

Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #49

From: Abby Edmunds (aedmunds@pacificsymphony.org)

To: aedmunds@pacificsymphony.org

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Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

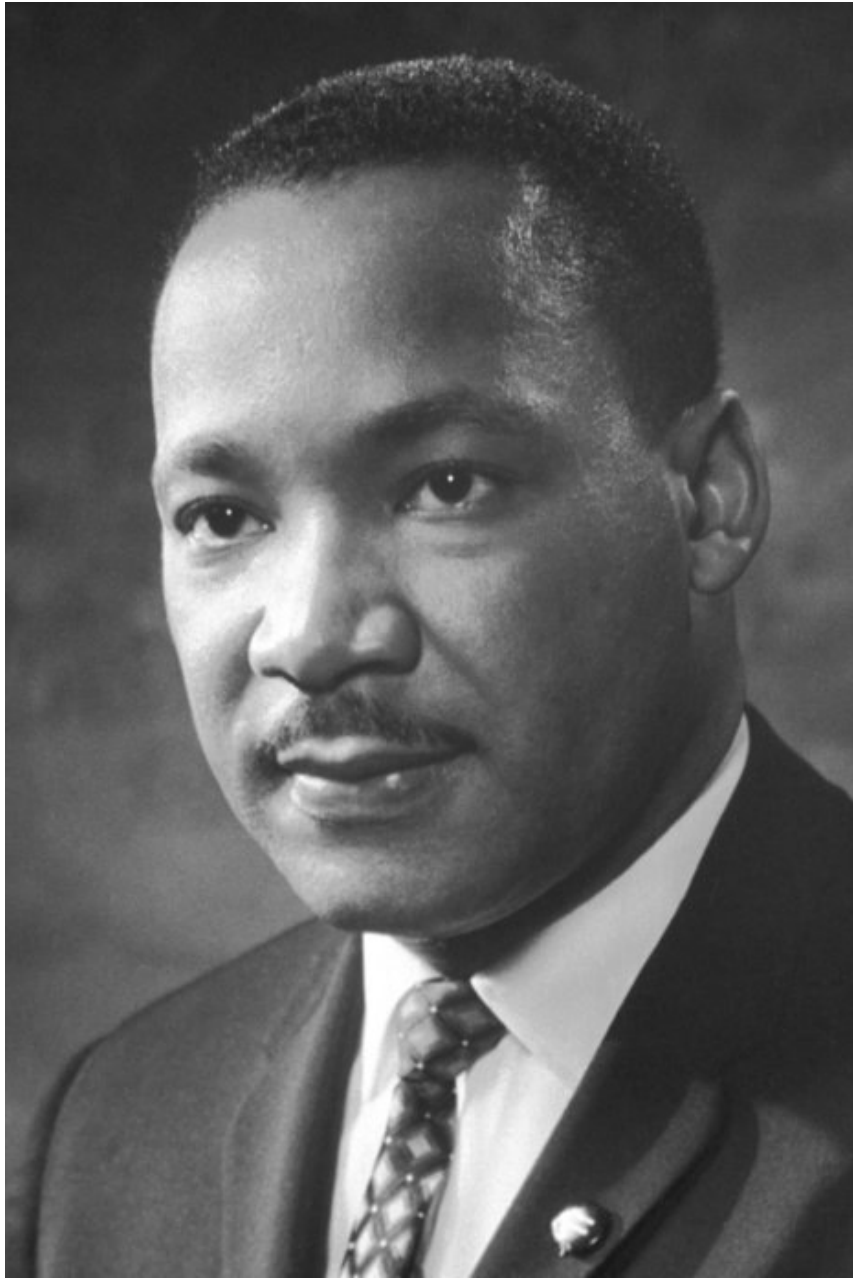
In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his amazing legacy that we will commemorate this coming Monday, January 18th, I thought it might be interesting to discover some of the music he liked best and share that with you today.

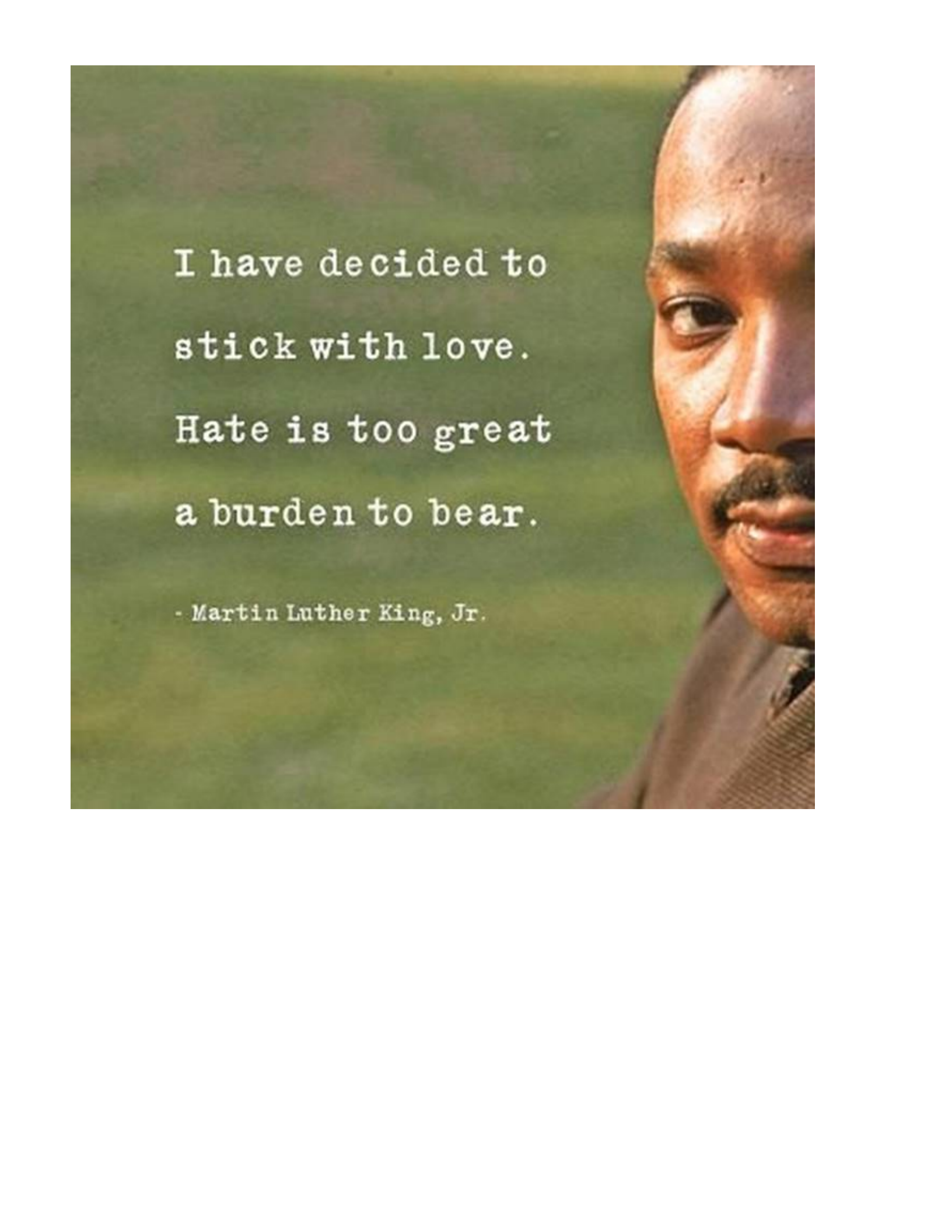
After doing some research this past week, I found that his musical tastes were as I thought, well imbedded in Gospel church music. Dr. King's wife, Coretta Scott King, cited in her autobiography that his favorite song was *There is a Balm in Gilead*. I am very familiar with this song as my mom was a huge fan of Gospel music and I grew up listening to vinyl recordings (we used to just call them "records") of Mahalia Jackson singing this very song! Another of his favorites, as told by his wife, was *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*. Both selections would give Dr. King's soul the lift it needed to continue on with his work. Dr. King's love for music was demonstrated as he included stanzas of spiritual songs in his sermons, such as the Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah. He loved the lyrics in Gospel songs and took many opportunities to share these with others. Another interesting detail I learned this past week about Dr. King was that he would often sing with a group, but never as a soloist. His wife commented that his real gift was speaking, not singing, although his love for music was great!

One of my favorite quotes from Dr. King that I'd like to share with you is "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." King, Martin Luther, Jr. 1967. "Where Do We Go From Here?" Annual Report Delivered at the 11th Convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, August 16, Atlanta, GA.

Enjoy the following two recordings by Mahalia Jackson.

- There is a Balm in Gilead: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFMY4V7RdbU>
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMQkmnqJjSE>





I have decided to
stick with love.
Hate is too great
a burden to bear.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



Now, for a musical selection completely different from the previous two, here is Hungarian Dance No. 6 by Johannes Brahms. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziEyG5-ue1Y>

Johannes Brahms was a German composer, pianist and conductor of the Romantic period. Brahms composed for symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, as well as piano, organ, voice and chorus. A virtuoso pianist, he premiered many of his own works. During his lifetime, he composed a set of 21 lively dance tunes, The Hungarian Dances, and they have become among his most popular works.

It is my pleasure to stay connected with you each week. Until I see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much I miss you.

Warmest regards,

Abby

Abby Edmunds

Director of Volunteer Services | Pacific Symphony

t: (714) 876-2353 | m: (949) 933-4842 | e: aedmunds@PacificSymphony.org

Charlie and Ling Zhang Center for Musical Arts and Education

17620 Fitch, Suite 100 | Irvine, CA 92614

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