Your Life in Song

the questions

Five chapters, and the songs that belong to each one. There is nothing to prepare and no wrong answer anywhere in this. Take as long as you like, leave it on the kitchen table and come back to it, and add one whenever it turns up, because it will, usually in the shower.

Prefer to write by hand? Complete these pages, photograph them on your phone, and email them to Petra at **petra@threequartertime.com.au**. You can also call **0490 957 265** if you need help.

Your name, spelled as it should be printed:

Year you were born:

The feeling it carries (optional)

J — Joy L — Love P — A performance T — A place or a journey S — Sadness H — A laugh

You do not have to fill all five in a chapter. Three that mean something will always beat five you had to invent. Beside each song there is a small circle, and if you would like to, mark it with the feeling that song carries using the key above. That part is entirely optional.

Chapter One • Childhood

THE EARLY YEARS

What was playing in the house when you were small, and who put it on? Was there a song one of your grandparents loved, that you still hear in their voice? Anything you sang at school, at church, or at an eisteddfod? The first record or tape that was properly yours? A song from a film you watched over and over again?

SONG, ARTIST, AND WHY IT STAYED WITH YOU

You do not have to fill all five in a chapter. Three that mean something are better than five you had to invent.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Chapter Two • Teenage Years

COMING OF AGE

The first album you bought with your own money, or were given and played to death? Something you learnt to play, or auditioned with, or performed? A singer whose voice you loved for reasons you could not explain? A film or a concert that got right under your skin? And something your parents could not stand.

SONG, ARTIST, AND WHY IT STAYED WITH YOU

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Chapter Three • Early Adulthood

FINDING YOUR WAY

Was there music at your wedding, walking in or walking out? A song from the year you left home, or started work, or moved somewhere new? Anything you sang to children at bedtime, or put on to get them out the door? A song tied to a Christmas, or a holiday, that has stuck to it ever since?

SONG, ARTIST, AND WHY IT STAYED WITH YOU

You do not have to fill all five in a chapter. Three that mean something are better than five you had to invent.

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Chapter Four • Mid Adulthood

THE FULL YEARS

What was on in the car on the long drives, and who was in the back? A song tied to one particular trip, or camp, or holiday? Something you watched as a family on the television and all ended up singing? Anything you taught somebody else, or that somebody taught you?

SONG, ARTIST, AND WHY IT STAYED WITH YOU

You do not have to fill all five in a chapter. Three that mean something are better than five you had to invent.

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Chapter Five • Late Adulthood

THE THIRD QUARTER AND BEYOND

What have you found lately, perhaps through your children or your grandchildren? A song tied to a farewell, or to somebody you have lost? Something from your travels, or from somewhere that surprised you? And the one you put on when you want to feel like yourself again.

SONG, ARTIST, AND WHY IT STAYED WITH YOU

You do not have to fill all five in a chapter. Three that mean something are better than five you had to invent.

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If a title will not come, write down what you can remember of it. I will find it.

The Story Behind the Songs

in their own words

This is the second side of your certificate, and for most people it turns out to be the part they read again. Write as much or as little as you like, in your own words.

The song that means the most

WHICH ONE, AND WHY

A memory worth keeping

A MOMENT THESE SONGS BRING BACK

People who share this music

FAMILY, FRIENDS, THE ONES WHO WERE THERE

For whoever receives this one day

A NOTE TO PASS ON WITH THE MUSIC

Additional notes

ANYTHING ELSE WORTH KEEPING

May the music keep playing, long after the words have gone.

A few things for your song

THIS PAGE IS NOT PRINTED ON YOUR CERTIFICATE

Your souvenir song is written from your own life, so this is where I learn enough to write it. Nobody else sees this page. Plain and specific beats grand and general every time, so a kettle, a street name or a nickname is worth more here than anything polished.

What you have done, and for how long

WORK, TRADES, RAISING PEOPLE, THE LOT

Where you have lived

TOWNS, HOUSES, COUNTRIES

Who is at the centre of your life

BY NAME, IF YOU WOULD LIKE THEM NAMED IN IT

One thing you are proud of, and one thing that was hard

THE SECOND ONE ONLY IF YOU WANT IT IN THERE

A phrase you actually say

THE ONE YOUR FAMILY WOULD RECOGNISE STRAIGHT AWAY

When you are finished, photograph these pages on your phone and email them to Petra at **petra@threequartertime.com.au**. You can also call **0490 957 265** if you need help. There is no rush on any of it.

Every life has a soundtrack. This one is yours.

Petra Taylor-Smith • Three Quarter Time • Groove to a different beat