

SATURDAY NIGHT @HOME – ANN CUMMINGS

1. Levi Jackson Rag

According to family legend, I was folk dancing before I was walking and this has always been my favourite dance. My playlist therefore has to start with this.

2. Puff the Magic Dragon

Peter, Paul and Mary.

My family had the album and I can remember playing it over and over as a child (I still know all the words today).

3. Move It

My mother was a huge fan of Cliff Richard and it rubbed off on me when I was younger. This meant that my first ever concerts were Cliff – Manchester, Wembley, Rotterdam etc. I have a lot of his albums and singles although they don't get played much these days. I think his From a Distance concert would still rank as one of the best concerts I have ever been to – he was on stage for 6 hours on the hottest day of the year.

4. Is there something I should know?

Like all girls in the 80's, I loved Duran Duran and had a poster of the gorgeous John Taylor on my bedroom wall. This song was no.1 when we were in France on a school trip and I remember my friend Melody excitedly telling us all and playing it non-stop!

5. Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

My music teacher at secondary school (Miss Thornley) used to play this on the piano as we all trooped out of school at the end of every school term. It was fantastic! I named my first black cat Sheba as a result and had this played at my wedding in her honour.

6. The Entertainer

Continuing the piano theme, my aunt was an excellent piano player and used to play a mean version of this – who doesn't like a bit of Scott Joplin?

7. Booker T and the MGs

I have loved cricket all my adult life – I was at Lords for the great Dickie Bird's final test match as umpire, I have won prizes for my scoring and last year I got to

attend an Ashes match! I was over the moon to hear this played live at Cornbury a few years back.

8. Barcelona by Montserrat Caballe and Freddie Mercury

Simply a great song.

9. Tower of Song – Leonard Cohen

I was 22 when my then boyfriend introduced me to this poet, singer, author, musician and he has been the soundtrack to my life ever since. He truly was “born with the gift of a golden voice”. I saw him live several times and when his so called manager made off with his money and forced him back to the stage it was definitely a cloud with a silver lining for us fans. The first time I heard him sing this I was blown away when he dropped his voice by an octave for this line. He just got better and better.

10. Mamma told me not to come – Tom Jones

Anyone who knows us knows we support the daffodil not the red rose when it comes to rugby. I have seen Tom live several times and he is a great performer. My favourite memory of this song however is when I took my youngest son to the birthday party of a female classmate – he was only about 6 and surrounded by princesses and fairies when he took one look at the pretend champagne glass on the table in front of him and uttered the immortal words “I’m looking at my girlfriend, she’s passed out on the floor” ...

11. Crocodile Shoes – Jimmy Nail

I was lucky enough to spend several years living in beautiful County Durham. One evening I took my parents for a trip on a tall ship down the Tyne. When we returned to dock, we drew up behind a stage erected for the BBC’s day of music. Who should appear back stage but Jimmy Nail – we persuaded the captain to fire the cannon and were much amused at the reaction!! He wasn’t...

12. The Complete Banker - Divine Comedy

Again I have seen this group several times - I’ve also seen Neil Hannon solo and as part of the cricket tribute group Duckworth Lewis. He is a another genius in terms of song writing and this single sums up what many of us think caused the last financial crisis.... He did a great version of it at Greenwich live where he got us all to turn round and direct our voices across the water to Canary Wharf...if only they’d listen...

13. New York Girls – Bellowhead

I first came across these people when I saw Spiers and Boden at a festival in Cheltenham many years ago (Spiers, by the way, has an allotment in Oxfordshire so is local!). Bellowhead were a fantastic group and we saw them live several times. They managed to get folk into the mainstream again.

14. We are family - Sister Sledge

As friends know, this was our theme tune when we became a family all those years ago.

15. No hopers, jokers and rogues - Fisherman's Friends

We have seen this group many times too but my favourite has to be the boy's first concert, sat on the beach at Port Isaac in Cornwall as the sun set whilst they sang about 2 feet in front of us and I played the spoons!

16. Skylark - Blazin' Fiddles

I've also been lucky enough to live in Scotland and we had a fantastic 2 week holiday there this year. I saw this group when I worked in Dundee – I've never seen fiddles move so quickly (with apologies to Sam Sweeney from Bellowhead)!

17. Road to Hell – Chris Rea

From beautiful Scotland to the commute from Piddington to London each day – why did I do it?? It's amazing how often my drive in in the morning coincided with this song on the radio – the M40 was my road to hell until eventually I saw the light and jacked it in.

18. La Traviata – Verdi

I love opera and was lucky enough to see this at the Royal Opera House (moving South did have some advantages...). As soon as the orchestra started the overture, I was in tears much to the consternation of the woman sat next to me! It is of course the opera that features in *Pretty Woman*, a film I have seen so often I can recite the script verbatim, much to the annoyance of those around me!

19. Doe Eyes – Clint Eastwood

I'm obviously a softy and this is my go-to film whenever I need to let the emotions out. It stars Clint (definitely a man who has improved with age) as actor, director and composer. I bought Simon an antique mantel clock last Christmas and the chime on the three quarter hour is the first four notes of this song!

20. The Gambler – Kenny Rogers

I was lucky enough to get to Glastonbury a few years ago and whilst Chic and Nile Rogers were fantastic on the Friday night and the Rolling Stones were great on the Saturday night, the act I was most excited about beforehand was Kenny Rogers in the Sunday afternoon legend slot and he didn't disappoint! Did you know that an English fast bowler used to sing this to himself to get his tempo right as he ran in to bowl?

21. Throw those curtains wide – Elbow

I loved this song from the first moment I heard it and was thrilled to see them do it live at the Hammersmith Apollo a few years back.

22. Scenes from an Italian restaurant – Billy Joel

I've been listening to Billy Joel for many years and have seen him several times. To watch him on the piano and listen to the excellent sax player he always has on tour has been an absolute pleasure. I could have picked so many songs but this one won the day.

23. Closing Time – Leonard Cohen

One Leonard song is simply not enough and what better way to finish? He closed his concerts with this, the last few times I saw him.