

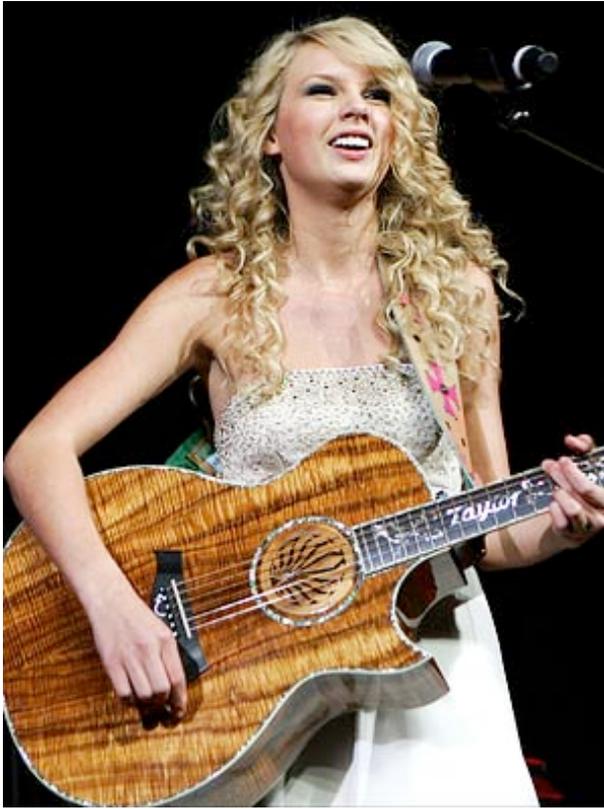
DBR (DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN)



DBR grew up in Margate, Florida, where he listened to Latin, Brazilian, and Afro-Cuban music on the streets. His mother and father are from Haiti, so at home he heard a lot of traditional Haitian music, including the *Konpa* dance style. When he was old enough to go to school, he went to Margate Elementary School, where he started playing violin in 5th Grade.

DBR's favorite sounds are the sounds of spoken voices, especially those of other Haitians. He's also very interested in History and in particular the Civil Rights Movement. Many of the first songs he wrote are based on the life of black Americans such as Rosa Parks, Malcom X, Martin Luther King, and Maya Angelou.

His favorite songs are Bartok's "First String Quartet," Jimi Hendrix's version of the "Star-Spangled Banner," Prince's "Let's Go Crazy," and DJ Spooky's "Galactic Funk." Today, he plays an instrument that mixes the violin and viola together (it has 5 strings!). He hopes to make songs that mix together all kinds of music, such as classical, hip-hop, dance, folk, and electronic.



TAYLOR SWIFT

Taylor Swift grew up in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, where there was no music in her Elementary School. However, her grandmother was an opera singer and she learned to love music by listening to records of classical music that her parents had. When she was 12 years old, Taylor learned her first notes on guitar from a repairman that came to fix her parents' computer, and she got her first guitar after that.

As a middle school student, Taylor did not fit in, but she loved to write and wrote songs and stories about her school and her classmates. Her favorite kinds of music are country and rock, and her favorite songs are Shania Twain's "You're Still the One," The Fray's "How to Save a Life," and the Dixie Chicks's "Not Ready to Make Nice."

The music she likes to make is music about her life, and she hopes that others will take comfort from her experiences of getting rejected or not fitting in. Taylor Swift is now a Grammy-Award winning country and pop singer.

MR. SHIEH

Mr. Shieh grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, where he heard a lot of punk and heavy metal music in the street. At home, his mother played classical music on the piano and one of his cousins played the violin. When he was 3 years old, he started learning how to play the violin. He wasn't very good at it, and growing up his favorite subject was English, not Music.

When he was in middle school, Mr. Shieh joined his first orchestra and started to love classical music. In high school, he went to his first rock concert with a violin in it (the Dave Matthews Band). Inspired, he started to play violin and cello with some rock bands in addition to orchestra. He won a full scholarship to college as a violin player.

Mr. Shieh's favorite musicians are the classical cellist Yo Yo Ma, hip-hop composer DBR, jazz viola player Jeremy Kittel, and singers Ani DiFranco and Mariah Carey. Mr. Shieh also loves hiking in the outdoors, and many of his songs are inspired by his time spent in the mountains, the ocean, and woods.

