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FAVORITE THINGS

Noteworthy chart-toppers

BY MAGGIE HAWRYLUK

A good song has the power to perform magic. Whether it puts an extra spring in your step, motivates you to run just one more lap or reminds you of a special time in your life, there's nothing better than a well-written song set to a perfect melody.

Denise Rosner, senior vice president at Halstead Property, uses music to motivate her during her workout.

"I love listening to the 'Dreamgirls' movie soundtrack, especially while I'm jogging around the Central Park reservoir," she said. "I particularly like when 'I Am Changing' comes on. It gives me that extra motivation to push through a late sprint."

CORE Group's Fredrik Eklund also turns to music to motivate him through his routine.

"I listen to Madonna's new album, *Hard Candy*, as I go pumping iron in the gym every morning at 7 a.m.," he said.

Sara Rotter, of Citi Habitats, also favors the Queen of Pop. Her favorite Madonna album is *Ray of Light*.

"At the time, Madonna just started to study Kabbalah and incorporated so many different elements of depth and universal spirituality in her lyrics, all while producing really cool hot tracks that were a hit in the mainstream and clubs," she said. "Madonna has constantly reinvented herself over the years and this was the first time that she wasn't controversial to effectively get her message out to the masses."

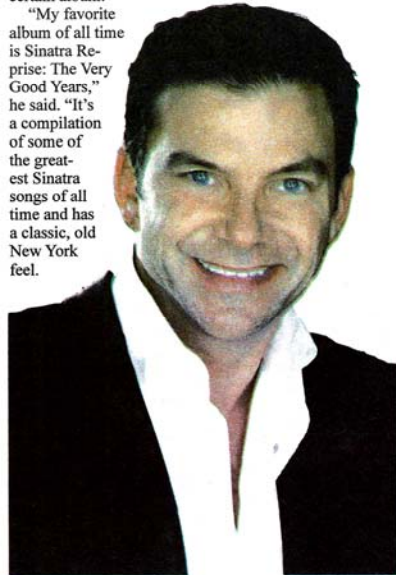
Robert Sloan, of Citi Habitats, enjoys listening to the album *Buddha-Bar IV* because, "It takes me to another place and time."

Citi Habitats' Scotty Elyanow goes on a journey everytime he hears his favorite album.

"Joni Mitchell's *Hejira* because it's a mix of folk and jazz and Americana and evokes a cross-continental journey through the United States — being on the road and travelling," he said. "'Hejira' literally means 'journey' taken from an Arabic word."

Jeffrey Carlson, director of leasing for Platinum Properties, is also transported in time when he hears a certain album.

"My favorite album of all time is Sinatra Reprise: *The Very Good Years*," he said. "It's a compilation of some of the greatest Sinatra songs of all time and has a classic, old New York feel."



Darren Sukenik, of Prudential Douglas Elliman, "hustles" to "A Lover's Holiday."



Whenever I listen to it, I'm reminded of my uncle who used to play Sinatra when I was a child."

Derek N. Cuthbert Jr. of Citi Habitats likes Kanye West's *The College Dropout* album because it tells a story about a life struggle.

"[West] paints a picture of coming from the bottom and overcoming the system of having to go to college to be successful," he said.

Andrea Bocelli's album *Amore* reminds Cynthia Perez, of Citi Habitats, to stay positive.

"It's my favorite because it came out when my mother passed away and really gave inspiration and comfort through a difficult time in my life," she said. "It reminds me that things are not that bad and it makes me not lose sight of the simple things in life."

Mike Simon, president and CEO of Century 21 NYC, likes his music on the tougher side of the spectrum. He loves the Grateful Dead's *Skulls and Roses* and Bruce Springsteen's *The Wild, the Innocent & the E Street Shuffle*.

Darren Sukenik, executive vice president at Prudential Douglas Elliman, likes his music to be fun. His favorite is "A Lover's Holiday" by Change.

"It's hot...and you know I like to hustle!" he said.

Lauren Langley, of Citi Habitats, likes music that helps the day fly by.

"My favorite album is *Neon Bible* by Arcade Fire. It's really great when I'm doing mundane tasks like drawing up leases and riders and filling out paperwork," she said. "It helps keep me focused on the task at hand, yet alert and excited because of the chaotic, other worldly energy of their eclectic sound."

Patrice Mack, of CORE Group Marketing, turns to music to make the work day just a little more fabulous.

"During open houses, I like to like to play Duran Duran," she said. "I feel we have sent more contracts out at 125 N.10th when we play the best of Duran Duran — customers are dancing around to 'Hungry like the Wolf' and 'Girls on Film.' What could be more glamorous?"

Caroline Bass, of Citi Habitats, has been a longtime fan of Billy Joel. *Glass Houses* is her favorite album.

"I absolutely love this album. I grew up listening to Billy Joel as a child and I think his songs are timeless," she said. "All of his songs tell a story and I think they are much more creative and original than most of the new music that is on the shelves today. I am actually going to his last concert

at Shea Stadium this summer; it is going to be my first time seeing him in concert!"

Kris Sylvester said Pearl Jam's album *Ten* is a hands down winner.

"No album has a more perfect title — every track is a winner, no fodder here," he said. "I saw Pearl Jam perform at the Limelight to support this record when it came out; it was my first concert ever."

Max Dobens, vice president and associate broker at Prudential Douglas Elliman, equates his music tastes to his career.

"By far my favorite song is *Mas Que Nada* originally written by Sergio Mendes, but my favorite version is when the Black-Eyed Peas do it," he said. "It's kind of a modernization of something classic, which is how I try to treat real estate and my life — taking something that is classic and making it even better!"

Julie Rupprecht, senior vice president at Halstead Property, turns to Norah Jones' first album, *Come Away with Me*, when she's in a jam.

"I keep it in the car and every time I am alone driving I have it playing," she said. "It's so soothing."

Bill Crescenzo contributed to this article.



Platinum Properties' Jeffrey Carlson pops in Frank Sinatra to remind him of his childhood.