

Hello, everyone:

This past week we had the pleasure of listening to music performed by our very own Rob Zurawin! While many may know him as a long time CI Music Hour participant, he also has a rich musical background. Rob grew up playing the piano and eventually had the opportunity to perform in a variety of settings including jazz and piano bars, weddings, musical groups in college, and alongside vocal ensembles.

The music hour group enjoyed listening to Rob play a variety of piano selections, such as “They Can’t Take that Away from Me,” “Our Love is Here to Stay” from American in Paris, “Yesterday” by the Beatles, “Moonlight Sonata” by Beethoven, and “Unforgettable” by Nat King Cole. The hour also featured quite a bit of singing, including a spontaneous duet of “In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning” by Frank Sinatra, between Sandy (vocals) and Rob (piano).

Rob also shared with the group how he is able to continue playing the piano, despite the challenges he faces with his CI, because he is very familiar with the music he plays. His musical memory and piano training prior to implantation allow him to confidently play these pieces now.

We are happy to be featuring more CI Music Hour participants on our hours and welcome anyone else who is interested in presenting some music to reach out! You know where to find us :-)

This week, Robin Sukhadia will be sharing tabla!

From Robin:

The classical music traditions of south Asia have been shaped over the centuries by Hindu and Islamic influences, colonization and decolonization, and geo-political forces. Through all of those transitions, the beauty, sacred depth, and architectural complexity of raga (melody) and tala (rhythm) flourished and continues to mesmerize listeners and practitioners today. We are excited to present an immersive presentation and performance explaining the intricacies of tabla, the central percussion instrument of north Indian music led by Robin Sukhadia, a Los Angeles based artist and composer. Over the course of 50 minutes, we will hear and understand the language of tabla, experience a short tabla solo performance, and learn how classical north Indian music parallels western classical music.

A Master in Fine Arts graduate from the World Music program at the California Institute of the Arts, Robin Sukhadia studies tabla (classical north Indian drums) under Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri at the California Institute of the Arts and the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael, California. His special focus on the musical traditions and rhythms of south Asia informs his approach to musical arrangement and composition on a wide range of concert, film, and album productions. For the past nine years, Robin has traveled internationally on behalf of Project Ahimsa, an organization committed to empowering impoverished youth through music education. He performs and teaches extensively, in both classical and contemporary contexts, and has developed innovative music education programs at the Mahatma Gandhi Ashram in

Ahmedabad, the Weill Institute at Carnegie Hall, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the de Young Museum in San Francisco, the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, the Machine Project in Los Angeles and the Sangati Center in San Francisco.

Also, I am sharing with you a playlist that I curated featuring some of my very favorite north Indian classical tracks. I hope it inspires you!

[https://open.spotify.com/playlist/08pkb0Nu1NoSYRKynSaHSb?si=vFf0hfx-RvWDNZGzSPmxA&dl\\_branch=1&nd=1](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/08pkb0Nu1NoSYRKynSaHSb?si=vFf0hfx-RvWDNZGzSPmxA&dl_branch=1&nd=1)

Until Thursday,  
Chrysa & Julianne