

## 7/30/20 CI Music Hour Recap

Dear all,

Yesterday, it was wonderful to have Wendy Cheng joining us from Maryland, who shared with us her musical journey with hearing loss. She also talked about her strategies in playing viola and studying music. Wendy started violin in college. At the time, she had hearing aids on her left ear and profound hearing loss on the right ear. Hearing deteriorated further and she eventually got cochlear Implants on both ears. She wanted to play music again and picked up the Viola, which was more suitable for CI listening than Violin with its frequency range being too high for CIs.

Wendy's strategies to cope with the challenges in her current study of music and viola exams include using a smartphone app for tuning, and trying out different microphone systems to find what works best for her listening. She places black color tape on the viola fingerboard to remind herself of the notes that she is having difficult time playing correctly. During the viola exam, she asks for accommodations to have the exam material to range from Middle C to one and half octave above Middle C.

Wendy picked up handbells more recently and enjoys playing them particularly because of the communal aspect of playing together in the group. She shared the youtube videos of her playing handbells and viola.

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

<https://youtu.be/yS-lrCXbJKE>

Her organization, [AAMHL: Association of Adult Musicians with Hearing Loss](#), provides valuable resources for musicians with hearing loss and has sponsored webinars for audiologists on programming hearing devices for musicians. It also has published the book "[Making Music with Hearing Loss: Strategies and Stories](#)". If you want to know more about AAMHL, please feel free to contact Wendy at [ldwendy@gmail.com](mailto:ldwendy@gmail.com). She is very happy to answer any questions.

We appreciate her dedication to the hard of hearing communities and that she shared her passion for music with us.

Our next guest is Page Hamilton, a composer, guitarist, producer and singer, who also makes special sound effects for film with his guitar. He will play songs of different genres, talk about the acoustics of electric guitar, and introduce some of the eccentric sound effects he has created for films.

Page sings and plays in his band "Helmet", played lead guitar for David Bowie on *The Hour* tour, performed Joe Henry's album *Trampoline*, and played on scores for the films such as "Heat" (Al Pacino, Robert De Niro) and "S.W.A.T.". You can check out his bio and extensive work he has done in his website:

**Page Hamilton**



## Bio of Page

<http://pagehamiltonmusic.com/?post=184#about>

Page Hamilton (b. 1960) is a composer, guitarist, producer, and the founder / frontman of American hard rock band Helmet.

In the mid 1980's, after graduating from the University of Oregon, Hamilton relocated to New York City to complete his Master's Degree in Jazz Guitar at the Manhattan School of Music. There he joined noise rock band Band of Susans – recording on the band's 1989 album *Love Agenda*. He also spent time in avant-garde composer Glenn Branca's guitar orchestra, recording on *Symphony 6 – Devil Choirs at the Gates of Heaven*, before ultimately seeking out other like-minded musicians and forming his own group Helmet.

Helmet has released eight albums over the last 25 years, including 1992's *Meantime* which was certified Gold and earned a Grammy nomination. The band has also contributed music to a number of films including Johnny Mnemonic, The Crow, Feeling Minnesota, The Jerky Boys, Gun Crazy and Judgement Night (a collaboration with hip hop group House of Pain). Helmet continues to record and perform live all over the world. Their most recent album *Dead To The World* was released in 2016 by German-based label earMusic. In 2019 Helmet embarked on a 30th anniversary tour where they performed a 30 song set in 30 different cities – both in the United States and in Europe.

In addition to his work in Helmet, Hamilton has done a significant amount of work as a guitarist – playing lead guitar for David Bowie on *The Hours* tour, performing on Joe Henry's album *Trampoline*, and lending his talents to Elliot Goldenthal's guitar-based score for the film "Heat" (Al Pacino, Robert De Niro). Hamilton also played on

subsequent Goldenthal scores for the films "S.W.A.T.," "Titus," "The Good Thief" (w/ Bono), "Across the Universe," and "The Tempest." In addition to playing guitar on various scores, Hamilton has composed original scores of his own – beginning with 1997's "Chicago Cab" and, more recently for a series of independent action films: "Skyhook," "The Phoenix Rises," "Sons of Liberty," and "Convergence."

Over the last year and a half Hamilton played guitar on the debut album by Lieutenant – a new project from Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) and recorded with New York jazz / electronica band M'lumbo for a soon to be released album. He also appeared as a featured artist on Linkin Park's 2014 album *The Hunting Party* – playing guitar and providing vocals on the song "All For Nothing."

In 2005, Hamilton produced *Distort Yourself* – the debut album from Gavin Rossdale's band Institute. He also produced records for a number of other bands including Bullets And Octane, Classic Case, and Rescue Rangers to name a few.

Hamilton continues to perform live in orchestral settings as well. In 2015, he was invited by Elliot Goldenthal to perform the score from the film "The Tempest" with the Beethoven Academy Orchestra at The Film Music Festival in Krakow. Later in the year, he performed at the 2015 Britt Festival near his hometown of Medford, Oregon: as soloist for Mason Bates' *Mothership* and as a guitarist in the Britt Orchestra's all-Bernstein program conducted by Teddy Abrams.