

Sound Bites

Video Four

Notes from Home

How to use these notes with our Sound Bites videos:

These notes will provide a brief background to each piece and a suggested conversation starter to use if you wish after you have heard the piece. If our music sparks a memory or conversation, why not pause the video at this point to continue your sharing, or continue onto the next piece, pausing when you feel the time is right to do so.

Brought to you by:

**Naomi Rump (violin), Rebekah Allan (violin),
Robyn Lund (violin) and Anna Joubert (cello).**

Our Choice of Pieces:

Berceuse from the Dolly Suite

Down by the Salley Gardens

Penny Lane

By the Sleepy Lagoon

Singing in the Rain

Waltzing Matilda

Silent Night

Berceuse from the Dolly Suite by Gabriel Fauré

Postcard 1: PARIS

Dear Family, I'm in Paris, city of light, and it's everything it should be: the Louvre, snooty waiters, coffee and Armagnac after lunch.... Went to a concert and heard Faure's *Dolly Suite* - but the weirdest thing was, all I could picture was Mum at the sink, *Listen with Mother* on the wireless: I could almost smell fried potatoes with a bit of bacon and onion - which trumps any amount of oysters or steak frites, in my book...

The Dolly Suite is a collection of 6 short pieces for piano duet but here, played by a string quartet. The pieces were written to be given as 'presents' by the composer to a friend's daughter.

Berceuse has been used as the theme music for the BBC Radio programme *Listen with Mother*.



Do you have a favourite Radio Programme?

I like a good comedy or a play.

Have your song sheet ready for the next piece.

Down by the Salley Gardens

Traditional Tune arranged by Bill Thorpe

Postcard 2: DUBLIN

Dear all, Dublin's such fun: the Guinness in the pubs is like a slow, rich, black river that sweeps you off your feet... or it would, if you could afford it! This is one of the priciest places I've ever been, but I do love it.

The song is a setting of the poem by William Butler Yeats and was published in 1889. It has been suggested that the poem is based on the banks of the river Ballysadare near Sligo, where willow trees or 'salley' trees grew.



A Sally is another name for a willow tree.

Do you have a favourite tree?

I like the cherry tree, especially when they are in full bloom.

It's time for a song, have your song sheet ready if you would like to join in.

Penny Lane

McCartney/Lennon, arr. Bill Thorp

Postcard 3: LIVERPOOL

I'm here, in Liverpool, home of the fab four!
Words aren't enough. I'm standing by Penny Lane.

The song *Penny Lane* features on the 1967 album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. The lyrics refer to a street in Liverpool familiar to Paul McCartney as he was growing up.



Penny Lane was written in 1967

A penny was worth a lot in 1967 – do you recall what you would buy for a penny?

By the Sleepy Lagoon

Eric Coates, arr. Martelli

Postcard 3: LAKE COMO

There's something about sitting by water that makes you feel so utterly calm – I've been here, just perched on a rock, for two hours now, listening to the water lapping at my feet and feeling perfectly content. I'm a lucky so-and-so...

This piece was written in 1930 and is best known as the theme tune to the Radio Programme *Desert Island Discs*.



Do you have any special items or pieces of music you would take to your desert island?

A lively tune next, get ready to tap your feet.

Singing in the Rain

Brown/Freed, arr. Martelli

Postcard 4: ST. IVES

It's raining. Of course. It started the minute I arrived, it's rained day and night, and it'll probably clear up as soon I head off. Bought myself a yellow mac, and I've been stomping around St. Ives looking like an angry duckling. Even Gene Kelly would've had enough by now.

Singing in the Rain is a musical written in 1952 and starred the actor and dancer Gene Kelly.



Did you know Queen Elizabeth became Queen in 1952 - the same year this song was written?

Her Coronation was the following year in 1953.

Many people didn't have a TV then. Did you watch the Coronation?

Time for an Australian toe-tapper – have your song sheet ready if you would like to sing along!



Waltzing Matilda

Paterson, arr. Koncz

Postcard 5: SYDNEY

Greetings from Down Under! (that sounds a bit saucy). I can't believe I finally made it to Oz. Remember when we were little, we wanted to know if the bathwater really did run out the other way? Well, it does! Answers on a postcard, hey!

The original words to this song were written in 1895 by Australian poet Banjo Patterson. It refers to walking through the bush with your knapsack or 'Matilda' over your shoulder.



**Have you visited Australia on holiday?
Can you name any musical instruments associated with Australia?**

**We have come to our last piece now, something for Christmas time.
Please sing along if you would like to.**

Silent Night

Postcard 5: COLOGNE

Guten Abend. I'm here for the Christmas market, and it's all glitter, and baubles, and marzipan cakes, and mulled wine, and frost in the air. But I passed some carol singers in the middle of *Silent Night*, and I thought – that's it. I miss you all. I think I'll come home, now.

This popular Christmas Carol was written by Franz Gruber in Austria in 1818. It is still sung today in English and German.



Christmas is my favourite time of year, and my favourite present was a bike when I was 9. Do you have a favourite?

Thank you for joining us today and we do look forward to seeing you again on one of our next videos.

