

## Essential Listening - June 2022

In the very first Essential listening, we asked the Board members about their musical influences in bluegrass. This month, we asked the five newest SDBS Board members what they're listening to right now and why as way of introducing the new Board to all of you. And for good measure, we asked where they listen to music.

### **Ramona Ault:**

Currently I'm listening to Molly Tuttle a lot. I remember seeing the Tuttles play at Summergrass with the whole family band and now look at Molly. Sarah Jarosz is my newest favorite. I love the group *I'm With Her* comprised of Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, and Aoife O'Donovan. Their harmonies are unsurpassed. Sarah Jarosz and I share the same birthday so maybe there's something to that, but her music is pure magic to me.

As far as old and new, *Nickel Creek* is/was a favorite band from way back and I'm still a fan of Sara and Sean Watkins, along with Chris Thile. I love John Mailander. He's making some great music. We've all watched him grow up, knowing "that boy's going places". Each one of these artists were brought up on traditional blue grass basics and have flowered in their own unique way from there.

**Crossing Muddy Waters** – *I'm With Her*: Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, Aoife O'Donovan  
<https://youtu.be/BTDUDRIEifQ>

**Cold Rain and Snow** – Molly Tuttle  
<https://youtu.be/V4QbhNzKGVU>

### **Lance Gucwa:**

As a multi-genre bassist my listening choices can be eclectic and lean toward progressive instrumentals. Bassist Edgar Meyer is one of my favorites (no surprise!). For the bluegrass genre, *My Bluegrass Heart*, works performed with Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer, and other extremely competent musicians is fabulous in my opinion. This music bridges the gap between bluegrass, classical, jazz, world music, and everything in between.

**Vertigo** – Bela Fleck on *My Bluegrass Heart*  
<https://youtu.be/k42rokxMP6o>

I don't sing well enough for a band; however, I do like the vocal music that brings the hope and positive messages provided by gospel bluegrass music. The old traditional bluegrass bands used to always include two or three gospel tunes in their sets and albums. One of my favorites that recognizes the difficulty of life, but then encourages us to seek goodness, is *Keep on the Sunny Side*. Here's the tune performed with a few added non-traditional bluegrass instruments (another of my essential listening habits):

**Keep on the Sunny Side** – *Avett Brothers* with Brandi Carlile on David Letterman show  
[https://youtu.be/k\\_m2glSrEn4](https://youtu.be/k_m2glSrEn4)

Recently, my son introduced me to a new band called *Gangstagrass*. This band is certainly interesting! Bluegrass originally came as a genre-bending movement and it's good to see progress in challenging this genre. I think progress like this is a way new generations will be attracted to bluegrass.

**Man of Constant Sorrow – Gangstagrass**

<https://youtu.be/vVVSBJoUHSw>

I listen to a variety of sources that include Youtube, Spotify, CDs that I rotate in my car's 6 CD changer, and yes even my record player. The analog sound of LPs is to me more live sounding than digital. Prior to the pandemic I discriminately collected LPs from local thrift shops. My most treasured bluegrass find is the *Will the Circle be Unbroken* LP by the *Nitty Gritty Dirt Band*. It's a three LP album that includes so many great artists in addition to the band. It's a must hear for all bluegrass musicians!

**Will the Circle Be Unbroken - full album**

<https://youtu.be/MvhoseYhhtc>

**Sylvia Castelluzzo:**

I'm listening to a new tune I learned from Mary Jane Cupp, *Jenny Lynn* by Bill Monroe fiddler Kenny Baker

**Jenny Lynn – Kenny Baker with Bill Monroe on *Live at Bean Blossom***

<https://youtu.be/VKyqdoZt6Yc>

**Dale Desmuke:**

*Slocan Ramblers* - Great Canadian band. Never heard the song before, but the band puts me in mind of *Hot Rize* for some reason. A new favorite for me. I mostly listen via YouTube going down the tube if I'm not careful.

**Bury My Troubles – *Slocan Ramblers***

<https://youtu.be/1nGn68mzTYc>

**Dr. Phil Levy:**

Currently I'm listening to *Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver* on *Delvision* on YouTube which is Del McCoury's *DelFest* channel, and also to Billy Strings.

**Sadie's Got Her New Dress On – *Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver***

<https://youtu.be/obyPUEXgDjA>

**My Sweet Blue-Eyed Darlin' – Billy Strings**

<https://youtu.be/hvKivDVZZoI>