



Chalice Circle Packet

February 2021

Curiosity



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Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul, Minnesota

unityunitarian.org

Curiosity

What does curiosity mean to you? I'm curious. Is it something you cherish and cultivate, or does it mark the beginning of a long slippery slope down which you'd rather not slide? Does it make a difference if it's your curiosity, or someone else's?

Curiosity, in fact, has had a checkered past with mixed opinions about whether it should be fostered or fenced. In contrasting creation stories of different people and faiths, one story says curiosity is the apple-eating downfall of the human race; while another suggests it is a desirable instinct that led to creativity, collaboration and the birth of an interdependent world. Tracing the historical arc of attitudes within Western thinking alone, the ancient Greeks considered curiosity as a path for elevating the soul, while Augustine and the early Christian Church regarded it as a sinful diversion.

Today, the dictionary defines curiosity simply as a "a strong desire to learn or know something." But is there a distinction between curiosity and interrogation? Between a question that seeks to learn and one that strives to know? Inside every question is a quest trying to get out, observed Phil Cousineau. What is the quest at the core of curiosity when regarded as a spiritual practice?

The root of curiosity is related to the root of the words cure and care. Perhaps a spiritual practice of curiosity involves a quest for both healing and relationship. Curiosity also awakens wonder with an openness to mystery – and an interest in what is unknown or unfamiliar. It asks us to be, as the poet John Keats put it, present to "uncertainties, mysteries, doubt, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason." By which I understand "irritable" to mean premature. Not that fact and reason are bad, but that reaching for them too soon can precipitate an early closure of answers irritably latched down by facts.

Curiosity keeps the door open to mystery and relationship, even after an answer is given. It defies the small thinking that one perspective or understanding, or any single story, is ever enough to express the full truth of our interdependent web of life. We all learn a bigger truth when we share our own perspective or story while also asking others (and pausing to really listen), How do you understand or experience this? And what might we learn by putting our distinct perspectives together, side by side?

Google, of course, has dramatically impacted the 21st-century experience of curiosity, both feeding it and squashing it with answers so ready at hand, we don't even need to finish our question before Google or Siri completes it and suggests several answers. This quick reply

removes what author Ian Leslie has called “creative friction,” closing the “information gap” before our curiosity can even develop or mature. How might this impact our relationship with mystery? Or our willingness to live with the friction of paradox and contradiction, to love the uncertainty of questions that defy quick and easy answers (as so many do in this time of upheaval and change)?

Writing to a young poet long ago, Rainer Marie Rilke said “... try to love the questions themselves like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. ... live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

Curiosity, then, is a matter of attention, patience and longing. Of hunger. Of thirst. Raising the conundrum named by poet Kazim Ali, who wondered, “should I ask for my thirst to be quenched or for unquenchable thirst—” It is a question one could live with, unanswered, for a very long time.

Karen Hering Associate Minister

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Spiritual Practices

Option A

Observing the Curious

Identify someone in your life who embodies curiosity. It could be an adult you consider particularly open-minded and inquisitive at your workplace, or a family member, or it could be a child. Some of the best role models of curiosity are between the ages of 2 and 5.

When you are with your curiosity role model, observe their way of being and ask yourself:

- What can I learn from the way they hold themselves?
- How do they speak?
- How do they react to others and the world around them?
- How can I apply some of my findings to my own attitude of curiosity?

When you are done, try to emulate some of their behavior and language and see how it feels.

Option B

Asking Five Whys

This practice helps you to reflect with curiosity and self compassion on ways that you feel stuck or hindered by a mental knot, and/or a tender heart, exploring the underlying causes of dis-ease, agitation or restlessness. It is a practice developed by Thérèse Jacobs-Stewart in her book, *Paths are Made by Walking: Practical Steps for Attaining Serenity, Using Spiritual and Emotional Intelligence at Home, at Work, and in Life.*¹

What You'll Need

- Fifteen to twenty minutes of uninterrupted time
- A quiet, private place to reflect
- A journal or personal log

Try This

- At the end of your day, sit down in a quiet, private place and think about a troublesome feeling or reaction you've experienced. Pinpoint one feeling or reaction to get curious about.
- Describe in a couple of sentences the situation that triggered your strong feeling or reaction.

What triggered my reaction?

What did I say or do?

- Now, compose five "Why" questions, using your journal or a personal log. Let the answer to the first "Why" question inform and inspire the next "Why" question, until you've asked and answered all five "Why's." With each answer, hold a sense of compassion and curiosity for yourself and for others involved. Try to avoid harsh critiques. Critique tends to constrict the heart (our spiritual antenna) and shuts down understanding. Instead you might ask and respond to each question gently holding a "Yes." It does not mean that you don't feel hurt or disturbed or judged. You are simply acknowledging, "Oh, so this is how it is, right now."

¹ Jacobs–Stewart, Thérèse, *Paths are Made by Walking: Practical Steps for Attaining Serenity, Using Spiritual and Emotional Intelligence at Home, at Work, and in Life* (Warner Books, Inc. New York, NY, 2003) 82-91.

The goal of the Five Whys is to peel back your reaction, layer by layer, to uncover the root system of your discomfort, or a central theme of your life you've engaged.

Examples of Why questions:

–Why did I react so strongly to...

–Why do I feel uncomfortable or angry when...

–Why did this feel personal...

–Why do I feel taken advantage of...

–Why didn't I speak up...

- Write down any insights that may have arisen in this exercise. This is not the end point but a deepening understanding of yourself, of life's experiences, of the ecosystem of our particularity and the environments in which we live and move.

Option C

Eating Meditation

Eating with mindfulness helps us to slow down and practice curiosity with our senses. Curiosity is more than posing mental questions. Curiosity is observation, getting intimate with ourselves and the world around us.

Eating mindfully expands our capacity to sit in experience, hold questions in our senses, and develop a relationship with the “now.”

Practice:

Find a small piece of food, such as one raisin or nut, or a small cookie. You can use any food that you like.

Begin by exploring this little piece of food, using as many of your senses as possible.

- First, look at the food. Notice its texture. Notice its color.
- Now, close your eyes, and explore the food with your sense of touch. What does this food feel like? Is it hard or soft? Grainy or sticky? Moist or dry?
- Before you put the food in your mouth, explore this food with your sense of smell. What do you notice?

Notice that you’re not being asked to think, but just to notice different aspects of your experience, using one sense at a time. This is what it means to eat mindfully and create a sense of curiosity.

- Now, begin eating. No matter how small the piece of food you have, take at least two bites to finish it.
- Take your first bite. Chew *very* slowly, noticing the actual sensory experience of chewing and tasting. Remember, you don’t need to think about your food to experience it. You might want to close your eyes for a moment to focus on the sensations of chewing and tasting, before continuing.
- Notice the texture of the food; the way it feels in your mouth.
- Notice if the intensity of its flavor changes, moment to moment.
- Take about 20 more seconds to *very slowly* finish this first bite of food, being aware of the simple sensations of chewing and tasting.

It isn't always necessary to eat slowly in order to eat with mindfulness. But it's helpful at first to slow down, in order to be as mindful as you can.

Now, take your second and last bite.

As before, chew very slowly, while paying close attention to the actual *sensory* experience of eating: the sensations and movements of chewing, the flavor of the food as it changes, and the sensations of swallowing.

Just pay attention, moment by moment.

Option D

Take a Walk

The purpose of this practice is to create a sense of openness and curiosity by meandering physically and mentally. All of us are differently abled. So adapt this practice to suit your body and your needs.

Take a walk without a destination. You may choose a path you've walked many times before or a new area. Walk slowly, inviting not only a meandering pace, but a meandering mind. Now observe. Take note of the trees on the boulevard or along the path. Notice the prints of dogs, and humans boots in the snow. Stand for a moment and look up at the sky. Invite the earth, and your surroundings to communicate their essence. What happens to your essence as you observe and hold a posture of welcoming in? What happens to your spirit as you walk with curiosity and wonder?

Option D

Holding a Question

To develop a sense of opening and curiosity as a spiritual practice, keep a *Questions Journal* for the month.

Begin by choosing a time of day that works for you. You might decide to write in your journal after a cup of tea in the morning, after getting your children settled in their school work, or before going to sleep.

Begin by taking a moment to breathe, relax into this moment. Relaxation feeds curiosity, and curiosity feeds and creates a greater sense of relaxation.

Sense where you are in this moment. Tune into your heart, in this settled and alive moment. Then, create a question that you will hold over the course of the day or week. Examples might be:

- What is the source of my faith?
- Where do I find resilience and strength?
- What is bothering me?
- What brings me joy?
- What do I wish I knew?
- What is holding me?

Write your question in your journal without answering it. You can decide to hold this question of curiosity for a day, or a week, or more.

As you go through your day, observe when and how the question surfaces in your consciousness. Is the question morphing into another question? Is an answer beginning to take shape? Are you finding you're answering the question differently over the course of the day or week? Whatever comes to mind, note it and continue with your day.

At the end of the day, or after a 24 hours time period, take a moment to jot down a few of your observations. What occurred to you? What questions arose in response to your original question.

At the end of the month, review the entirety of your Question Journal. Are there themes to your inquiry? If this was a frustrating exercise, get curious about why. If this was an insightful practice, get curious about why.

Questions to Ponder

Read through the questions below and notice which one(s) resonate with you. One or more of the questions might seem particularly compelling – or some might stir resistance in you. Either of these reactions might make the question fruitful to consider. Choose just one and take time to consider it, over several days if possible. Write it down on a piece of paper you carry in your pocket. Or take a picture of that paper with your phone. Or record it in your journal – and spend some time, each day if you can, reflecting on it in writing or otherwise, noticing where it leads you and what you learn from it and your response to it.

1. Would you consider yourself a curious person?
2. How do you experience curiosity? Is it a mental exercise, a longing, an opening, a wondering?
3. In the reflection, Rev. Karen poses the different ways thinkers, cultures and philosophers have thought about curiosity over the centuries, a road to downfall or a desirable instinct that leads to creativity and collaboration. Where do you land on the curiosity spectrum?
4. Are there pitfalls to leaning into our curious natures?
5. Is there something holy about curiosity as Einstein postures?
6. Rainer Maria Rilke asks his young poet friend to “live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” What questions are you living, now?
7. How does curiosity serve creativity?
8. Can curiosity serve our racial justice work? How?
9. How does curiosity relate to our Unitarian Universalist values?
10. How has the use of the internet, and web searches affected your curiosity?
11. Curiosity and care derive from the same Latin root, *cura*. How does curiosity inform care? How does care inform curiosity?
12. What’s your question? Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it. Or maybe the question or call you need to hear is waiting in one of the quotes listed below. Consider looking there!

Resources

Recommended Resources for Personal Exploration & Reflection

The following resources are not required reading. They will not be analyzed in our circles. Instead they are here to companion you on your journey this month, get your thinking started and open you to new ways of thinking about what it means to develop a spiritual practice of curiosity.

Word Definitions & Roots

Curiosity

- a strong desire to know or learn something, a state in which you want to learn more about something; wonder
- a curious, rare, or novel thing.
- a strange, curious, or interesting quality
- Archaic. carefulness; fastidiousness.

Word Origin

Middle English from Latin *curiositatem* (nominative *curiositas*) "desire of knowledge, inquisitiveness." *Curious* and the word *cure* stem from the same Latin root, *cura*, as in "care, concern, trouble."

In Middle English *curiosity* cut two ways: in a bad sense, it meant "prying; idle or vain interest in worldly affairs; sophistry; fastidiousness" In Neutral or good sense "desire to see or learn what is strange or unknown" is from early 17c.

Wise Words

One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.

~Albert Einstein

Curiosity is one of the many masks of love.

~Gabriel Garcia Marquez

There is a common misunderstanding among all the human beings who have ever been born on earth that the best way to live is to try to avoid pain and just try to get comfortable. You see this even in insects and animals and birds. All of us are the same. A much more interesting, kind and joyful approach to life is to begin to develop our curiosity, not caring whether the object of our curiosity is bitter or sweet. To lead a life that goes beyond pettiness and prejudice and always wanting to make sure

that everything turns out on our own terms, to lead a more passionate, full, and delightful life than that, we must realize that we can endure a lot of pain and pleasure for the sake of finding out who we are and what this world is, how we tick and how our world ticks, how the whole thing just is. If we are committed to comfort at any cost, as soon as we come up against the least edge of pain, we're going to run; we'll never know what's beyond that particular barrier or wall or fearful thing."

~**Pema Chödrön**

What it means to be human....I know that we're part of a natural progression of life-forms—in many ways, we are so much a part of the animal kingdom. And then, what's differentiated us is this intellect. But we're not really a very intelligent species, are we, when we destroy our home?

Not everyone agrees with me, but I believe that a trick of this development of the intellect was the fact that we developed this way of communicating—speaking. So I can tell you things you don't know, you can tell me things I don't know. We can teach children about things that aren't present. And all that has enabled us to ask questions, like, Who am I? Why am I here? What is the purpose of it all? Is there a purpose? Is there a spiritual guiding force out there? And I believe, part of being human is a questioning, a curiosity, a trying to find answers—but also an understanding that there are some answers that, at least

on this planet, we will not be able to answer.

~**Jane Goodall, excerpt from an interview with Krista Tippett for Orion Magazine**

The person you have known a long time is embedded in you like a jewel. The person you have just met casts out a few glistening beams & you are fascinated to see more of them. How many more are there? With someone you've barely met the curiosity is intoxicating.

~**Naomi Shihab Nye**

It is so important to cultivate our patience, our thoughtfulness, our willingness to slow down and seek the wisdom of those not already part of our movements—not to get them in step with our point of view, but because we need their lived experiential wisdom to shape solutions that will work for the majority of living beings. It is imperative to regenerate our curiosity, our genuine interest in different opinions, and in people we don't know yet—can we see them as part of ourselves, and maintain curiosity, especially when we want to constrict and critique? Can we each take our little spark from the fire that has started and truly let it breathe enough to grow?

~**adrienne maree brown**

We all have our ways of unlocking that door. Sometimes the key is the right kind of music, sometimes it's about surrounding myself with quietness, sometimes I need to

smoke a joint, sometimes I need to have
some sexy time with my boo, sometimes I
need to make tea (I often make tea and
forget to drink it, but it helps lol),
sometimes I have to go for a run first,
sometimes I need to read the poems of my
homies and heroes to just start me,
sometimes I catch a sound or a sentence in
public that just sends me off too. I wish
there was a singular way that I could call on,
but that unknown self likes staying
unknown. My job is to just let the poem
take me where it decides to take me,
listening to whatever little instinct or
curiosity whispers “this way.

~Danez Smith

I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I
can, to have patience with everything
unresolved in your heart and to try to love
the questions themselves as if they were
locked rooms or books written in a very
foreign language. Don't search for the
answers, which could not be given to you
now, because you would not be able to live
them. And the point is to live everything.
Live the questions now. Perhaps then,
someday far in the future, you will
gradually, without even noticing it, live your
way into the answer.”

~Rainer Maria Rilke

Poetry

The Cave

Someone standing at the mouth had
the idea to enter. To go further

than light or language could
go. As they followed
the idea, light and language followed

like two wolves—panting, hearing
themselves
panting. A shapeless scent
in the damp air ...

Keep going, the idea said.

Someone kept going. Deeper and deeper,
they saw
others had been there. Others had left

objects that couldn't have found their way
there alone. Ocher-stained shells. Bird
bones. Grounded
hematite. On the walls,

as if stepping into history, someone saw
their purpose: cows. Bulls. Bison. Deer.
Horses—
some pregnant, some slaughtered.

The wild-
life seemed wild and alive, moving

when someone moved, casting their
shadows
on the shadows stretching

in every direction. Keep going,
the idea said again. Go ...

Someone continued. They followed the idea
so far inside that
outside was another idea.

~Paul Tran

Be a Circle

I wish you the ability to breathe
after pain, to begin again, though
nothing else seems possible.

I wish you resilience: to part like
the ocean and accept like the sky,
to be held like a root.

I wish you survival: to take in life
like a trapped miner finding an
airhole and praising it as God.

I wish you courage: to ask of
everything you meet, "What
bridge are we?"

I wish you chances to listen:
to all that holds us up.

I wish you the kindness that you
are coming to brighten your face
like orange leaves scattered
at the end of fall.

I wish you endless journey that
seldom appears as we imagine.

I wish you curiosity: to make a
boat of wonder and an oar
of gratitude.

~Mark Nepo

you ask to touch my hair. or worse touch it
without asking. this is not innocence. this is
not ignorance. this is not curiosity. this is
the very racist and subhuman belief that
you have a right to me.

– i will break your hand | do not ever touch
me | every time you touch me. my
ancestors place a curse on you"

~Nayyirah Waheed, salt.

Makebelieve

And on the first day
god made
something up.
Then everything came along:

seconds, sex and
beasts and breaths and rabies;
hunger, healing,
lust and lust's rejections;
swarming things that swarm
inside the dirt;
girth and grind
and grit and shit and all shit's functions;
rings inside the treetrunk
and branches broken by the snow;
pigs' hearts and stars,
mystery, suspense and stingrays;

insects, blood
and interests and death;
eventually, us,
with all our viruses, laments and curiosities;
all our songs and made-up stories;
and our songs about the stories we've
forgotten;
and all that we've forgotten we've
forgotten;

and to hold it all together god made time
and those rhyming seasons
that display decay.
~Pádraig Ó Tuama

The Guest House

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.
Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.
Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

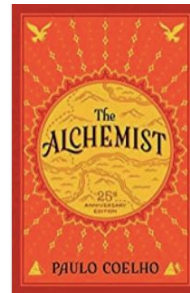
–Jalaluddin Rumi

Music

For a playlist inspired by the opening reflection on this month's theme and prepared by a Unity member, visit this Spotify link. (Note: you may have to register for a free Spotify account to listen to more than 30 seconds of each song.)

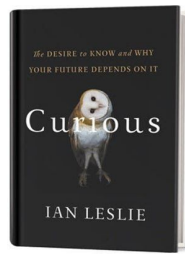
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1h8jsW5is449c3J4kEScYB?si=ThNhlANVQOGVYqMx1IHAtw>

Books



The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

A beloved book about a young Andalusian shepherd boy who follows his curiosity and wonder in order to find treasure in the Egyptian desert near the Pyramids. Through his search he is met with all kinds of hardships and helpers. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within.



The Quest for Knowledge: Curious: The Desire to Know and Why Your Future Depends on It by Ian Leslie

Ian Leslie makes a passionate case for the cultivation of our "desire to know." Drawing on research from psychology, economics, education, and business, Leslie looks at what feeds curiosity and what starves it, and finds surprising answers. Curiosity is a mental muscle that atrophies without regular exercise and a habit that parents, schools, and workplaces need to nurture.

Videos and Podcasts

Curiosity as the call of poets, Naomi Shihab Nye - <https://youtu.be/5gDZefjvQ-0>

See Through Unconscious Bias, Sebene Selassie, Podcast, Ten Percent Happier Podcast
<https://www.tenpercent.com/tph-live/59-sebene-selassie>

Curiosity Over Assumptions

A conversation with Malka Haya Fenyvesi, Aziza Hasan, and Krista Tippet

<https://onbeing.org/programs/malka-haya-fenyvesi-and-aziza-hasan-curiosity-over-assumptions/>

The Hungry Mind: The Origins of Curiosity

Susan Engel, a lecturer in Williams College's psychology department explores how curiosity emerges in all of us and how it is either fostered or squelched in our educational systems.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wh4WAdw-oq8>

Articles and Online Sources

[The Case for White Curiosity](#): Interrogating the Devastating Legacy of White Supremacy in America. An article by Patrick Phillips, describing his journey of curiosity and obligation to tell his own story of race, making the case for white Americans to face their profound involvement in African Americans' struggle for equality, and cultivate a deep curiosity about *what really happened* in the places where we live.
<https://lithub.com/the-case-for-white-curiosity/>

Two Ways Of Knowing: Robin Wall Kimmerer On Scientific And Native American Views Of The Natural World. An interview with Robin Wall Kimmerer as she recounts the origins of her curiosity growing up, and her far ranging discussion of Western Scientific knowing, reclaiming her Native knowing, and how each has been “doorways to wonder.”

<https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/484/two-ways-of-knowing>

Curiosity: we’re studying the brain to help you harness it: Scientists, Matthias Gruber and Ashvanti Valji discuss how curiosity acts as a vortex, pulling in not only what we are trying to learn but surrounding information and observations. There is a “longing” quality to curiosity that enhances learning in children and makes for a life of wonder in adults.

<https://theconversation.com/curiosity-were-studying-the-brain-to-help-you-harness-it-122351>

Movies

My Octopus Teacher - A film documenting a year spent by filmmaker Craig Foster, cold water diving in the kelp forests of False Bay, South Africa where he forges a bond with a wild common octopus. His curiosity leads him into her rich, dangerous, beautiful and sentient life. In so doing, she deeply transforms Foster’s life and his understanding of the world.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

Born in **Kasungu, Malawi**, William Kamkwamba is a young schoolboy who comes from a family of farmers who live in the nearby village of Wimbe. William also dabbles in fixing radios for his friends and neighbors and spends his free time looking through the local junkyard for salvageable electronic components. Although he is soon banned from attending school due to his parents' inability to pay his tuition fees, William blackmails his science teacher into letting him continue attending.

By the mid-2000s, failing crops due to drought and the resulting famine have devastated William's village, leading to riots over government rationing and William's family being robbed of their already meager grain stores. Seeking to save his village from the drought, William devises a plan to build a windmill to power an electric water pump that he had scavenged earlier.

Arrival

Twelve extraterrestrial spacecraft hover over disparate locations around the Earth. Why are they here? What do they want? How do we communicate? How do our assumptions get in the way of our knowing and understanding? Curiosity leads linguist Louise Banks further and deeper into conceptions of time, loss, sacrifice, and salvation.

Lion

Five-year-old, Saroo Brierley gets lost on the streets of Calcutta, thousands of kilometers from home. He survives many challenges before being adopted by a couple in Australia. Twenty five years later he is compelled by flashbacks, curiosity and longing about where he came from and the family he lost. He sets out to find his origin using Google Earth.

Playlist Notes

Adam and Eve - Paul Anka

Paul Albert Anka OC (born July 30, 1941) is a Canadian-American singer, songwriter and actor. Anka became famous with hit songs like "Diana", "Lonely Boy", "Put Your Head on My Shoulder", and "(You're) Having My Baby". He wrote such well-known music as the theme for *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* and one of Tom Jones's biggest hits, "She's a Lady". He also wrote the English lyrics to Claude François and Jacques Revaux's music for Frank Sinatra's signature song, "My Way", which has been recorded by many, including Elvis Presley.

Just What I Needed - The Cars

The Cars were an American rock band formed in Boston in 1976. Emerging from the new wave scene in the late 1970s, the line-up consisted of Elliot Easton (lead guitar), Greg Hawkes (keyboards), Ric Ocasek (rhythm guitar), Benjamin Orr (bass guitar), and David Robinson (drums). Ocasek and Orr split lead vocal duties, and Ocasek served as the band's principal songwriter.

Soul - Alicia Waller and the Excursion

Alicia Waller is a multi-talented singer-songwriter whose vision is to inspire cultural diplomacy through music. With a background as an operatic soprano, Alicia has since focused on soul music and the African diaspora as the foundation for her EP *Some Hidden Treasure*, released in February 2020. Her voice and sound have been hailed as "flexible and virtuosic."

This Little Girl's Gone Rockin - Ruth Brown

Ruth Alston Brown (née **Weston**, January 12, 1928 – November 17, 2006) was an American singer-songwriter and actress, sometimes known as the "Queen of R&B". She was noted for bringing a pop music style to R&B music in a series of hit songs for Atlantic Records in the 1950s, such as "So Long", "Teardrops from My Eyes" and "(Mama) He Treats Your Daughter Mean". For these contributions, Atlantic became known as "the house that Ruth built" (alluding to the popular nickname for the old Yankee Stadium). Brown was a 1993 inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

To Dream the Impossible Dream - Luther Vandross

Luther Ronzoni Vandross Jr. (April 20, 1951 – July 1, 2005) was an American singer, songwriter, and record producer. Throughout his career, Vandross was an in-demand background vocalist for several different artists including Todd Rundgren, Judy Collins, Chaka Khan, Bette Midler, Diana Ross, David Bowie, Ben E. King, and Donna Summer. He later became a lead singer of the group Change, which released its gold-certified debut album, *The Glow of Love*, in 1980 on Warner/RFC Records. After Vandross left the group, he was signed to Epic Records as a solo artist and released his debut solo album, *Never Too Much*, in 1981.

The Cure - Lady Gaga

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta (/ˈstɛfəni ˌdʒɜːnəˈnɒtə/ *STEF-ən-ee JUR-mə-NOT-ə*; born March 28, 1986), known professionally as **Lady Gaga**, is an American singer, songwriter, and actress. She is known for her consistent image reinventions and versatility in both music and entertainment. Gaga began performing as a teenager, singing at open mic nights and acting in school plays. She studied at Collaborative Arts Project 21, through New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, before dropping out to pursue a career in music. When Def Jam Recordings canceled her contract, she worked as a songwriter for Sony/ATV Music Publishing, where she signed a joint deal with Interscope Records and Akon's label, KonLive Distribution, in 2007. Gaga rose to prominence the following year with her debut studio album, *The Fame*, and its chart-topping singles "Just Dance" and "Poker Face". The album was later reissued to include the EP, *The Fame Monster* (2009), which yielded the successful singles "Bad Romance", "Telephone", and "Alejandro".

Watching the Detectives - Elvis Costello

Declan Patrick MacManus, OBE (born 25 August 1954), known professionally as **Elvis Costello**, is an English singer-songwriter. He has won multiple awards in his career, including Grammy Awards in 1999 and 2020, and has twice been nominated for the Brit Award for Best British Male Artist. In 2003, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 2004, *Rolling Stone* ranked Costello number 80 on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

Both Sides, Now - Joni Mitchell

Roberta Joan "Joni" Mitchell CC (née **Anderson**; born November 7, 1943) is a Canadian singer-songwriter. Drawing from folk, pop, rock, classical, and jazz, Mitchell's songs often reflect on social and philosophical ideals as well as her feelings about romance, womanhood, disillusionment, and joy. She has received many accolades, including nine Grammy Awards and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997. *Rolling Stone* called her "one of the greatest songwriters ever", and AllMusic has stated, "When the dust settles, Joni Mitchell may stand as the most important and influential female recording artist of the late 20th century".

Hot N Cold - Katy Perry

Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson (born October 25, 1984), known professionally as **Katy Perry**, is an American singer, songwriter, and television judge. After singing in church during her childhood, she pursued a career in gospel music as a teenager. Perry signed with Red Hill Records and released her debut studio album *Katy Hudson* under her birth name in 2001, which was commercially unsuccessful. She moved to Los Angeles the following year to venture into secular music after Red Hill ceased operations and she subsequently began working with producers Glen Ballard, Dr. Luke, and Max Martin. After adopting the stage name 'Katy Perry' and being dropped by The Island Def Jam Music Group and Columbia Records, she signed a recording contract with Capitol Records in April 2007.

A Secret in Three Views - Kurt Elling

Kurt Elling (born November 2, 1967) is an American jazz singer and songwriter.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Rockford, Elling became interested in music through his father, who was Kapellmeister at a Lutheran church. He sang in choirs and played musical

instruments. He encountered jazz while a student at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. After college, he enrolled in the University of Chicago Divinity School, but he left one credit short of a degree to pursue a career as a jazz vocalist.

I Can't Be Satisfied - Muddy Waters

McKinley Morganfield (April 4, 1913 – April 30, 1983), known professionally as **Muddy Waters**, was an American blues singer-songwriter and musician who was an important figure in the post-war blues scene, and is often cited as the "father of modern Chicago blues". His style of playing has been described as "raining down Delta beatitude".

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