it, listened to it and listened to it thousands of times. How could this song with such a bright title be so dark and sad. Little by little in these words and this melody, I saw hope and an idea of optimism. This title has helped me overcome difficult times, thanks to the idea that light can still watch over us and guide us.

Continued...

I always love to sing this song, it gives me strength and courage. It reminds me that I have to be strong. I like the live versions of the 360 degrees tour at JT 2019. I like the idea that you have associated this title with these strong women who are fighting. Ultraviolet is #mystory. Thank you for that. Never stop lighting our ways.

Your fan

Frederique

U2 - Ultra Violet (Light My Way)

Dear Bono, Edge, Larry and Adam,

I discovered your music during a turning point in my life. At 23, I was trying to move past a childhood of violence and abuse, and my fragile heart was betrayed. I was struggling to find the strength to go on. It was at this moment in time when Achtung Baby came out. Acrobat, One and others on the album were all cathartic for me, putting my anguish into words. But it was Ultra Violet that saved my life. While I lay in bed praying to God to let me die, your words, Bono, helped me hold on. A friend asking me to be strong. The light bulb hanging over my bed. The ultra violet light illuminating the colors in the darkness was hope, maybe God. Ultra Violet helped me survive that depression and I (mostly) moved on.

Fast forward 29 years, I am battling terminal cancer. All those years ago I prayed to God to let me die: now I pray to him to let me live.

Continued...

And still Ultra Violet saves me when I'm in the black; now Bono, you are an old friend giving me strength. The song both makes me cry and brings me joy. I'm spinning in the darkness until I'm dancing in the light.

There are so many U2 songs that have meant so much to me, and like so many fans, I feel that we are connected to U2 as well as to each other. Your music has been one of life's gifts I cherish. I'm grateful to live in the same era as U2, to ride this roller coaster with you, to have been fortunate enough to see you perform live.

Thank you, U2, for lighting my way.

Your fan,

Patricia

U2 - Acrobat

Hello Bono, The Edge, Adam and Larry.

I am writing to thank you for your music. Personally, it has accompanied me in very difficult moments of my life. Let's say it has not been a path of roses.

There are many U2 songs that I identify with, but especially Acrobat. It seems written to me. I have felt many times that people want to knock me down, I have lost faith in many things, and I have even wanted to end it all ... But Acrobat gives me the strength to keep going despite whoever I am. It has saved my life and gives me a lot of strength to be myself. I won't let the bastards bring me down !!

Thank you for existing.

Your fan:☺

Terry Page

(U2 Madrid)

U2 - Acrobat

Querido Adam, Larry, Edge y Bono

En tiempos de confinamiento social, de incertidumbre, angustia y zozobra. Lo único que nos queda es estar UNIDOS, tal vez no físicamente, pero sí de mente y de corazón. Estos tiempos han servido para saber con quién cuentas y con quién no.

De igual manera en estos tiempos gran parte de esa incertidumbre que se vive es gracias a las falsas noticias que circulan, los rumores, las impresiones, fomentan que el grado de confusión global se incremente.

Todo esto me recuerda a las líneas con las que abre Acrobat:

Don't believe what you hear

Don't believe what you see

Acrobat es mi himno, es mi vida escrita en verso, es mi antídoto al mal humor, es mi

bálsamo cuando estoy triste. Acrobat temor a equivocarme, me describe tal y como soy.

Es ese arranque de locura que llegamos a tener, y que nada ni nadie nos podrá detener. Acrobat es la canción que me hace soñar, que me hace viajar.

15

Cuando escucho Acrobat es como si me repitiera a mí mismo: Nunca dejes de soñar, aunque te digan que tus sueños nunca se harán realidad, siempre habrá personas que no creerán en ti pues tu eres dueño de decidir si ellos se equivocaron o tenían razón ;Nunca dejes de soñar por nada, ni por nadie, aunque esto parezca egoísta, no dejes de soñar y confiar en ti mismo porque nadie más lo hará!! todo se puede hacer realidad.

And you can dream
So you dream out loud
You know that your time is coming 'round
So don't let the bastards grind you down

Manu









IX. Zouropa (1993)

U2

"Zooropa"

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

In 1993, I had a basement apartment and a temp job that paid almost nothing. It was a stifling summer in New York, and I had never before experienced the level of hassle I endured just walking from the subway to that job. I seemed to be a beacon of helplessness to the men in the street.

I could hear the irony in the line "You've got the right shoes to get you through the night," but even now, I remember the blue-suede slingbacks of another girl in the Office-shoes I wanted but couldn't buy. They were nothing fancy, but I had no extra money at all. Life felt precarious.

I could hear the irony in the advertising slogans that open "Zooropa," but what hopeful poetry there is in being mild, green and squeaky clean-whether you're a person, a country, or an entire continent! I may have been struggling, but the world was being made anew through appliance of science.

Just when you think you know where "Zooropa" is going, it takes a deep dive from the spire of a skyscraper, only to zoom upwards again with arms wide open. It takes you up and carries you over the lit-up nightscape of the globe. Zoom. Your shoes are fine. No compass, no map, no reason to get back. Zoom. "Don't worry baby, it's gonna be alright-uncertainty can be the guiding light."

I hear this song as a prayer. It doesn't ask for anything, but it describes possibilities: the possibility that we all might get out of the basement, out of the mud, and go overground. The girl the "Acrobat" sang to might be free, finally, to dream up the world she wants to live in.

I still sing along to "Zooropa" with great hope and great fear. I sing out loud.

Your fan,

PJ DeGenaro

Dear Bono, Larry, Adam, The Edge,

She is the dreamer. She's imagination. She had heaven.

I know those lyrics aren't in the order in which you wrote them, however they became the light in my darkness.

She is the dreamer:

With my head always in the clouds and ready for whats next, I've always had the optimism to know that the life I saw ahead of me was the life that would occur.

She's Imagination:

As a pisces my imagination sometimes took over reality. As I grew older, I delved into self awareness. I could see my life projected and saw myself up close to realize that the artist inside of me was good enough. That my ideas and thoughts mattered.

She had heaven:

Probably the most I've felt to heaven was the birth of my two sons. Becoming a mom completed me, yet it scared me to tears. (and it still does) I was dry and drew water from the stone.

Continued...

When I felt like I was slowly slipping under and feeling like I was holding on to nothing it was these lyrics that lifted my spirits and helped me during my grey days. Divorce devastated me. Loss of both of my parents devastated me. As perplexing as it is, a new day starts in the middle of the night. New beginnings, a new life for me started in darkness, yet as the days have progressed in my life, the sun has risen and I can see through the light. I look forward to you writing more songs about light and darkness.

She wore lemon

To color in the cold grey night.

Thank you for your words of optimism. Thank you for keeping me from drifting from the shore.

Your fan,

Deb

Dear friends,

I'm here to let you know how much your songs save me... everyday...

Well, is not easy to choose just one because each song has something special but I will try to explain why STAY is important for me.

STAY

A song that can be powerful and sweet at the same time.

When I listen to it I feel Free and I start to sing my heart out but at the end of the song I feel like an angel who hit the ground...

I listen to that song when I need a warm embrace, when I feel bad and I need you to STAY. When I feel happy and I want you to Stay.

I'm honored to have you in my life...

Your Italian fan

Deborah

Cari Bono, The Edge, Adam e Larry,

questa canzone forse non mi ha proprio salvato la vita, ma sicuramente me l'ha segnata. E comunque non escludo che possa salvarmela, io futuro.

La mia scelta non può che cadere su --Stay (Faraway So Close)--.

Un giorno ero a letto con lei, quando questa canzone passò alla radio. Lei mi disse che il passaggio in radio di quella canzone, proprio mentre eravamo a letto, era come se andasse a chiudere un cerchio nella sua vita e nella nostra storia. Quelle sue parole, insieme al testo della canzone, hanno lasciato un segno indelebile nella mia vita. Davvero ho creduto che si chiudesse un cerchio anche nella mia, e così è stato effettivamente.

Oggi, molto tempo dopo, quelle parole, --faraway so close-- sono scritte sulla mia pelle e ci resteranno, --until the end of the world--.

Potrei dire che --only love, only love can leave such a mark-- , oppure che --it's written on skin

Continued...

the book of your heart->, oppure continuare con altre citazioni, altri rimandi alle vostre parole, che sempre mi accompagnano e mi fanno compagnia. Come non pensare che <<we are one, but we are not the same>>, o che <<I can't live, with or without you>>....

Proprio in questo momento, quelle stesse parole sono scritte, in modo indelebile, su un altro braccio, che si trova <<faraway, so close>>, da me, a me.

Quindi questa vostra stupenda canzone è la più speciale per me, perché grazie ad essa posso continuare a sentire vicina una persona che in realtà è lontana. Continuare a sentire vicino al mio cuore un sentimento, celebrare il ricordo di un amore e renderlo, grazie alle vostre parole e alla vostra musica, immortale.

Colgo l'occasione per ringraziarvi per aver inserito <<Stay☑ nella setlist dell'Experience+Innocence tour e per averla eseguita anche a Milano dove, ancora una volta, c'eravamo entrambi. Lei ed io. Faraway, so close.

Continued...

•Che emozione vedere che a Berlino, quel 31 agosto 2018, avevate inserito la canzone in scaletta! E che emozione anche ricordare quando sulla Siegesaule ci sono salito, pur con tutte le mie vertigini....

Grazie per tutto quello che avete fatto, che fate e che sono sicuro ancora farete.

Che Dio vi benedica.

Arrivederci.

Con affetto,

F.

U2 - Stay (Faraway, So Close!)

Dear U2ers,

Some moments in life STAY with you. For me, most of those moments are connected to songs. Mostly your songs. Some songs of yours have stayed with me longer than others.

"AND IF YOU SHOUT, I'LL ONLY HEAR YOU"

It's 1993, I'm about 4 years old and my dad is putting me to sleep. "Zooropa" plays on the stereo. "Stay (Faraway, So Close!)" with a side of "Lemon", too. It is the first piece of music I remember hearing in life and it's stayed with me ever since. (Fun fact; live debut in Stockholm on "Zooropa" tour that year!)

"STAY AND THE NIGHT WOULD BE ENOUGH"

2001; Elevation Tour, 9th of July. It's the only song I want to hear on my first U2 show in Stockholm. You don't disappoint.

"JUST THE BANG AND THE CLATTER, AS AN ANGEL RUNS TO GROUND"

2017; my dad passes. 61. Too young. He never got to learn how to play the guitar, and loved my playing U2 around the house.

Continued...

At his memorial, I performed the acoustic version of this song, backed up by Craig Armstrong's haunting reinterpretation. Felt very fitting given the context. The room felt still yet moving, as I gave my biggest fan and greatest supporter a final tribute.

"A VAMPIRE OR A VICTIM..."

2020; Putting our 1-year-old to sleep is my responsibility now. Baby mostly falls asleep listening to U2, or me singing this song. Sometimes baby bites my shoulder to soothe themselves. It's OK.

"STAY WITH THE SPIRIT I FOUND..."

In closing, "Stay (Faraway, So Close!)" is a song from a soundtrack. I just didn't know then, in 1993, that it would become the song of my very own soundtrack too. That set me on the path to U2 and all that you've inspired me to do: Music, the ONE Campaign, Global Health, and finding friends.

Have I come full circle? Done the whole 360° tour of life, from INNOCENCE to eXPERIENCE?

Continued...

Perhaps not yet, but a long way since I was a BOY, getting VERTIGO
over ELEVATION. Although FARAWAY, you always will STAY SO CLOSE
to me, through your music and words. "INTO THE HEART, OF A CHILD".

Adam, Bono, Edge, Larry...thank you.

Your fan,

Simon

u2.se / Stockholm, Sweden

Dear U2,

Stay is the one that Never fails to give me chills. I just want to
stay with my loved ones forever, and this song really makes me
think of how time flies and I cant catch It. I Chase time hoping one
day i could really stop it. Stay is very powerfull emotionally.

Thanks

Dear Larry, Adam, Bono, The Edge, and Johnny,

The Wanderer came out when I was spending my last summer at home. The old man and I had some struggles to exist in the same space after I had spent months away at university. I was back in his world and missing mine. I was constantly hearing turn that crap down, as I retreated into music for my attempts to escape.

The Zooropa album came out and I put it on in the afternoon. As The Wanderer played I heard those footsteps coming down the hall. But instead of a shout to turn it down, my father instead sat down at the end of the bed, and he listened. As the song ended he started talking. He told me about Johnny's album recorded live at Folsom prison, one of his favourites. He talked about Elvis. He told me about Suzanne and the poetry of Leonard Cohen, He shared his own playlist with me that day. In many ways that day was the day our relationship changed.

Continued...

Fathers and sons...Thank you for putting us on that path.

Aaron

u2songs.com

PS: I've since stolen the song name. Johnny told me I could, and that he was happy that I had.

X. Pop (1997)

Dear Bono,

Picture it. January 1997. A teenager stays up late to watch and record a special called "U2 A2Z MTV", which will not only play all of U2's videos in alphabetical order but will premiere the new song "Discotheque".

Wild-eyed anticipation would be an understatement. Near-apocalyptic impatience would be beautifully-accurate. Despite the fact that I was happy to see and record some videos I had as yet not had the privilege of viewing, I was ecstatic that you didn't start the POP campaign off with "Staring At The Sun".

That "Discotheque" wasn't your most profound work was irrelevant. That it was the first new U2 since I had become a fan was probably the most important thing to happen to me since I discovered Jesus.

Only now, I actually did have Heaven in my heart.

And, surely, I was sharing this moment with the U2 community at large.

Continued...

It was this moment, this feeling, that I wanted (and still want) to create and deliver to the rest of the world. That feeling of belonging. Shattering the walls of loneliness.

I could go on and on and on about what your music, your words, your work and your humanity have meant to me over the years, how you opened doors to my imagination and spirit that I never would have known were there. And how I work nearly every day to find ways to pay that forward.

Someday, maybe I'll get to tell you in person.

But, for now, I'd just like you to picture a goofy, tiny teenager having the courage to get a bunch of kids at a school dance to perform the routine at the end of "Discotheque".

Ain't no small thing.

When I was 16 (going on 17) I thought I could take on the world. I wasn't right then. But it's because of U2 (particularly your 90s incarnation) ☑ daring, inventive, heartfelt and determined - that I've plugged on into my 40s.

Continued...

I'm more than okay with that. It just means I'll have more story to tell.

That is, after all, The Art of Tactful Procrastination.

Thank you,

Ender Bowen

www.EnderBowen.com

If God Will Send His Angels

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

While I was thinking about which song to choose, I got aware of the following:

Your songs are always beyond outstanding, but when you are desperate, they become even better. Is that why POP is one of my favorite albums? I somehow think so. Bono, you once said 'Pop music often tells you everything is OK, while rock music tells you that it's not OK, but you can change it.' According to this definition POP is definitely not a pop album. At the end of the millennium you did not seem to be very confident about the future. Coke was a mystery, love took a train heading south and a fucked up world it was too. You were staring at the sun, begging people to get up off their knees. You were longing for peace on earth, for rewinding it just once more. To sum it all up: Where was the hope and where was the faith and the love? Eternal questions - and sadly, today they are more current than ever.

Continued...

There are many reasons for your music being so incredibly meaningful to me. And one off them, for sure, is that you are asking these questions. You are looking for answers to why the world has gotten out of joint, longing for redemption.

Sharing desperation can create hope. Singing about what goes wrong makes sure we do not forget about it. That is why my favorites Bad, Running and so many others of your thought-provoking songs do not provide resignation, but confidence. That is why If God will send his angels is a real Christmas Song to me, even though it is filled with so much anger.

It is one of your most underrated songs, perfectly arranged, a metaphorical masterpiece, lyrics that are simply brilliant.

The song was one of four U2 tracks that I used to rock my son to sleep in his first year. Thematically anything but a lullaby, I know, but so very comforting anyway. Besides, the answer was clear at that moment:

Continued...

'Where is the hope and where is the faith and the love?' - It was right there in my arms.

When God's got his phone off the hook, your songs are still there. Words can hardly express what your music means to me. Thank you. For everything.

Daniel

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam, and Larry,

Ever since I spent a lost summer of my senior year spinning a little rainbow tinted CD called Pop over and over in my aunt's century old CD player, I've been "turning 'your' song into my own prayers." Sometimes the prayers are whispered reflections. Sometimes they are primal screams.

My relationship with God was inconsistent and extreme. I sensed the white hot light you've spoken of as a young teen, but my heart and brain battled constantly. Growing up in a town ruled by Southern Baptists, I found myself asking questions that my church thought it was sinful to even contemplate. Questions like how can science and the Bible both be right? Questions like why do children starve when God promises to care for all He loves? Questions like does God really love me, or even exist?

I carried these doubts as I carried out my ritual listening through that summer and into my first year of university.

Continued...

With my belief "slipping away," I found myself clawing onto the shreds of spirit | sensed in the songs. Much like David's harp calmed Saul, Pop and War soothed the wounds of anger, cynicism, and pride that |didn't yet understand were shredding my faith. In the embrace of the violet blue tinged with fire tunes I devoured, I sensed that maybe His/Her spirit hadn't departed me after all. Maybe.

Unhinged from the faith that kept my tempestuous emotions at bay, I engaged the first two months of college in pursuit of I'm not sure what. I sought out experiences to 'taste and touch', some I treasure, regret. I only 'prayed' when I spun what was now a holy trio to me...Pop, War, and Achtung Baby. But one night, God answered those primal petitions.

Wake up Dead Man was the name of the song. I had just drug myself to church that Sunday and sensed that at least one of us was dead.

Continued...

As I worked on my English paper with the distorted choir and minor dirge like notes of the song in the background, I realized that I really needed to listen. I needed to listen to the words. I needed to listen over the confusion. I was the dead wo(man). I needed to wake up. So I did. I gathered my papers, left the computer lab and kneeled in the moonlight at two AM. I saw my wounds. I saw His scars. He wasn't dead and neither was I. Anymore. Maybe you are right Bono. Maybe God does hear us better when we sing.

Thank you.

Your fan,
Megan



**XI. All That
You Can't
Leave
Behind
(2000)**

So many songs to choose from. So many happy memories and emotions I associate with each of them. But there's two I want to pick, for different reasons.

1. Beautiful Day.

That's the one that's started me on my musical journey with U2, and with so many friends I found along the way. The year is 2000 and I was still in school, trying my best at final exams but with not much hope in succeeding. I wasn't particularly good at school, at least not in the subjects that mattered. There was bullying, too, and just a general sense of feeling adrift and not knowing what to do with the future that presented itself to me. Then this song came along with its powerful lyrics, telling me, no matter how bad things might be right now, it's going to be ok. And it was.

2. Two Hearts Beat As One.

Actually, I was lying. Beautiful Day wasn't my first brush with U2, but I didn't know at the time.

Continued...

Maybe I felt so quickly at home with their music because I subconsciously knew it all along. Some research into my father's old music collection made me realise, I must have known them from as early as 6 months old. An old tape bootleg of Under A Blood Red Sky, illegally recorded from a west german radio broadcast (considering my family history and how the political landscape presented itself for us living behind that wall, this act could have meant jail for him), plus a few comments from him, told me as much. Further research had me find out this song must have been released almost exactly to the day when I was born. I am not 100% sure of the fact, but I am still claiming this as my birthday present, and made me realise how much their music must have influenced me all along, across time and borders.

U2 - Beautiful Day

Dear Bono, Adam, Larry and The Edge,

I didn't go out looking for U2, but U2 found me on a Monday. When I heard Beautiful Day - set to footage of big, strong, WWE tough guy Triple H on Monday Night Raw - it was like... all the colors came out.

Hearing that song for the first time was waking up and realizing that nothing before then mattered, nothing else existed. It spoke to me in a way nothing ever had; to know that something could at all was quite a profound and life changing Miracle for a 13 year old.

Beautiful Day made some sense out of the world, and that voice... it was the most beautiful sound I'd ever heard...your voice was all I heard. I found myself in your voice.

When I'm asked, I don't alway say Beautiful Day is my favorite U2 song because I have so many, but whenever I hear it, I remember it's actually always been my favorite... because there was never anything before it.

Your fan,
Lucinda

Stuck in a Moment - U2

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam, & Larry

I know that 'Stuck in a Moment' was a song written for Michael Hutchence, but it could not have described the last five years any better.

I was in love with a girl, or so I thought. I spent so much time trying to force a situation that was never right.

This happened during my formative years in high school, and I went so far as to expediting my graduation by a year, forcing myself to believe that her school was the right one for me, and ignoring what could have been a better relationship.

"You gotta stand up straight, carry your own weight, these tears are going nowhere, baby "

Long story short, I knew I made a mistake, but had already moved in before I had come to terms with it. I fell into depression during these times, the fall of 2018 was my rock bottom.

Continued...

I felt bad for myself admittedly, I was mad at the world and myself, but I began to find peace through songs like 'Stuck in a Moment'. I found my outlet through your music, and I feel as though I wouldn't be here today if not for your music.

I know you guys hear it all the time, but your music does save people. I could've named countless songs here, because your music moves me more than others. I hope to meet you Bono some day, just to personally thank you for what you have done for me.

Sincerely,

Andrew

U2 - Stuck In A Moment You Can't Get Out Of

Dear Bono, Edge, Larry, and Adam,

I was just out of college, with no idea what to do with my life. I was going on job interviews, scared to death of not finding a job but somehow also scared to death of finding one and officially becoming an adult. And then I get diagnosed with a heart disorder - it wasn't fatal, but who wants to hear they have a heart abnormality at 20?

Then I heard this song. I know it wasn't written for me, but somehow I felt that you were speaking to me. "This time will pass" - it hit me right in the chest and strengthened my abnormal heart.

That was the start of everything - I've traveled solo just to see you, had many adventures and misadventures, and I'm still here.

At times I still falter, but I hold on because of your songs that tell me it's all going to be okay. There is nothing they can throw at me that I haven't already heard.

Continued...

Thank you for the songs that give me strength, that give me hope,
and that touch my soul.

Your fan,

Sandy

Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of

Dear U2,

In the summer of 2001, when I was 13, although the 9/11 terror attacks were still months away, I was having my own terror attacks inside my head. Depression and anxiety were creeping up on me as I was trying to figure myself out. I was watching a lot of music videos during that time and saw this band that had a song called Beautiful Day that I liked. Then their song called Stuck in a Moment was all over the radio around that time, too. The lyrics of that song spoke to me in a way that no music had ever done before in my life. I felt like it described panic attacks, because I did feel stuck, but also that "It's just a moment," which is hard to remember in the middle of one.

Fast forward to fall 2001. Not only was the album All That You Can't Leave Behind comforting the whole nation, but it was a soothing balm to my anxious mind.

Continued...

I listened to it on the bus on the way to school every morning because I believed that it stopped me from having panic attacks. It became my medicine. This was the first real connection I felt with any band, and I felt like a scientist must feel when discovering a new element or a new star. It was a game changer and gave me something to be excited about at a time when I felt like I had nothing to live for. I will never forget that.

I asked God to help me, and He did. He showed me your music right when I needed it.

Your patient,

-Rachel

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

It is a strange moment, when you hear your three year old son coming downstairs singing "You are stuck in a moment you can't get out of" - without understanding neither meaning nor language, nor the meaning to the parents at that time. We lived in Germany at that time, I was stuck in a non-existing job, having to make tough decisions where to go next and taking a leap forward which would take me eventually on a professional journey around the world.

Your music was always there when I grew up anyway. I vividly remembering hearing With Or Without You for the first time, as I parked the car to listen to the song. I didn't become a fan then, which changed when I saw my first live concert in Wembley during Popmart. I was blown away. From then on, your shows happened always at change or before change situations.

Continued...

From realising a relationship was over at the time of Popmart, to getting ready for the birth of my daughter (four days after the Elevation Show in Munich), to dealing with loss in the family during Vertigo, when I probably heard my favourite version so far of that song in Boston ☐ starting acoustic with Larry and Adam coming in towards the end. Still makes the hair on my spine stand up.

This continued during 360, which also brought me back to new Wembley Stadium. That time you provided me with the biggest surprise in my "fandom" (what a strange concept for me!), as I won the poster in a u2.com contest which is another story. I+E happened at a time when my time in the Middle East came to an end. JT when looking for the next thing (and taking a leaf out of Stuck, yet again), E+I when I lived in China and Berlin with a company structural change and JT Seoul a week before I left China again for Berlin.

Continued...

I know that I can pick myself up, and if I need some help, there is always music.

Ultimately, if I were to pick a song which saved my life it will be a toss up between Stuck in a Moment and Two Shots of Happy, One Shots of Sad, so can I take them both?

Because as always, I am also "Under pressure, but not bent out of shape".

Your sometimes reluctant "fan",

Arend

Aka two shots

U2 - Walk On

Dear Adam, Bono, the Edge, and Larry

Much like Bono has always said, the songs often take on a different meaning for each person who hears them. Walk On is that song for me.

All That You Can't Leave Behind came out at a very difficult time in my life. I was moving away from my hometown for the very first time at age 19. The circumstances were tumultuous. My mother was heavy in her alcoholism and I was taking care of her. My parents were going through a divorce and my dad had moved to Monterey. I had been living alone, taking care of my ill mother and working. My dad, seeing the writing on the wall, encouraged me to move to Monterey to live with him. I did.

I remember driving down Highway 1 on my way to Monterey, in my Mustang Convertible, and Walk On came on my stereo. Bono was singing to me:

Continued...

"And if your glass heart should crack, and for a second you turn back, oh no, be strong." "I know it aches, and your heart it breaks, you can only take so much...walk on."

I had to pull my car over. It felt as if Bono was reaching through the stereo to hug me and saying, "you're going to be ok. You'll make it through this."

On April 5, 2002, alcoholism took my mother at age 48. On January 28, 2020, I entered rehab for alcoholism at age 37. This song is my life preserver. It was the hug to keep me from jumping off the bridge.

Thank you, for weaving the lyrics around me and giving me the courage to keep going through all that I can't leave behind.

Love,
Chelsea

Dear U2,

In July of 2001, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. I started chemotherapy the beginning of August, started losing my hair in my 30th birthday. I listened to All That You Can't Leave Behind every time I sat in those ugly blue recliners, watching the poison that might save my life drip into my veins. By the end of September, I was extremely sick, in and out of the hospital nearly every other week. In October, the port in my chest became infected, which was extremely dangerous because my white blood cells were very, very low. I was hospitalized, again, in isolation this time. Walk On and In A Little While really did help to save my life that night. They gave me hope that this would indeed be temporary, just a moment that would pass but if I didn't make it, to have faith in what comes next.

'You're packing a suitcase for a place none of us has been
A place that has to be believed to be seen
You could have flown away

Continued...

A singing bird in an open cage
Who will only fly, only fly for freedom Walk On'

Later, in November, I skipped a round of chemo to go to the Elevation Tour. It remains the best concert I've ever seen, a communal healing after 9/11, and a personal one as well. I finished chemo in February 2002.

The same album got me through a hellish divorce last year, but that's a whole other story. Thank you for your music. I've been a fan since I first heard War at a slumber party in 1983.

U2 - Walk On

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry,

Walk On is a song that talks about how love can overcome anything in this world, how powerful a person can be to do what is right even knowing that could hurt yourself . It's a song that, in my opinion, everybody should listen to at some point of their lives, when there are difficult moments or when they are feeling lost, to learn that if they believe in love, the hard moments will pass and we'll all be birds flying for freedom.

Walk On is the song that gave me strength and hope during the days I was feeling down and missing my family during my exchange program in Dublin, Ireland, when I was only 21 years old. Every time I felt that I wanted to go back to my home in Brazil I listened to this song and other U2 songs to make me feel powerful again and remember that I was living my freedom and my dreams, and that I was away from my family just in distance but our hearts were still together.

Thank you so much U2.

Continued...

From your fan,
Mariana

Dear Bono, Adam, Larry & Edge,

"Kite" is the song of my life.

I was a girl aged 12 when i first saw you with Band Aid. This day changed my life. I'm a fan since then for now over 35 years.

I heard "Kite" for the first time in 2000 when I bought your album and it fascinated me. But I understood it in 2003 when my mother suddenly died. It was so powerful, and it could be her words to me. At her last day she said to me "take care". It was the last time, i saw her alive.

"Kite" gave me the words I would liked to say to her. I saw "The shadows behind her eyes", but didn't realise it that evening.

I remember one moment, when you, Bono, stood on the stage and you lost your words. It was just a few weeks after the funeral of your father. And we helped you through and sang for you. You had tears in your eyes... Later you sang this song for me, when i had no words and tears in my eyes.

Continued...

Thank you for being part of my life. You 4 guys are the constant in my life and i hope you will be for a long long time..

Your fan Sandra

U2

"Kite"

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge and Larry,

"I know that this is not goodbye"

I needed to hear those words that night in Kansas City in 2001. I went to the show looking for adventure and escape, both from the weeks of horror after 9/11 and from the grief I felt after the excruciating end of a friendship with a person I cherished.

"Something is about to give

I can feel it coming

I think I know what it is"

The opening summed up how I felt the last time I had seen this old friend. I knew it was going to end badly, but I didn't want to admit it. At that time, I didn't know "Kite," didn't know the words. I had spent that weekend visiting my friend, going back and forth from his dorm room to the campus bookstore, running up my credit card and trying to keep myself from bursting into tears during the uncomfortable silences and stalled conversations.

Then five weeks after that, I was standing at my seat, hearing a song that perfectly explained my emotions over my loss.

Bono, you dedicated the song to your father. But as you played the song, I didn't hear it as a eulogy for a parent, even though that was how it was intended. I heard it as my friend telling me that I would be okay without him.

"Who's to say where the wind will take you

Who's to know what it is will break you"

The four of you were playing, but it was my friend I heard, someone who was very much alive but also very much gone from my life. Through those words, I felt as though he was sending me out into the world, uncertain of how it was going to be but that I would be okay. It was the first time I'd felt any sort of comfort, any sort of hope that I'd get over not having him in my life anymore.

"I wonder what has happened to you

You wonder what has happened to me"

Continued...

After all this time, I still wonder what has happened to him. I hope he wonders what has happened to me. What I know for sure is that I have never forgotten the words to that song. And every time I hear it, even almost 19 years later, I still feel sad and comforted at the same time, the way I did that night in Kansas City.

Your fan,

Amy

U2 - When I look at the world

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge & Larry,

Your band's catalogue offers a wide range of songs and when we dive into your music we unlock an even wider range of emotions. More than 4 decades of inspiring, uplifting, thought - provoking, emotional, overwhelming, intense, angry, peaceful, anthemic songs that have had an impact on the world & on each and every one of your fans. More than 4 decades of a band that's always evolving, always interested in the future, always interested in what's going on in the world & with an honest approach to songwriting. That honesty combined with, what I call, a 'colorful rawness' is what makes so many U2 songs great. Songs like 'I will follow', 'Tomorrow', 'Sunday Bloody Sunday', 'Pride', 'I still haven't found what I'm looking for', 'One' 'Please', 'Kite', 'Sometimes you can't make it on your own', 'Iris', 'The little things that give you away' and the list goes on and on...

Continued...

When you write from the heart, you always deliver.

There's something about 'When I look at the world' that always gets me. That song got stuck in my head from the moment I first listened to it and it's not going away. I can't really explain it with words. That's why there's music I suppose; a melody can wordlessly explain things you know you're feeling, but can't express yourself. A lyric can unlock your messy thoughts, which, otherwise, would remain sealed in your head.

'When the night is someone else's and you're trying to get some sleep when your thoughts are too expensive to ever want to keep'

To me, it's not just another U2 song; this is IT for me. Heavy lyrics which I've truly felt and literally experienced. This song actually reminds me of a few moments in my life that I - thought I - wanted to leave behind, but I keep coming to this song for comfort I guess and maybe even relive a few memories.

In the past, I had tried 'to be like you'...

Continued...

now 'I can't wait till I'm stronger '.

Thank you U2 for breaking and entering my imagination and for creating the sonic landscapes that make sense out of my thoughts which I can't put into words on my own.

Your fan,

George

U2 - New York

Dear Bono, Adam, Larry & Edge,

'New York' is a song that saved my life, let me explain.

Early in 2001 we had planned a trip to New York City, for my birthday on September 10th.

This plan changed when we heard your announcement about bringing the Elevation Tour to NYC during June. We moved our schedule forward from September to June, to take in a U2 show at Madison Square Garden. At the time my thinking was - wouldn't it be really great to hear the band perform my then favourite track on All That You Can't Leave Behind, in the City that inspired it?

Whilst in The Big Apple we used our intended September itinerary and ascended the World Trade Center, on the day after what would originally have been my birthday. Unbeknown to us what twist of fate would become apparent three months later.

Bringing the trip forward, due to your tour and our love of your music, had stopped us from being in NYC on a truly terrible day.

Continued...

Your fan,

Graham

joshthetree #U2T0925

XII. How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb (2004)

U2 - Vertigo

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam & Larry,

I could name a few dozens of your songs that are important to me, but maybe I wouldn't have become your big fan if it wasn't for Vertigo.

It was January 2006. I was only 12 years old. I was in the car with my dad when he put on the radio a CD with a couple of your songs. When suddenly an explosion caught my attention. It was "Vertigo". It was something new, I could feel the energy on it. That voice, that guitar, that beat, that bass, what a sound! I got home and started to search about this band called U2. I found out that they would come to Brazil the following month to play two sold-out shows. Unhappy as I was unable to see them live, I decided to go to the video store near my house to see if there was a DVD show. For my surprise, there were 4! I rented them all! So my passion started here.

The TV broadcast announcement of the show in Sao Paulo filled me with joy. Anxiety took over me.

Continued...

It was like I was really going to be present at the stadium. But if there was a song that I was looking forward to hearing, that song was Vertigo. It was surreal!

In all the shows that I attended, Vertigo was played. And on all occasions, I sang it like it was the first time in the car.

Maybe if it wasn't for Vertigo I wouldn't be here writing this letter, maybe you wouldn't have saved my life countless times.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you very much for your music.

Your fan,

Romulo

Dear Bono, Adam, The Edge and Larry,

Miracle Drug is one of those songs that I don't particularly listen to. Not because I hate it, but because it reminds me of a tough time in my life.

There's a video (on YouTube) of you playing it live. And on this video, Bono explains that it's about a completely paraplegic student of Mount Temple Comprehensive School. One day he took a specific drug and it allowed to move his neck a little bit. It ended up helping him a lot.

In 2014, my best friend was sent to hospital because she had meningitis, a bacteria that can kill within 10 minutes if it wakes up. Minutes before she was taken to the hospital, the doctors gave her 40 pills of a drug. Usually there is a drug that can help and you only need one pill, but she was allergic to that one. So they gave her another drug. She survived. According to the doctors, the 40 pills of the drug saved her life.

Continued...

Before all of that happened, she was contemplating suicide. After coming out of the hospital because of the illness, she had changed in a way that was better. She was happier than ever, all of her negative thoughts had gone.

Seeing my bestfriend going from contemplating suicide, almost dying from meningitis and getting out of hospital being happier than ever has made me realise how beautiful life is. I have seen her in a special center against suicide and then on her hospital bed with tubes everywhere. In fact the first time I saw her on the bed, it was one of the hardest time for me.

I believe that I owe to, what I call, the Miracle Drug but also to the doctors, nurses and everyone who helped saving her life. As of today, I probably would be the one that I am without her.

Thank you for writing this beautiful song. It means a lot to me.

Life is Beautiful

Your fan from Switzerland,

Delphine

Miracle Drug - U2

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

If I had to pick the 60 Songs that saved my life, each and everyone of them would be by U2.

At every twist and turn of my life since 1984 I have always felt you wrote the perfect song and said just what I needed to hear for whatever was going on at the time, so much so, that it has even felt eerie at times. U2 is the soundtrack to my life.

Along came How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb, along with a cancer diagnosis, thru every procedure, thru every treatment I listened to this song and credit it with being a part of my recovery. Today I write with an eternally grateful heart as I celebrate my 15th cancer-free year attributed to your music that carried me through this battle and many other adversities in my life.

I was well enough and fortunate enough to travel to Dublin for the Vertigo show in 2005, I cherish the moment I heard Miracle Drug live that night I cried, full of JOY.

Continued...

Because I knew my band had pulled me through!

I have no words that could ever truly express the gratitude in my heart to have had the good fortune to have shared this time and space with you!

Eternally grateful! Your forever fan,

Adis

My father and I are very similar. So much so that going away together for the first time in 2019 when I was about to 39 was terrifying.

I drove from Melbourne to Brisbane to meet him and catch our flight to Canada.

About halfway up this song came on. It has always resonated with me but in that moment, on that stretch of highway it suddenly landed in my lap.

This was the chance to make it right and to show my Dad that despite our differences, and similarities, that I truly love him and wouldn't be who I am today without him being my Dad.

I had to pull over and get myself together because the tears were streaming but the resolution was instilled at the same time.

Thank you for your words, your music and your presence in my life.

Owen, Melbourne, Australia.

Dear Larry, Adam, Edge and Bono

I was Standing among a large silent crowd, a few months ago, listening to now a dear friend and former manager that taught me a lot and means a lot to me, mourning her 20 years old daughter, that had died from a stroke Just the other night, and I could not find words of comfort.

I am woman of words, I write my heart out, I am the one friends turn to, when they want a special greeting and when they need a specific wording. but in that moment, my bag of words was empty and left me whispering silently the traditional blessing my grandparents who came from Yemen taught me: "may heaven console you"

Later that night sitting in my back yard, under the stars, the words came out sprayed immediately to my Facebook wall, accompanied by your song: "Sometimes you can't make it on your own"

I wished than, I could take some of the punches for my friend, and allow her some peace.

The heart just cracks.

Continued...

Since I became a mom, I don't watch video clips ... don't have the time.

somehow, that clears the mind to listen to the words. And so I went to look for the clip of "sometimes you can't make it on your own".

All I wanted to do was to take that walk alongside you, Bono, and share with you my life journey and how u2's music colored my path. How it elevates me, supports me and allows me to break.

For my 40'th birthday, 2 years ago, I created my own life play list. One song from every year, since 1978 to 2008.

I decided to keep it varied and not to choose the same artist twice.

I invite you to try and guess which u2 song made it to the list.

Thank you guys for the words, for the music, for the years.

Nirit

Israel

Dear Bono (and Larry, and Adam, and Edge):

Picture it: A house with a Northside Dubliner Da and a despondent, angry child, estranged from each other when they should have been united in grief over an unfathomable and bottomless loss. Only, this isn't your home, it's mine.

Fast forward several years, and the cold war has given way to an armistice of sorts. An understanding has been reached to just not talk about the things that are too hard - how we feel, what we think and, most of all, her.

Fast forward several more years, and the peace accord has held and even flourished. The raw wounds have scabbed over and faded to scars. There's still the odd fight, but that's alright. We're the same soul.

Fast forward another several years, and we're fighting a new battle, only this time we're on the same side. Now the child is the parent, calling the shots, taking the punches.

Continued...

But after all this time, now that we've finally learnt how to speak, and listen, there are no words because his voice is held prisoner by his mind.

And for the past three years, I've been left here, alone, in this house that isn't quite a home any more. But at long last, we talk, although I'm not sure he hears me.

Sometimes, I still can't make it on my own. But when I can't, I have U2. I think I'll always have a hard time listening to this song, but I feel like you wrote it just for me. Go raibh maith agat.

Your fan,
Fionna

U2 "Yahweh"

Dear Bono, Edge, Larry and Adam,

I first heard this song when I was about 11, driving home from the grocery store with my family in our Suburban. My parents are not avid music-listeners, but they do love U2. How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb was probably the first U2 album either of them had bought since the 90s (like you, they were busy that decade, but with raising a family as opposed to rock 'n' roll tours). It was the first U2 album I heard. I know Bomb was met with criticism from some of your fans, but I credit it as the album that made me fall in love with U2.

"Take this soul, stranded in some skin and bones

Take this soul, and make it sing"

My mother is very spiritual, and I loved hearing her interpretations of your theology, Bono, that you scattered throughout Bomb.

Continued...

I can still remember her holding mini-Ted Talks in the front seat of the car, asking her kids, "Do you know how you dismantle an atomic bomb?" "With love?" I ventured. "By never building one in the first place," she smiled. But she, like you, Bono, had the most to say about "Yahweh."

"Take this mouth, so quick to criticize

Take this mouth, give it a kiss"

Yahweh, the Hebrew name for God. So sacred it should not be spoken by humans. These concepts fascinated me, along with my mother's readings of the lyrics. More than any other song you have written, "Yahweh" is a prayer, asking God to take an imperfect person—shoeless, stained, stranded, angry, critical—and help them become more kind and loving. This transformation can be painful or seem hopeless. To become this better version of yourself, the old person and heart of what you were might even need to be destroyed.

"Take this heart, take this heart

Take this heart, and make it break"

Continued...

The beautiful simplicity of these final lines, this plaintive request, never fails to move me. Yet "Yahweh" is not a sad or painful song. It is hopeful, earnest, honest. The soaring guitar of the first few seconds always lifts me up. It brings to mind memories of riding in the Suburban with my family, belting out the words, staying in the car minutes after we'd arrived home so we could finish the song.

Thank you for this. "Yahweh" is not only a prayer that gives me hope for the future. It's also a reminder of precious moments spent with my family. It makes my soul sing.

Your fan,

Allie McClaskey

XIII. No Line on the Horizon (2009)

In 2009 our second child arrived unexpectedly at home, my wife and I delivered him in our bedroom with a midwife on the phone giving us guidance. That was my Moment of Surrender, surrendering to God and the blessings that he poured out on us.

Thanks U2

U2 - 'Unknown Caller'

To Larry Mullen Jr., Lord Adam Clayton, The Edge and Bono. Sir f-cking Bono.

I'm outside and there's noise, a lot of noise. As I stand there I am bombarded with sensory information of all kinds, from every single direction, hitting their target as if they'd trained all their life for this. There are cars going up and down around me, but also children running left and right, people yelling, laughing, screaming and talking and talking and talking ... There's nature too, adding up to the fuss with a strong wind that shakes the trees and makes walls tremble. Both white and stormy clouds s p

i ra

l i

n

g above my head, deciding on either engulfing me at that exact time, or later on.

Continued...

I can hear birds singing but their music isn't clear, I can hear water dripping nearby, perhaps among the woods, but I cannot get there. I find myself right in the middle of this busy street and I don't seem to be able to get out. All of the mess in this scenery happens close enough to keep me immobilized in my place, unable to make my way out of it but incapable of focusing on any of those millions of stimuli either. And yet I know they're very important somehow.

But as the sunshine finds its way through the clouds I spot its light on the ground a short step away from me, a small yellow circle that starts multiplying, at first quite slowly, creating a safe path through which I can distance myself from the turmoil. The cars start to slow down, the wind becomes more friendly, people keep talking but their voices mitigate as I look around and I realize I'm not being hit anymore.

And that those people look like me. And that I'm driving the cars.

Continued...

As I set foot into the sunshine, following each circle it gives me, as round stones one after the other creating a way across a river, the scene is evolving so unhurried that I could take any element and transform it or reposition it as I please. Suddenly, I can hear the birds' song, I can sense the best energy this place has to offer me and I realize there's good even in my own chaos. I can see its beauty and I can respect it. It's safe for me to walk away for a while, to take a break from that mess, to wait in the distance, giving myself time to breathe and to reconnect to what matters.

Six minutes later things begin to accelerate once more, but this time I know the details by heart, I can deal with them.

These six minutes never fail. Never have. Never will.

Your fan,

Vi

U2 Breathe

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam and Larry,

I have been a U2 fan for over 35 years! The first time I heard Breathe, it occurred to me that I had been spending time searching for something that I had already known. The lyric "I found Grace inside of a sound, I found Grace it's all that I found. I can breathe". Whoa! Mind blown! Life changed! You put into words and made sense of something that I could not. It's what U2's music does for me and I suspect for many others. Takes me to "that other place", brings us to our "moment of surrender". I can breathe!! I did not need to search anymore.

That place of comfort and bliss came to be known to me because of U2 and I am so grateful.

With love and gratitude,

Your fan,

Fran

one



XIV. Songs of Innocence (2014)

U2 - Every Breaking Wave

Dear Bono, The Edge, Adam & Larry,

I am from fans from China, my favorite song is Every Breaking Wave.

Because it is not good at my mood, the mood is lost. Once the song will be listening to the song. This song can bring me a huge energy, tell me the difficulties of my eyes are not, do not give up, tomorrow must be a beautiful day.

I always believe that the power of music is great, the power of music will take us ahead. China loves U2

YuRan

Cari Bono, Edge, Adam e Larry,

sono in spiaggia vicino a casa mia. Non venivo qui da più di tre mesi a causa di questo maledetto virus.

Sto ascoltando Every Breaking Wave che oggi mi appare sotto una nuova luce così come questo mare, sempre uguale ma sempre diverso, oggi mi appare diverso. Forse sono io a essere diverso.

E' un mondo più silenzioso e voglio sperare che questa difficoltà lo faccia diventare un mondo più responsabile.

Il sole sta cercando di farsi strada tra le nuvole proprio come la nostra vita sta tentando di farsi strada in questi tempi incerti.

Torniamo sempre allo stesso punto, Bono. La luce e l'oscurità.

Nel mio piccolo della mia piccola esistenza in questo grande mondo comprendo sempre di più che l'oscurità è un mezzo per arrivare alla luce. Agire nell'ombra al servizio della luce, è così Bono?

Questo mondo è più silenzioso dicevo ma il mio cuore e la mia mente non lo sono stati.

Continued...

In alcuni giorni l'unico rumore che mi ha accompagnato è stato quello dei miei pensieri.

Sembra che io abbia compreso oggi il significato più profondo di questa canzone, proprio oggi che dopo tanto tempo sono tornato a osservare l'eterno ritorno delle onde del mare e della loro vita.

La nostra vita è fatta di onde, alcune fredde e violente altre calde e dolci, che una dopo l'altra si infrangono sulla riva della nostra esistenza su questo pianeta. La vita è un gioco d'azzardo in cui la posta in palio più preziosa è la nostra anima.

Perdersi tra le onde, anche le più dolci, è facile e me ne rendo conto sempre di più.

Non è forse sulla riva del mare che muore l'Innocenza, spazzata via dalle onde della vita stessa?

Credo di essere ad un punto della mia vita in cui sto prendendo coscienza della lotta dell'Innocenza e dell'Esperienza in primis dentro me stesso.

È un periodo strano Bono.

Continued...

"Ogni anima che ha fatto naufragio sa cosa significhi vivere senza intimità" dici nella canzone.

Ho compreso anche questo negli ultimi anni.

Ho compreso che bisogna prendere una posizione, non ergersi contro le onde ma conoscere le correnti.

Sto comprendendo anche la paura della vittoria, quella che ti blocca e che fa finire le storie prima che inizino. La sto comprendendo e non la temo.

"Siamo innamorati della sconfitta".

È vero. Quanto è facile trovare giustificazioni quando va tutto male?

Le onde sono affascinanti, si potrebbe passare una vita intera ad osservarle, ad inseguirle sulla riva ma questo non è possibile. Questo ci renderebbe solo spettatori persi in un inseguimento senza fine.

Bisogna tenersi stretti gli affetti che si hanno se si ha la fortuna di averli trovati.

Bisogna lasciarsi travolgere, conoscere la corrente e smetterla di inseguire qualsiasi onda si infrange sulla riva.

Continued...

Sento il sapore dell'acqua salata sulle labbra ma non capisco se
proviene dal mare di fronte a me o dai miei occhi.

È un periodo decisamente strano, Bono.

La musica degli U2 è incredibile, cambia insieme a me senza
cambiare mai.

Ancora tanti auguri per i tuoi splendidi sessant'anni. Saluta Larry
e ringrazialo perché se suono la batteria è merito suo.

Il tuo (vostro) fan,

Jacopo

Every Breaking Wave

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

Diachronic yet steadfast, ever-changing and evolving, yet stalwart
and comforting and solid: that's what both you and your music have
been. My whole life, you've been there, through each phase-waves of
regret and waves of joy, waves of sorrow, and now through every
breaking wave.

In past lives and, in better, more innocent versions of myself, I've
hand-delivered fan letters to you, Bono: teenage, angst-filled words,
outside the Docker's in 1988. A crucifix, an Elvis calendar and more
fan-girling gratitude and platitudes at the Four Seasons in
Toronto in 1992...

Then, I moved to Greece and the waves overtook me... This past
decade, especially, my life's repertoire has transformed me into the
"shipwrecked soul" of your song.

Continued...

So many things have transpired that have made me feel that "this is as far as I could reach." And much like the weary sojourner, the gambler, the sailor of this incredibly moving and poignant melody, I long to be swept off my feet and to quote another song, find "a harbour in the tempest".

Your music has always been that harbour for me, no matter the waves that continue to crash... this song is so representative of my feelings right now and that's why I used the word diachronic in the beginning of this letter. At other times, the harbour against the waves has been "Please" or "New Year 's Day", "So Cruel" or "Bad"-it's impossible to pick just one song that's saved my life because they all have, at different times, depending on the repertoire... theirs and mine. I finally heard EBW live 6 months ago in Singapore- that's the lifeline I'm holding onto now... just saying thank you will never suffice. I love you -be well and continue making beautiful music.

Continued...

Your fan,
Eva

U2

"Every Breaking Wave"

Dear Larry, Bono, Adam and Edge:

I was on the road, at a hotel gym-jamming to "Streets" for the 400th time—the moment Songs of Innocence dropped into my iTunes. (Thank you, by the way.)

Hearing "The Miracle (of Joey Ramone)" for the first time, I amped up. I started sprinting like Bono careening around the heart-shaped stage at the Super Bowl—fast, and wild, and free. At the last guitar strum, I thought, THAT was cool. I dig it.

I barely got through half of "Every Breaking Wave" before I hit the emergency stop button on the treadmill. I fumbled with my iPhone to restart the song. I sat on the edge of the treadmill, my heart banging against my ribcage, tears mixing with sweat as your lyrics—once again—etched into my brain.

"Every shipwrecked soul knows what it is to live without intimacy"

My second long-term relationship had disintegrated into ash after eight years. He withheld affection.

Refused, resisted all physical contact. Didn't wanna work on it.

How did you know? How did you organize those precise eleven words in such a way that snapped me awake and helped me realize, yes, it is way better to be alone than lonely sharing a life with someone else?

"It's hard to listen while you preach," you pressed further.

I grew up as a minister's kid. Everybody always preaching. Nobody listening. Except you. You listen.

In 2015, I traveled solo to Dublin. I skipped American Thanksgiving, weary of pre-election family strife. I saw INNOCENCE + EXPERIENCE two nights in a row, jumping up and down at 3 Arena with strangers from all over the world. There, y'all stripped "Every Breaking Wave" down, to pure flesh on bone. Edge on piano. Bono at the mike.

Bono, you held the note at the end of "if you go" for an extra beat that tattooed a shock wave into my soul. I can still hear you if I squint my eyes closed.

Continued...

In 2017, I returned to Dublin for Joshua Tree. Flooded with love and appreciation for U2 friends I reconnected with all weekend, I walked alone along a dock adjacent to the River Liffey before packing to head home to New York. I turned a corner and looked up, nearly slamming a shoulder into a pole next to graffiti painted on a red wall. Three words. "If you go."

Thank you for showing us what it's like to love for real, through your commitment to each other, your families, your art and those less fortunate. You inspire me every day to be a better writer, teacher, friend and human.

Love always, your fan,

Heidi

Dear U2 members,

I am writing you these letters to thank you for your music. It's part of my life everyday. You actually saved my life with two songs, I'm so thankful.

Song for Someone

I first listened to this song by chance, I was discovering you. When came the beautiful lyrics I had tears in my eyes I don't really know why but the song was powerful for me. It reminded me bad times. Now, when I feel sad, this song helps me. This song protects me, I can't describe the feeling. Thank your for this beautiful song.

Bad

I can't describe how much this song is perfect and powerful. As for me, it's a masterpiece! The feeling while listening to Bad is amazing! The lyrics are everything here and make me feel emotional every time. My love for this song is as big as my love for U2.

Once again, thank you U2.

Your dear fan,

Amélie

U2- Song for Someone

Dear Bono , Larry , Adam and The Edge.

Many U2 songs have saved my life ,a band I turn to, in times of happiness, crisis and in need of any motivation.

In February 2015 my daughter Luna was born and leading up to her birth, I had huge anxiety being an older dad.

I felt a ' Song for Someone ' was for my daughter, I hadn't held, looked at and couldn't imagine her even being here. I played it many times up to her birth and to her once she was born, along with being played at her christening in church. Heaven knows this is a heartland.

It will always be ' Luna's ' song for someone and I will ensure she listens to and cherishes your music as much as I do.

"There is a light, don't let it go out" Thank you for this

Your fan
Chris Kirkham

Dear wonderful boys!

I have loved you all for so long and you have saved me with your beautiful music so many times.

I lost my best friend and felt like a shell without her. Song for Someone and the beautiful video by Matt Mahurin was what got me through the darkest days. I needed to remember to not let the light go out, for my Holly.

Then the little things that give you away...

"Sometimes I wake at four in the morning Where all the darkness is swarming And it covers me in fear Sometimes Sometimes Sometimes Sometimes I'm full of anger and grieving So far away from believing That any sun will reappear Sometimes The end is not coming It's not coming The end is here Sometimes Sometimes Sometimes Sometimes Sometimes"

How do you know me so well, thank you and I love you all!

Lisa Anderson

U2 - Iris

Dear Bono, The Edge, Larry, & Adam

I have immersed myself in your music since I was 17, by way of your first album - Boy. Since then your music and advocacy has taken me on a journey beyond my wildest imagination. Your song and your voice has helped me through many toils and jublations. Like Bono, I lost my mum when I was just a Boy and have dreamt of writing a song for her and her memory. When I first heard Iris, I wept. My tears were part sadness and admiration. I admire your honesty and strength in sharing something so personal and tender. My tears bitter sweet. This is the song that I could not write. This is the song that I will adopt and make it my own, for Margaret.

I know I have provided you all a financial contribution from the many albums, concerts, and tour merchandise I have brought. But, I still feel indebted to you for providing me such joy.

Continued...

Thank you for your wonderful gift that you have given so generously to this world.

Your fan

Dr. Allan Fowler

U2 - This Is Where You Can Reach Me Now

Dear U2,

I was already a fan of U2, a late fan I'll quickly add. But I arrived in Mexico City Airport at 4am. I was tired, cold and hungry. I still had to wait 7 hours for my next flight, so the excitement of traveling had burnt out. I spotted a 7-eleven and walked straight towards it. As I was walking past duty free, I heard this song playing and I recognised it as yours immediately. I stood duty free 'looking at bottles of tequila and Ray Bans', secretly I was more focused on your song. That cold night in the centre of Mexico touched my heart and my spirits were lifted.

I saw you guys play the last night in Dublin in 2018. It was a very special night.

Thank you for being you, also thank you to Noel Gallagher for "introducing me" to your music. Mexico and U2 have a strong place in my heart. My plan is to move to Mexico to be with my girlfriend and family.

Continued...

You guys will still be part of my journey.

Muchas gracias!

Sam, 24, UK

P.S.. The free pizza before the Dublin show was fantastic, thank you very much!

XV. Songs of Experience (2017)

U2

"The Little Things That Give You Away"

Dear U2,

"Little" really isn't your style, is it? (The Claw, anyone?) More like grandiose, extravagant, bombastic or even pretentious. But "little"? Nah. You're the biggest band in the world, after all, led by a big sound and an even bigger heart.

But you've been around long enough to know that "the devil is in the details." You got to be the biggest by doing the small things right. And there's no better example than the epic crescendo in "The Little Things That Give You Away."

How do you do it? After all these years and all those timeless songs in your catalogue, it was reasonable to assume that my Top 10 U2 Songs list would be set in stone. But then here comes "The Little Things That Give You Away" in 2017, shattering my expectations and daftly barreling its way onto that list as if it's 1987.

Anyway... the crescendo...

My goodness. An exercise in subtlety.

Layering that feels and sounds so natural yet is blindingly dramatic. More often than not I can't finish the song without tears in my eyes. And Larry, you've only gotten better as you've gotten older. I can see, feel and hear the shattering painted glass at the end. Just awesome.

Thank you for this song. It feels like "Little Things" was written for me. I hear it and feel like my approach to your music is validated. The song resonates with me on all the levels and for all the reasons.

Your fan,

Chris

U2 - Love is Bigger Than Anything In Its Way

Dear U2,

I've been a fan for decades and I can count on my fingers the number of songs that have saved my life...

But this song... THIS SONG... showed up when I needed it the most. Through the trials of parenting, being a partner, managing a home and business, I lost myself. It turns out raising tiny humans fills one bucket but depletes another. As I've worked to find where I belong in this world ... detours through alleyways and highways, mountains and valleys... I have found hope and dead ends.

This song tells me where I belong. There is no need to search. It grabbed me by the shoulders and shook me loose before enveloping me in a hug and holding me close. It has yet to let go. Everything is going to be ok. Everything already is ok.

You say it's a promise. I say it's a gift.

Your fan and Garden Tart,
Jenny

U2 - Love is bigger than anything in it's way

Dear Larry, Adam, The Edge and Bono:

So you go through life with your favorite band by your side. Through everything. Good times. Hard times. Challenging times. Where the streets have no name sets everything off as you experience Zoo TV as a 16 year old.

Time passes. You get married and on the wedding day you dance to All I Want is you with the love of your life. You start a life together and you buy an apartment. Your firstborn -a boy -arrives at the same time as Magnificent makes its way through the charts.

A couple of years later you move. A change of scenery. New city. You move into a house. And your daughter sees the light of day.

Family life takes over, but the love for your favorite band never goes away. It only grows stronger.

Continued...

And so one day, when your kids are old enough to pretty much take care of themselves, and you are back in your hometown, your band releases a new album, with a song about being a parent.

Perhaps you have had some doubts. About your quality as a father. And about your favorite band. And then Love is bigger than anything in its way comes on and before you know it, tears are streaming down your chins.

All my thoughts are being expressed by you, Bono. About being a parent and wishing the best for your kids. About how love is the answer to most of the obstades in life. And about how important it is that we teach our kids just that.

Even though you never came anywhere near my town or my country, I went to three shows on your latest tour just to hear Love is bigger than anything in its way live. I happy-cried all three times, so filled with joy -and love.

And when in Dublin, I went to Killiney Bay and I sang my song. Like my kids, and you, I've only just begun.

Olov

Love Is Bigger Than Anything In Its Way

Dear Bono (my sexy Idol), Edge, Adam and Larry,

I have so much thanks to you all for giving me so much inspiration, happiness and such joy to my life over the years, "you are my life!" I've been a U2 fanatic ("FAN") for the last 39 years, since a young 8 year old girl.

So many of your songs have lifted me, made me stronger and helped me see the light and save my life over the years. In fact I love every single U2 song because everyone of your songs has so much powerful and heartfelt meanings to them that it's impossible for me to choose my favourite U2 song.

But if I really had to choose one of U2 songs that has lifted me through these very sad, dark, scary uncertain times that the whole world have had to face over the few months and still facing right now, then this song would have to be:

"LOVE IS BIGGER THAN ANYTHING IN ITS WAY"

Continued...

This is such a powerful and diverse song that just changes everything once you listen to it and puts everything in life into perspective, that no matter what happens in life, "LOVE IS BIGGER THAN ANYTHING IN ITS WAY!"

No matter how many times I listen to this powerful song my heart fills with warmth and tears of passion and love for everyone who are the most important people in my life. My beautiful daughter and mum, my family and part of my family is U2.

My love for U2 is bigger than anything in its way and always will be.

U2, you are my life, you run through my blood, you fix me every time something breaks me. You have made me the person I am today, to love and cherish everything in life and to live it to the full, my love for you U2 is bigger than anything in its way.

Your lifetime fan

Asha XXXX

U2- 13 (There is a Light)

Dear Adam, Larry, Edge, and Bono:

And if the terrors of the night...Is any song more fitting for these dark times?

You have written the soundtrack of our lives. Through your music, you have created entire worlds for us to inhabit. Through your creativity, you have helped us create ourselves, again and again. You have given us a song for every moment.

And this is the song for this moment. This dark moment of fear and separation and danger. I'm alone in my house but I'm not alone, because of your music. Because of you.

Can it be that we were lucky enough to hear you play this song live? I can't imagine the world will allow us to all be together at a concert again. I'm heartbroken over this. But also so grateful to have borne witness to your genius, to have jumped and screamed and cried and sung. Together. All together.

What a gift you four are. You've given us not only the music, but a roadmap for tragedy.

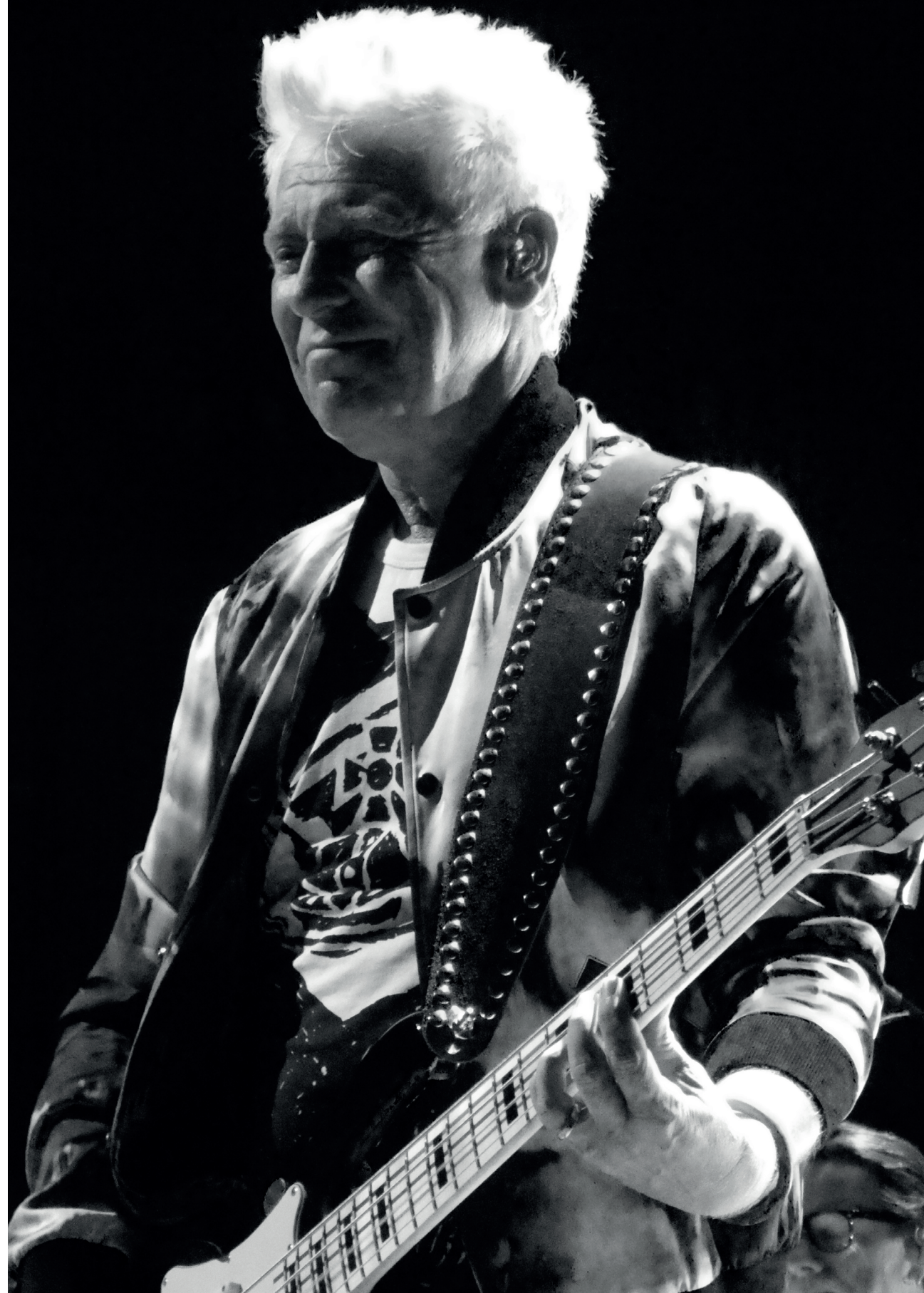
Continued...

When life is dark, when life seems impossible. Bono, you've been there. We know you have because you turn yourself inside out for us. And we love you for it. You've shown us that joy exists, not in spite of darkness, but because of it. Luminous, incandescent, defiant joy. And we have never needed that message more than now.

I listen, again and again. Darkness gathers around the light. I hope you're right.

Your fan, forever.

Rebecca



XVI. Other

U2

"Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me, Kill Me"

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge and Larry,

I was lucky. I went to a good music program when I was 10. I could play any instrument I wanted, and it was between a violin and a cello. I think our elementary school needed more cellists, so that's where I landed, but I loved them both. I taught myself how to read violin sheet music and play those parts on the cello. When my family moved, the new school had a band program, not an orchestra. Who wants to play trombone? Or guitar? I opted out of a new instrument, and the entire music program, but I never lost my love of orchestral music.

It was around that same time in my life that I was trying to learn what modern music actually was. My neighbor's older sister told me a few important things about music, among them that I should be watching MTV.

Continued...

The memory that stands out the most from MTV was seeing the video for "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me, Kill Me." I hadn't seen anything resembling an adult cartoon before or heard a rock song with violins so prominently featured. A handful of violins isn't what I would ever expect to accompany a traditional four-piece rock band.

This was the song that changed my perspective on what a rock song could be. It could be heavily produced, sound a little bit like nails on a chalkboard at times, be breathy, move deliberately slowly, and...it could have a string arrangement. It's still my favorite U2 song. Any song where I hear U2 accompanied by a few extra strings catches my ear a little differently and holds a special place with me.

Your fan,

Jessica Hurwitz

U2 ☐ "Invisible"

Dear Adam, Bono, Edge and Larry,

In 2014, you released "Invisible". I was 40.

The traditional age for a classic mid-life crisis. I hit an iceberg in my life.

I was going through a catastrophic run of ill health; I was about to battle pneumonia that nearly killed me. My partner was just about to be diagnosed with an incurable disease. Our son was also being diagnosed with an incurable condition.

My work life had been very difficult for a number of years: I learned that sometimes it's not how good you are, but if you tell powerful people what they want to hear that defines whether you eat or starve.

I was starting to think life was going to be downhill from here, and the best my life had been wasn't that amazing. I was balding, and changing with age. I felt ugly. I felt invisible. Overlooked. Put on the shelf, and I wasn't ready for that.

Continued...

My life felt like it was falling apart despite my every effort to stop that happening.

I had spent years feeling invisible, neglected, unwanted, unattractive, taken for granted, or where I was thrown away, treated as if I were a broken toy.

"I'm more than you know, I'm more than you see here, you don't see me - but you will, I am not invisible".

I always had something nobody else did, control over my reactions, and over who I was : I could be someone I wanted to be. "I won't be me when you see me again" gave me the freedom I always had to define my own identity. It's a cry of freedom, of liberation, and the fierce rejection of "I won't be my father's son" is about stepping out into being myself, no longer in the shadow of the past, breaking out from the cages others put us in. This song was the sound of a person breaking free, and being, at last, visible. I am someone.

This song helped me have the courage to be me.

Dear Bono, The Edge, Larry, and Adam.

I should have picked another song, my favorite one, for instance. But I choose Invisible for its deep meaning to me.

In 1999, I moved to Dublin from my native France with one dream: working for U2. Instead, I ended on the wrong track of life and became homeless. In 2009, still on the wrong tracks, I became homeless again, in Ireland again. Within that 10-year gap, my ex-boyfriend took everything away from me, including my most valuable passion and my dream.

Last year, for the 20-year anniversary, I decided to write about it. I often play U2 on YouTube and as I started writing, Invisible came on... first time I was hearing it. The words rang so true: "I won't be me when you see me again" and then "You don't see me but you will, I am not invisible", or "I don't dream not as much, I don't even think about you that much, Unless I start to think at all"

Continued...

As I started writing with this song playing, I was in tears. I could see my reflection as if I was Dorian Gray. Four months later, as I was writing my last words, that song was playing again. But this time, I was smiling. That's when I knew you were here all along, you had never given up on me.

Although I was always a U2 fan, my dream was back. I copied my story onto a DVD. I booked my flight and hotel to Australia, and purchased my general admission ticket to your show in Melbourne.

In 1999, I was homeless in Dublin, and finally found a home on November 15th. In 2019, here I was, by the barricades, tears of joy rolling, exactly 20 years to the day.

My dream lives on because you brought it back to life for me, with this song. Every day is a few more steps ahead to reaching out to where I want to be. And I believe in karma. You have my DVD and my story is on your side... all you have to do is read it.

Continued...

There will never be enough gratitude in me to express the meaning of this song, as I had to look back to my past in order to rebuild my future. This song is the key to it all.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Your Fan from the shadows,

Valerie

U2-The Luminous Times (Hold on to love)

Dear, Larry, Adam, The Edge & Bono

My devotion to the soundtrack of my life hides those splendid jewels, which emerge as gifts for those of us who delve beyond the big commercial promotions.

Someone has told me that U2 is the biggest band in the history of producing b-faces.

The one that concerns me today was the shelter for nights of adolescence transiting the sands of night beaches in the east of my country.

The purpose of the 4 km walked on nights of incipient winter was to arrive at the nearest town and generate the possible encounter with a platonic love, the one that ignited my passions at that time. Perfect fusion between the darkness of the song in cassette format through a walkman device, the cold night hitting my face, the smell of the ocean and the beats of music that was lined up as a royal route to the soul.

Continued...

His drums are hitting me again when Acrobat plays, he needs my
adrenaline when winter comes back.

The immortality of a song that, like wine, improves its flavors over
time.

Your fan

Camilo.

U2 // Mercy

Dear U2

I could choose, With or Without You
as it's the very first song who turned me a fan, a collector,
and music lover...

I could choose Heartland, Ultraviolet
or If God Will Send His Angels,
as they were here all along with me
when I first experience the dark side of love.

And I also could choose many others songs
like The Fly, Numb or MOFO
that lead the way from my youth to the adult I'm now.

But from all those songs,
Mercy is the one I wanted to talk about.

I remember the times, it was December 2004,
few days after Atomic Bomb release,
I was at the end of a huge story in my life,
lost somewhere between love and hate.
The first time I heard it was a moving experience,
Suddenly the time stopped,

the music blownd away my mind.
It was like the song was made for me
for this exact moment of my live..
everything taking place in the World.

Continued...

It was the anthem I needed..
The music that came at the right place,
at the right time.
It taught me that sometimes
we must accept to fail to move onward.
It helps me to endure bad luck,
to accept when something is over,
to survive the loss,
and to believe again.

Mercy is a real masterpiece.
A true jewel with so much raw feelings
and strong power..
the 6:30 ultimate U2 song.
And for this and your help, thank you

Matt

U2 - Sweetest Thing

Dear Bono, Adam, Larry, and The Edge

In the fall of 1998, I had just recently finished medical school, started residency training, and gotten married; barely finding time to squeeze in a honeymoon. Driving around downtown Los Angeles, I couldn't help noticing that the city was plastered with posters for a new "best of" compilation from U2. At the time, however, I couldn't be bothered to investigate further because of everything on my plate. Medical training is not exactly conducive to immersing oneself in pop culture, and I think at that moment my interest in music was at its absolute nadir. Several weeks later, I was in Wherehouse Music in Walnut Creek, CA, actually selling off part of my CD collection because money was tight and we were living in a tiny apartment.

Continued...

When I walked into the shop, the photo of the boy in the combat helmet from those posters caught my eye, and I couldn't help check out the album to see what songs had made the cut. I was surprised to see that there was a new mix of Sweetest Thing, a b-side that recalled fondly from a cassette more than a decade earlier. Setter yet, there was a whole second disc of b-sides, and I ended up spending most of the proceeds from my used CD sales on the album.

That album rekindled my love for U2 and I quickly became obsessed with collecting every b-side in the catalog. I started ordering vinyl from eBay (novel at the time) and bought a turntable, which I hadn't owned in years. This pursuit led me to U2Wanderer (now U2Songs), to a community of music lovers, and to friendships all over the world.

I credit Sweetest Thing with resurrecting my passion for music and for opening my world to a breadth of relationships that I would have otherwise never experienced.

Brad

U2Songs.com

Walk to the water

"He said he was an artist, but he really painted billboards"

a seemingly innocuous eleven words on the flip side of with or without you, a line so throwaway that it barely seems worth thinking about, well, maybe not.

These eleven words have, for thirty odd years sent me spiraling through every emotion conceivable, and still now, i never know how I'm going to feel when i revisit the song.

At first it was funny, artist - billboard, but the more i heard it the sadness crept in, it felt tragic. It seemed judgemental to the point of cruelty at times, yet on other occasions it felt full of hope, and fulfilment for the artistry involved, a means to an end...and these eleven words infuriated me, still do to be honest.

Yet, they are the ones that saved, changed and pretty much guided me ever since.

Continued...

This one, innocuous, throwaway line taught me the power of words, and how, when used in the right or wrong way, they can affect those that hear them, that it's so important to think about the words we use, and the way in which we use them, so they are not mistaken, misunderstood or misinterpreted by those we say them to, and for this, i shall be forever grateful...

gra

mart

U2, Window in the Skies

Dear Bono, Edge, Adam and Larry,

Some songs are for Saturday night and others are for Sunday morning. You gave us one for not just any Sunday, but for Easter Sunday, with its removed debts, moved stones, and graves become grooves. It's like that great line Tolkien gives to Sam Gamage: "Is everything sad going to come untrue?"

I'm someone who professes to believe this ridiculous notion that, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, love is in fact stronger than death. The trouble is, death keeps carrying on as if undefeated.

When I was growing up, my image of death's power and control was the atomic bomb. When we'd line up to go back inside my grade school building after recess, I'd see a sign above the door with the words "FALLOUT SHELTER." This meant that if World War III began, we kids could descend to the musty, concrete-walled sub-basement to try to avoid dying of radiation sickness.

Continued...

In 4th grade, a classmate wrote to President Reagan, seeking to persuade him of the stupidity of stockpiling enough weapons to blow up the Earth several times over. He got a form letter back; this was not reassuring.

In contrast, I find reassurance, promise, and renewed faith in "Window in the Skies". Gary Koepke's video uses clever editing to get Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, the Beatles etc. to all sing from the same lyric sheet, but the standout moment in it for me is a mushroom cloud collapsing into itself, shrinking into harmlessness under the defiant onslaught of guitars, drums and Kurt Cobain's crowd surfing.

Thanks to you, I can see what Love has done and is doing, and wait with joyful hope for what Love does next.

Your fan,

Angela

Dear Bono,

I don't know how to start writing to you and I don't know if you will understand me. I've heard all of U2's albums, watched all of the DVD's and read a lot of books about his life and the band's history. Today you are happy and I think accomplished, but you do not forget your childhood so much that you pay homage to your time of innocence and exalt your family a lot, as well as being a very religious man. Values that I also value as a human being.

I am a contemporary of the album The Unforgettable Fire, and it was precisely this song that made me dive into the world of U2 and become a fan for 36 years. Then, the trip to America for you that resulted in the albums The Joshua Tree and Rattle and Hum and in the documentary of the same name, were the nadir that was missing to realize my appreciation for you

At that time, I noticed the band maturing and its visibility increasing.

Continued...

They built this dialoguing with the music of the United States, the matrix of all the rock that exists on the planet. U2 (like The Who and Led Zeppelin) is a power trio that plays for you. There is an incredible conciseness in the sound that the three musicians produce. And there is a very strong signature.

With extraordinary talent as a stage man and exceptional intelligence for what can be done outside of it, you have become a great music star and took U2 to the place where the most important bands in rock history are. U2 has important albums and consolidated repertoire. It has longevity and, therefore, permanence. And it also has postures that project the group beyond the world of rock.

You made your musical trajectory something that went far beyond music, although it was the vector for the realization of your dreams and life proposals.

Continued...

To the point that in this sense we hear in the final part of the lyrics of the song "Breathe" the belief of "attaining grace within the sound". As a matter of fact, faith in a better future based on the good deeds of the present is a constant attitude of the band, even when you assume a posture typical of rock stars. From the album "Achtung Baby", you inaugurate a unique period bringing us the figures of "The Fly", "The Mirrorball Man", "Mr. McPhisto", "Bonoman" and "Shadow Man" as variations of his alter ego, developed even to irony critics and "haters", who never gave him rest, and "showbusiness" itself as a space that should not be taken so seriously.

This is my U2, which has courageously drawn the attention of the world to various social, political and economic issues, and which has you walking on Christmas Eve on "Grafton Street" in Dublin, singing free and enthusiastically alongside friends around while asking for donations to charity.

Continued...

If the purpose of prayer is to elevate the soul to God, the distinction of formulas must not bring inequality between believers and non-believers of its effectiveness, U2 becomes a prayer for my ears.

From your fan,

Alexsandro Capibaribe

Itapaje - Ceara - Brazil

May 2020

Dear Bono The Edge Larry and Adam

My first encounter with U2 was in the late 80s when my Dad bought me a copy of the Unforgettable Fire Book. Being from Dublin everyone knew U2 but this was the first time I'd taken any notice of them. Rattle and Hum was released and when we got a new video player I rented Rattle and Hum from my local video store and was hooked! The following year I queued for tickets for the Lovetown Tour and that was it U2 were my band. 30 plus years later and I've travelled the world seen numerous shows and made some great friendships and memories.

Thank you U2 your fan

Carol fellow Northsider

Caro Bono,

Vorrei dirti tante cose, mi piacerebbe raccontarti le emozioni che provo quando ascolto le tue canzoni e la tua voce che mi riempie il cuore; la musica del U2 è unica, fantastica colma di sentimenti. Vorrei dirti che amo gli U2 da quando avevo 16 anni e che col passare del tempo questo amore è diventato sempre più forte e non finirà mai, perché gli U2 sono una parte di me. Ogni tua canzone è una poesia che mi fa sognare, riflettere. Vorrei dirti che fra tutte Sometimes you can't make it on your own è splendida e mi affascina molto, è un intimo dialogo fra te e tuo padre; lui si vuole mostrare un duro e tu vorresti aiutarlo, prenderti cura di lui, perché non sempre può farcela da solo. Tu gli parli dei tuoi sentimenti, del legame conflittuale che c'è fra voi, perché siete simili, ma l'amore che vi unisce è unico e indissolubile.

Continued...

Questa canzone ha un significato particolare per me ed ogni volta che l'ascolto il mio cuore trema, perché penso a mio padre a come sarebbe stato il nostro rapporto, alla gioia che avrei provato, ma purtroppo tutto questo non l'ho mai vissuto, poiché lui è morto quando io ero molto piccola. Grazie Bono e grazie U2 per quello che mi avete dato, per le emozioni che suscitete in me, grazie per tutte le volte che ho riso e per le volte che ho pianto, per la gioia e l'amore.

4EVER U2 INTO THE HEART.

Moni

And then you woke up and ran into a brighter morning
You were so young then with no one in control
Your stories were for boys and you were falling down till
Julie said
I'm lifting up your heart, I'm lifting up the bricks you threw back
then
And of course the winter came
It was October through December
Surrender now my love it's time to fall in love
it's time to be what we should be
In 1985 I saw something so beautiful that I
Was crying like (he rain for you were unafraid
The satellite it came into the heart of London town and you just
knew
To take a leap of faith, we'll never be the same
Don't forget this evening
Let go of your heart
Surrender now my love it's time to fall in love
it's time to be what we should be
Surrender now my dream is that we would say what this is
It's time to be what we both need
Surrender now my love it's time to fall in love
it's time to be what we should be

Continued...

Time to let go, time to let go

So. Larry, Edge, Adam, Bono - the words above are lyrics from a song we wrote about you in 2015. We want to say thanks for a lifetime of inspiration and example. You've left a few legacies along the way but as a band we have seen your people up close and they are full of grace and truth. We feel sure you're as proud of them as they are of you. Thank you for the way you make us feel

Can't wait for what you'll do next. You've a few fights left in you yet.

With love and appreciation always.

Thank you.

December (Ails, Paul and Scott)



IMPRINT

#fanletters2U2

(compiled and published by U2tour.de)

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ABOUT U2TOUR.DE

Founded as a fusion of three smaller fansites in fall 2000, U2tour.de is the biggest German-speaking U2 fansite, operated by a five-strong admin team together with a great team of voluntary staffers. Throughout the two decades of its existence, U2tour.de not only tries to keep U2 fans updated on any news from or about the band and related topics but is also known worldwide for example for live reporting from U2 concerts, legendary fan parties (e. g. in the legendary Hansa Studios, Berlin, on various occasions), competitions and, last but not least, charity projects (between 2017–2019, ca. EUR 40,000 were donated to Doctors Without Borders as a result of various U2tour.de activities).

A book of fanletters to U2 from fans
worldwide.

A true book of love.

