

300+ Recordings Essential to a Happy Life

Wenn man schon Musik macht (oder hört), kann man doch gleich gute machen (oder hören).

Alphabetical listing.

Cannonball Adderley	Mercy Mercy Mercy & Work Song
Mose Allison	Parchman Farm & Young Man Blues (1957) et al.
anonymous (15th century)	Dale si le das (from: Concionero Musical de Palacio) by New London Consort, voc: Catherine Bott
anonymous (17th century)	Diddle diddle (also known as: "Lavenders Blue") by The City Waites
Louis Armstrong	West End Blues (1928) "The most perfect three minutes of music"
Louis Armstrong	Swing That Music (1936)
J.S. Bach	Kantate 147 (Chorals) & (the Choral, played by Dinu Lipatti, piano)
J.S. Bach	Die Kunst der Fuge (Contrapunctus XIV unfinished, Glenn Gould)
J.S. Bach	Das wohltemperierte Klavier (Landowska, Gulda, Gould, Richter, Edwin Fischer)
J.S. Bach	Orchestra Suite no. 3 (BWV 1068)
J.S. Bach	Canons (BWV 1072, 1076, 1078 = 230 years avant Steve Reich!)
J.S. Bach	Mass in B minor
Barbara	Pierre & A mourir pour mourir & Goettingen & Nantes, et al.
Count Basie Orch.	Jumpin' at the Woodside (1938, and more with Clayton, Prez, Jo Jones, Rushing etc.)
Count Basie Orch.	Lil' Darling ("The Atomic" album, 1957) et al.
Marco Beasley	& ensemble Accordone (renaissance & baroque music, e.g.: Giovanni Stefani: Amante felice)
The Beatles	I admit: many of their songs (yes, and the Stones too)
Ludwig van Beethoven	Sonatas no. 8, op. 13 (Adagio) & no. 23, op. 57 & no. 30-32, op. 109-111
Ludwig van Beethoven	String Quartet no.13, op.130 & no.14, op.131
Ludwig van Beethoven	Piano concert no. 3, 2. Satz Largo (A. Benedetti Michelangeli)
Ludwig van Beethoven	Piano concert no. 5, 2. Satz Adagio (Edwin Fischer, Schnabel 1942)
Ludwig van Beethoven	Symphony no. 6, op. 68
Ludwig van Beethoven	Große Fuge B-Dur, op. 133
Bix Beiderbecke	I'm Coming Virginia (1927, Trumbauer Orch.)
Vincenzo Bellini	Norma (aria "Casta diva", Callas, 1954)
Chuck Berry	Roll over Beethoven (1956) & Rock and Roll Music (1957) et al.
Art Blakey	Moanin' (1958) & Blues March (1958)
Paul Bley	Ida (by Carla Bley, 1965)
Blind Blake	Diddie Wa Diddie (1929)
Booker T. and the MGs	Green Onions
Jacques Brel	Amsterdam & Ne me quitte pas
Clifford Brown/Max Roach	Cherokee (1955) et al.
Tim Buckley	Sweet Surrender
Buffalo Springfield	For What it's Worth

Eric Burdon	"The Black-Man's Burdon" album & Winds of Change, et al.
Gary Burton Quartet	Sing Me Softly of the Blues (Carla Bley)
The Butterfield Blues Band	"East-West" album
J.J. Cale	"Naturally" album
Hoagy Carmichael	Rockin' Chair (1930, with Bix, Miley, Goodman, Dorsey, Venuti, Lang etc.)
Ray Charles	What'd I Say & I'm Moving On (1959) et al.
Ray Charles	Worried Life Blues (Someday Baby) (1953)
Frederic Chopin	Ballade g minor, op. 23 (by A. B. Michelangeli) & Nocturnes (by Arthur Rubinstein)
Charlie Christian	Seven Come Eleven (1939 with Goodman Sextet), Solo Flight (1941 with Goodman Orch.)
Charlie Christian	Swing to Bop (1941)
Nat King Cole	Sweet Lorraine (1940 & 1943) & Lush Life (1949) & Nature Boy, et al.
Ornette Coleman	Sadness (1962) & Lonely Woman (1959)
John Coltrane	My Favorite Things (1960 and '63) & Ole (1961) et al.
Comedian Harmonists	Tout le jour, toute la nuit (Night and Day) & Creole Love Call, et al.
Commodores	Nightshift
Kevin Coyne	Marjory Razorblade album, 1973
Miles Davis	It Never Entered My Mind (1956) & most titles from the classic era '54-'56
Miles Davis	Blue in Green (1959) ...and the whole album of course: "Kind of Blue"
Miles Davis	"Porgy and Bess" album, 1958
Miles Davis	"Ascenseur pour l'échafaud" soundtrack album, 1957
Spencer Davis Group	Keep on Running & Gimme Some Lovin' (because of Steve Winwood)
Paul Desmond (Brubeck 4)	Take Five
Bo Diddley	Bo Diddley (1955) et al.
Eric Dolphy	Left Alone (1960) & Tenderly (1960) et al.
Eric Dolphy	"Out to Lunch" album, 1964
Lonnie Donegan	Rock Island Line (1954)
John Dowland	Flow My Tears (Alfred Deller, voc)
Julie Driscoll/Brian Auger	Season of the Witch (1967), All Blues, et al
Anton Dvorak	Rusalka (Mondlied) (Gabriela Benackova, soprano)
Bob Dylan	Highway 61 Revisited (and generally the first 8 albums)
Bob Dylan	Subterranean Homesick Blues & Desolation Row (1965)
Bob Dylan	The Times they are A-Changing (1964)
"The Electric Muse"	The Story of Folk into Rock (4-LP sampler; mostly British singers and bands)
Duke Ellington	East St. Louis Toodle Oo (1927) & Mood Indigo (1930 & '32)
Duke Ellington	Creole Love Call & It Dont' Mean...(1932) & Cotton Tail (1940) & Take the A-Train (1941) et al.
Herb Ellis	Blues for Junior (1957, & Eldridge, Getz)
Booker Ervin/Horace Parlan	Well, Well (1960, "Cookin'" album)
Bill Evans	Debbie's Waltz, et al. & "Live at the Village Vanguard" albums, 1961

Fairport Convention	Stranger to Himself & Who Knows Where the Time Goes (Sandy Denny!)
Family	"Music in a Doll's House" album
Gabriel Faure	Messe de Requiem (Herreweghe)
Ella Fitzgerald	"In Berlin" album, et al.
Ella & Louis	Stars Fell on Alabama & more from their collaboration
Maureen Forrester	Bach & Händel Arien
Aretha Franklin	Respect, et al.
Slim Gaillard	The Flat Foot Floogie (1938) & Opera in Vout ('46) et al.
Jerry Garcia/David Grisman	Shady Grove & Whiskey in the Jar & "Not for Kids Only" album
Erroll Garner	"Concert by the Sea" album
Djivan Gasparyan	Heavenly Duduk
Marvin Gaye	Sexual Healing & I Heard It Through the Grapevine
Stan Getz	Moonlight in Vermont (with Johnny Smith, 1951)
Stan Getz/Gilberto	"Jazz Samba" album (and more of Getz)
Dizzy Gillespie Orch.	Good Bait (1947) ...and 1945/'46 with Parker, q.v.
Jimmy Giuffre	The Train and the River (1956)
Willibald Gluck	Orfeo ed Euridice (Kathleen Ferrier or Rita Streich)
Benny Goodman Trio/Quartet	China Boy / Moonglow (1936)
The Grateful Dead	Morning Dew, et al.
The Grateful Dead	So Many Roads, (complete 12 min. version) 9 July 1995, Jerry's last concert
The Grateful Dead	"So Many Roads" (5-CD set)
The Grateful Dead	"The Closing of Winterland, December 31, 1978"
Friedrich Gulda	G'schichten aus dem Wienerwald (1978) & his Mozart & Beethoven interpretations
Bob Haggart / Ray Bauduc	The Big Noise from Winnetka (1938)
Ioannis Halkias (Jack Gregory)	Minore tu Teke (Rembetika from 1930)
Chico Hamilton	Love Song to a Baby
Harlem Hamfats	Oh! Red (1936)
Lionel Hampton	his RCA Victor recordings 1937-'41
Georg Friedrich Haendel	Ombra mai fu (from opera "Xerxes"; Kathleen Ferrier, voc; and of course her "What is Life"/Gluck)
Georg Friedrich Haendel	Lascia ch'io pianga (from opera "Rinaldo", Simone Kermes, voc)
Roy Harper	When an Old Cricketer Leaves the Crease, et al.
Roy Harper	Fighting Ghengis Smith
Coleman Hawkins	Crazy Rhythm (& Django Reinhardt, 1937) & Body and Soul (1939)
Fletcher Henderson Orchestra	Copenhagen (1924) & Sugar Foot Stomp (version: 19 March 1931)
Jimi Hendrix	Red House & Hey Joe, et al.
Woody Herman Orch.	Early Autumn & Four Brothers (1948)
Billie Holiday	Miss Brown to You (1935) & Fine and Mellow (1939 & 1957 tv)
Billie Holiday	Southern trees... "Strange Fruit"

Billie Holiday/Lester Young	When You're Smiling & If Dreams Come True (1938) et al.
John Lee Hooker	Boom Boom (1961) et al.
John Lee Hooker	When My Wife Quit Me (1954) & Let's Make It Baby (AFBF 1962)
Howlin' Wolf	Killing Floor, et al.
Charles Ives	The Unanswered Question
Ahmad Jamal	Ahmad's Blues
Elmore James	Dust My Broom (1951)
Jazz at the Philharmonic	Funky Blues (1951, Shavers, Carter, Hodges, Bird, Phillips, Webster, Peterson, Kessel, Brown, Heard)
Jazz at the Philharmonic	How High the Moon / Lady Be Good (1944, Guy, McGhee, Willie Smith, Jacquet, Ventura, Krupa, etc.)
Jefferson Airplane	White Rabbit
Blind Willie Johnson	You'll Need Somebody on Your Bond & The Soul of a Man &, Dark was the Night, et al.
Robert Johnson	Preaching Blues & Come On In My Kitchen (1936) et al.
Janis Joplin	Piece of My Heart (Big Brother and the Holding Company)
Louis Jordan	Early in the Mornin' (1947) et al.
John Kay	"My Sportin' Life" album (...am I the only one who knows and who loves it?)
The Kinks	"Muswell Hillbillies" album
Roland Kirk	"I Talk with the Spirits" album & Lady's Blues" et al.
Mark Knopfler	Sultans of Swing (10+ minutes concert version. 1996)
Alexis Korner's Blues Inc.	"R & B from the Marquee" album, 1962
Gene Krupa	Drum Boogie (1941)
Lambert, Hendricks and Ross	"Sing Along with Basie" album
Leadbelly (Huddie Ledbetter)	Library of Congress recordings 1933-'40
Leadbelly (Huddie Ledbetter)	Midnight Special & Rock Island Line & Alabama Bound (1940)
Peggy Lee	"Beauty and the Beat" album with George Shearing, 1959
Peggy Lee	Black Coffee (1953) et al.
Jerry Lee Lewis	Great Balls of Fire (1957), et al.
Little Richard	yes I like this little wild man's hits during 1955-'57
Charles Lloyd	Dream Weaver (1966, with young Keith Jarrett)
Love	"Forever Changes" album
Gustav Mahler	Sinfonie 2, 4.Satz: Urlicht
Gustav Mahler	Sinfonie 9, 4.Satz: Adagio (Barbirolli) ...mit Dank an Walter Bachauer
Gustav Mahler	Das Lied von der Erde (Kathleen Ferrier/Bruno Walter or Wunderlich/Klemperer)
Les McCann	A Little Three Quarter for God and Company (1960, thanks to Toby)
McKinney's Cotton Pickers	Gee Baby, Ain't I Good to You ('29, Redman, Carter, Hawkins, Waller ...)
Memphis Jug Band	Stealin' Stealin' (1928)
Felix Mendelssohn	Violinkonzert & Sommernachtstraum
Felix Mendelssohn	Lieder ohne Worte
Steve Miller	Gangster of Love

Charles Mingus	Better Git it in Your Soul & Haitian Fight Song, et al.
Charles Mingus	Goodbye Pork Pie Hat (= Theme for Lester Young)
Charles Mingus	"Oh Yeah" album
The Modern Jazz Quartet	Django (1954) et al.
Thelonious Monk	Round Midnight & Blue Monk & Bemsha Swing & Monk's Dream
Thelonious Monk	Straight No Chaser & Off Minor & Ruby My Dear & Well You Needn't
Yves Montand	Les feuilles mortes (J. Kosma & J. Prévert), aka: Autumn Leaves (J. Mercer)
Van Morrison	"Astral Weeks" album, "A Night in San Francisco" album, the Irish album
Van Morrison	The Days before Rock'n'Roll & In the Garden & TB Sheets, et al.
Van Morrison	Rockpalast Xmas Special (concert 19 Dec. 1998) & many other concert rec. by Van the Man
Van Morrison	When the Healing has Begun & It's All in the Game ("Into the Music" album)
Jelly Roll Morton	Library of Congress recordings (1938) & The Chant (1926) et al.
Mound City Blue Blowers	Hello Lola (1929, with Hawkins, Miller, Russell, Condon, Krupa)
Wolfgang A. Mozart	Emma Kirkby: Laudeate Dominum & Exsultate, Jubilate (KV 165)
Wolfgang A. Mozart	Die Zauberfloete & Cosi fan tutte, et al.
Wolfgang A. Mozart	Don Giovanni (Cesare Siepi)
Wolfgang A. Mozart	Piano Concerts no. 20 (II: Romance) & no. 21 (II: Andante) (Gulda)
Wolfgang A. Mozart	Piano Sonatas: KV 545 (Maria Joao Pires) & KV 570, Adagio (Gulda)
Wolfgang A. Mozart	Ave vernum corpus (KV. 618) & Adagio in E for violin (KV. 261)
Gerry Mulligan	My Funny Valentine (1952) & The Lady is a Tramp (1952) et al.
Muddy Waters	"The Best of", Chess album, 1948-'54
Willie Nelson	"Stardust" album
Jacques Offenbach	Orpheus in der Unterwelt & Hoffmans Erzaehlungen & Pariser Leben
Jacques Offenbach	collection "Pariser Spezialitaeten" with Ott, Lingen, de Kowa, Mular, Putz, 1968
Olatunji	"Drums of Passion" album, 1959
King Oliver	Dippermouth Blues (1923) & Sugar Foot Stomp (1926)
Johnny Otis	Willie and the Hand Jive & Harlem Nocturne
Charlie Parker	Parker's Mood & Au Privave & Ornithology, et al.
Giovanni Battista Pergolesi	Stabat Mater
Perotinus Magnus	Graduales (Sederunt principes, Viderunt omnes; c. 1200)
Wilson Pickett	Funky Broadway
Bud Powell	Tempus Fugue It (1949) & Un Poco Loco (1951)
Elvis Presley	Hound Dog & Don't Be Cruel & Jailhouse Rock & Love Me Tender
Giacomo Puccini	La Boheme
Henry Purcell	Music for a While (Alfred Deller, voc) & (Marco Beasley & Accordone)
Henry Purcell	Dido's Lament & O Let Me Weep (Alfred Deller or Emma Kirkby)
Lou Rawls	"Live" album, 1966
Django Reinhardt	Dinah ('34) & Honeysuckle Rose ('38) & What Is This Thing Called Love? ('47) & Nuages, et al.

Otto Reutter	Der Überzieher, Nehm'n Sie 'n Alten, In 50 Jahren ist alles vorbei, Der gewissenhafte Maurer
The Rolling Stones	Sympathy for the Devil & "Let it Bleed" album, et al.
Sonny Rollins	St. Thomas (1956) & The Bridge (1962)
Gioacchino Rossini	Der Barbier von Sevilla
Gioacchino Rossini	String sonata no. 5
Jimmy Rushing	Harvard Blues (1944 with Count Basie Orch.)
Luis Russell Orchestra	Give Me Your Telephone Number (1930)
Erik Satie	LP "The Velvet Gentleman", 1970, by The Camarata Contemporary Chamber Group & Moog Synthesizer
Jordi Savall	& Hesperion XXI etc.: "Invocation a la Nuit" (CD2: instrumental)
Arnold Schoenberg	Verklaerte Nacht
Franz Schubert	Impromptus: D.899.3 (G flat major) & D.935.2 (A flat major)
Franz Schubert	Trio for piano, violin and cello, D.898 (Menuhin) & (Rubinstein, Heifetz, Feuermann)
Franz Schubert	Sonata B-Dur, D.960 (Rubinstein, Richter, Schnabel, Curzon) Das schönste, was Schubert je...
Franz Schubert	String Quartet D.810 (Busch Quartet, 1936)
Franz Schubert	String Quintet D.956 (Stern, Casals... 1952)
Andres Segovia	Chaconne (Bach, BWV 1004, 1947)
Artie Shaw Orchestra	Nightmare (1937)
Horace Silver	The Preacher, et al.
Nina Simone	Backlash Blues & Blues For Mama & Ne me quitte pas & I Put a Spell on You, et al.
Nina Simone	I Want a Little Sugar in My Bowl (on Live Album "It Is Finished")
Jimmy Smith	The Preacher, et al.
Jimmy Smith	"House Party" album
Patti Smith	Gloria & Land (1975 album & 1979 "Rockpalast" concert)
Cat Stevens	Father and Son
Richard Strauss	Vier letzte Lieder (Jessye Norman/Masur)
Richard Strauss	Metamorphosen
Rita Streich	Lieder & Arien von Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Wolf...
Jack Teagarden	The Major of Alabam (1936, Trumbauer Orch.) & many "Rockin' Chair" versions
The Temptations	Papa was a Rolling Stone & Masterpiece, et al.
Sister R. Tharpe & M. Knight	Up Above My Head there is Music in the Air (fifties' live album, never seen again :-)
Traffic	Dear Mr. Fantasy & No Face, No Name, No Number
Mitsuko Uchida (piano)	Mozart and Schubert
Van der Graaf Generator	Refugees (from album "The least we can do...", 1970)
Joe Venuti - Eddie Lang	Wild Cat (1927) et al.
Giuseppe Verdi	La Traviata & Rigoletto
Richard Wagner	Siegfried Idyll
Richard Wagner	Tannhäuser: Vorspiel & Venusberg Musik
Richard Wagner	Lohengrin (Vorspiel zum 1. Aufzug)

Richard Wagner	Parsifal ("Hochsten Heiles Wunder")
Richard Wagner	Tristan und Isolde (Vorspiel & "Mild und leise..." version with Margaret Price/Kleiber/Dresden)
Richard Wagner	Die Meistersinger... (Chor & Orch. der Bayreuther Festspiele, 1951, Karajan)
T-Bone Walker	Stormy Monday Blues (1947)
Dinah Washington	September in the Rain (1961) et al.
Tony Joe White	Polk Salad Annie & Scratch My Back & Willie and Laura Mae Jones
The Who	Summertime Blues (and most from "Live at Leeds" LP (!) album)
Sonny Boy Williamson	"Down and Out" Checker album, 1955-'58, et al.
Fritz Wunderlich	Schumann & Schubert Lieder
Robert Wyatt	"Rock Bottom" and "Cuckooland" albums
Stomu Yamash'ta	Hiroshima (listen to his wife's violin playing)
Lester Young	Blue Lester (1 May '44) & These Foolish Things (20 Dec '45) & I'm Confessin' (28 Nov 52) et al.
Lester Young	see: Billie Holiday and Count Basie
Neil Young	Like a Hurrican & Hey Hey My My & Ramada Inn

a n d:

Cole Porter, Rodgers & Hart, G. & I. Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Hoagy Carmichael ...
... & all the other wonderful American (Jewish or Black) pop composers of the first half of the 20th century

a n d:

all blues singers and players from the 19-twenties and 30s and 40s, and, yep, also the 50s:

Leadbelly, Frank Stokes, Peg Leg Howell, Mississippi John Hurt, The Memphis Sheiks, Stovepipe No. 1, Mississippi Sheiks, Whistler and his Jug Band, Charley Patton, Jim Jackson, Papa Charlie Jackson, Son House, Tommy Johnson, Skip James, Robert Johnson, Bukka White, Memphis Jug Band, Furry Lewis, Bo Carter, Big Joe Williams, Robert Lockwood, Tommy McClennon, John Henry Barbee, Gus Cannon, Frankie Halp-Pint Jaxon, Tampa Red, Sleepy John Estes, Cannon's Jug Stompers, Sylvester Weaver, Charley Jordan, Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller, Bo Weavil Jackson, Blind Willie McTell, Curley Weaver, Memphis Minnie, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Blind Willie Johnson, Barbecue Bob, Memphis Slim, Brownie McGhee, Sonny Terry, Texas Alexander, Funny Papa Smith, Lil Son Jackson, Lightnin' Hopkins, Little Brother Montgomery, Will Ezell, Cow Cow Davenport, Pine Top Smith, Speckled Red, Roosevelt Sykes, Albert Ammons, Jimmy Yancey, Charlie Spand, Cow Cow Davenport, Leroy Carr, Whistlin' Alex Moore, Meade Lux Lewis, Pete Johnson, Kansas Joe McCoy, Charlie McCoy, Big Bill Broonzy, Scrapper Blackwell, Son House, Sonny Boy Williamson (I and II), and MANY more