

## Adult Summer Reading Remix – Books With a Musician Character

[\*Amina's Voice\* by Hena Khan](#). Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too?

[\*Audrey, Wait!\* by Robin Benway](#). Audrey Cuttler's life hasn't been the same since that song, "Audrey, Wait!" hit the airwaves. Her ex-boyfriend's song about their breakup is at the top of the charts and she's suddenly famous!

[\*The Cellist of Sarajevo\* by Steven Galloway](#). This brilliant novel with universal resonance, set during the 1990s Siege of Sarajevo, tells the story of three people trying to survive in a city rife with the extreme fear of desperate times, and of the sorrowing cellist who plays undaunted in their midst.

[\*Clara\* by Janice Galloway](#). This impassioned novel gives voice to Clara Wieck Schumann, one of the most celebrated pianists of the nineteenth century, who today is best remembered not for her music but for her marriage. The Schumann union was anything but a lullaby, marked by her valiant struggle for self-expression and his tortuous descent into madness.

[\*Eleanor & Park\* by Rainbow Rowell](#). Set over the course of one school year, this is the story of two star-crossed sixteen-year-olds—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

[\*Garvey's Choice\* by Nikki Grimes](#). Garvey's father has always wanted Garvey to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in astronomy, science fiction, reading—anything but sports. The chorus finds a new soloist in Garvey, and through chorus, Garvey finds a way to accept himself, and a way to finally reach his distant father.

[\*Girl in a Band\* by Kim Gordon](#). Kim Gordon, founding member of Sonic Youth, fashion icon, and role model for a generation of women, now tells her story—a memoir of life as an artist, of music, marriage, motherhood, independence, and as one of the first women of rock and roll.

[\*Gray\* by Pete Wentz & James Montgomery](#). Imagine you are on a tour bus, the miles whistling away beneath you as you sleep. Tomorrow you will wake up in downtown. You barely even know yourself. There are those who give in completely to the idea of what it means to be famous, but if you could go back to the way things were before you made it...would everything still be gray?

[\*I Have Lost My Way\* by Gayle Forman](#). Around the time that Freya loses her voice while recording her debut album, Harun is making plans to run away from everyone he has ever loved, and Nathaniel is arriving in New York City with a backpack, a desperate plan, and nothing left to lose.

[\*Just Kids\* by Patti Smith](#). The legendary American artist offers a never-before-seen glimpse of her remarkable relationship with photographer Robert Mapplethorpe in the epochal days of New York City and the Chelsea Hotel in the late sixties and seventies.

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[\*Liszt's Kiss\* by Susanne Dunlap](#). The romantic story of a young female pianist in cholera-ravaged Paris of 1832, whose own tragedy leaves her susceptible to the passions and scandals of the composer Franz Liszt.

[\*Long Way Gone\* by Charles Martin](#). At the age of eighteen, musician and songwriter Cooper O'Connor took everything his father held dear and drove 1,200 miles from home to Nashville, his life riding on a six-string guitar and the bold wager that he had talent. But his wager soon proved foolish. He returns home searching for answers about his father and faith.

[\*Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter\* by Loretta Lynn & George Vecsey](#). This is the intimate, revealing story of Loretta Lynn's journey from eastern Kentucky to Nashville to stardom to legend—told in her own voice, which rings as clear, natural, and powerful as the best of her songs.

[\*The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto\* by Mitch Albom](#). This is the epic story of Frankie Presto—the greatest guitar player who ever lived—and the six lives he changed with his six magical blue strings. With the Spirit of Music as our guide, we glimpse into the lives that were changed by one man whose strings could touch the music.

[\*The Musician's Daughter\* by Susanne Dunlap](#). Theresa Maria's father turns up dead on Christmas Eve, his violin missing and his gold pendant the only clue. Thrumming with the weeping strains of violins, as well as danger and deception, this is an engrossing tale of murder, romance, and music that readers will find hard to forget.

[\*Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist\* by Rachel Cohn & David Levithan](#). Told in alternating chapters, teeming with music references, humor, angst, and endearing side characters, this is a love story you'll wish were your very own.

[\*Open Road Summer\* by Emery Lord](#). After breaking up with her bad-news boyfriend, Reagan O'Neill is ready to leave her rebellious ways behind. . . and her best friend, country superstar Lilah Montgomery, is nursing a broken heart of her own. Fortunately, Lilah's 24-city tour is about to kick off, offering a perfect opportunity for a girls-only summer of break-up ballads and healing hearts.

[\*Roomies\* by Christina Lauren](#). Rescued by Calvin McLoughlin from a would-be subway attacker, Holland Bakker pays the brilliant musician back by pulling some of her errand-girl strings and getting him an audition with a big-time musical director. When the tryout goes better than even Holland could have imagined, Calvin is set for a great entry into Broadway—until he admits his student visa has expired.

[\*The Scar Boys\* by Len Vlahos](#). A severely burned teenager. A guitar. Punk rock. The chords of a rock 'n' roll road trip in a coming-of-age novel that is a must-read story about finding your place in the world...even if you carry scars inside and out.

[\*Space Opera\* by Catherynne M. Valente](#). Once every cycle, the civilizations gather for the Metagalactic Grand Prix - part gladiatorial contest, part beauty pageant, part concert extravaganza, and part continuation of the wars of the past. This year, though mankind will not get to fight for its destiny - they must sing.

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[\*Vivaldi's Virgins\* by Barbara Quick](#). Abandoned as an infant, Anna Maria embarks on a journey of self-discovery that carries her into a wondrous and haunting world of music and spectacle, bringing eighteenth-century Venice magically to life.

[\*White Tears\* by Hari Kunzru](#). Seth is awkward and shy. Carter is the glamorous heir to one of America's great fortunes. They have one thing in common: an obsession with music. Recording an unknown singer in the park and sharing it on the Internet reveals an incredible ghost story steeped in the Blues.

[\*Wonderful Tonight: George Harrison, Eric Clapton, and Me\* by Pattie Boyd & Penny Junor](#). An iconic figure of the 1960s and '70s, Pattie Boyd breaks a forty-year silence in *Wonderful Tonight*, and tells the story of how she found herself bound to two of the most addictive, promiscuous musical geniuses of the twentieth century and became the most famous muse in the history of rock and roll.