

0. MUSIC - THE GLUE of NATHANIEL'S LIFE - Story  
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Music tempers schizophrenia, although scientists do not really understand why. It may have something to do with the ability of people to communicate (without talking) - or - it may have something to do with Immunoglobulin A (IgA) levels and the regulation of neurotransmitters (particularly glutamate and dopamine). However it happens, one can examine the story of Nathaniel Ayers to see music-as-soother in action.

As Steve Lopez watches Ayers play, he observes a person trying his best to cast-off the limitations of illness - and succeeding, at least some of the time. Nathaniel, his new friend,

*...tucks the violin under his chin, blocks out the roar of traffic and leaves the known world. He scratches around a bit, chasing after ideas that aren't quite coming together, but then, as always, he finds a passage that works like a drug and the music pushes him free of all distraction. Eyes closed, head tilted to the heavens, he's gone.*

The street musician connected with this newspaper columnist - a stranger - through the medium of music. Lopez, who wasn't a big fan of classical music before his encounter with Nathaniel, began to appreciate the beauty of works he hadn't really heard before.

After Steve helped Nathaniel find a place to store his instruments (and Little Walt Disney Concert Hall), Ayers no longer had to worry about leaving his treasures outside the library. He was able to borrow sheet music, so he could learn new works and expand his repertoire.

To understand the type of music Nathaniel loves to hear and play, we can watch video clips of musicians performing some of his favorites:

- Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme for Cello and Orchestra
- Tchaikovsky's Variations - ending by Yo-Yo-Ma
- Sibelius' Symphony No. 2
- Ernst Bloch's Prayer, Supplication and Jewish Song
- Dvorak's Cello Concerto
- Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major - Prelude
- Schubert's "Arpeggione" Sonata
- Pablo Casals' "Song of the Birds"

These musical examples calm Nathaniel and help him to focus. And ... thanks to the *LA Times*, and CBS' *Sixty Minutes*, we can actually watch him play some of the works himself.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MUSIC-THE-GLUE-of-NATHANIEL-S-LIFE-The-Soloist)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/MUSIC-THE-GLUE-of-NATHANIEL-S-LIFE-The-Soloist)

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### Nathaniel Ayers - Playing Cello for Steve Lopez

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nathaniel-Ayers-Playing-Cello-for-Steve-Lopez>



### Mstislav Rostropovich Prelude, Bach's Cello Suite No. 1

Video clip online, courtesy inwit's channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mstislav-Rostropovich-Prelude-Bach-s-Cello-Suite-No.-1>



### Pablo Casals - Song of the Birds

Video online, courtesy ProInnovarte's Channel at YouTube.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pablo-Casals-Song-of-the-Birds>



### Tchaikovsky - Rococo Variations Op. 33 (Part 1)

Video online, courtesy clambrush's Channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tchaikovsky-Rococo-Variations-Op.-33-Part-1->



### Yo-Yo Ma -Tchaikovsky's Variations, Rococo Theme

Video clip online, courtesy YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Yo-Yo-Ma-Tchaikovsky-s-Variations-Rococo-Theme>



### Esa-Pekka Salonen - Sibelius Symphony No. 2, Andante

Video clip online, courtesy YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Esa-Pekka-Salonen-Sibelius-Symphony-No.-2-Andante>



### Esa-Pekka Salonen - Sibelius Symphony No. 2 Andante, Pt 2

Video clip online, courtesy YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Esa-Pekka-Salonen-Sibelius-Symphony-No.-2-Andante-Pt-2>



### Esa-Pekka Salonen - Sibelius No. 2, Andante Ending

Video clip online, courtesy YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Esa-Pekka-Salonen-Sibelius-No.-2-Andante-Ending>



### Ernst Bloch - Cello Solo, Prayer

Video online, courtesy WassilyGerassimez's channel at YouTube.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ernst-Bloch-Cello-Solo-Prayer>



### Schubert - Arpeggione Sonata - Beginning

Video online, courtesy clambrush's Channel on YouTube.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Schubert-Arpeggione-Sonata-Beginning>



### Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B Minor, Opus 104

Video online, via PBS.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dvorak-s-Cello-Concerto-in-B-Minor-Opus-104>