

2022 PEN/Faulkner Award Celebration Spotify Playlist

Learn more about our authors' song choices and how they relate to their books, characters, and writing practices. Listen to our [Spotify Playlist](#) before or during the Awards Ceremony!



Rabih Alameddine:

- ***Various songs by Mashrou' Leila*** — A Lebanese band that inspired Rabih's novel.

Nawaaz Ahmed:

- ***Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya***—A protest song, speaking truth to power, an assertion of love's primacy and an individual's worth. Picturised in the movie Mughal-E-Azam as a dazzling song-and-dance sequence, a dancing-girl challenging the emperor of India, "Why be afraid when I merely love?"
- ***Woh Jo Hum Mein Tum Mein Qaraar Tha***—Begum Akhtar evokes the sorrow of lapsed love and broken promises in Momin Khan Momin's beautiful ghazal.
- ***Mujhse Pehli Si Muhabbat***—Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poem (in a rendition by Noor Jehan) that questions the centrality of romantic love in a world overrun by suffering and injustice.

Carolyn Ferrell:

- ***I Want To Thank You by Alicia Myers*** — "This is a song Gwinnie mentions in one of her sections, and I imagine it as a kind of connection between her music and that of her mother. There is something so joyous about the song--it's a bridge between the these two characters in both sound and mind."
- ***I Would Die For You and Diamonds and Pearls by Prince*** — "Both of these songs reflect Gwinnie's abiding love for all things Prince; she recognizes an agency in his music that resonates with her own ambitions for self-expression."
- ***Everything Happens to Me by Chet Baker*** — "Larry, whom I mention in my acknowledgments, often performed this song. He was a major supporter of *Dear Miss Metropolitan* and I often wrote listening to his piano trios."
- ***I Could Fall In Love by Selena*** — "Selena is an artist Jesenia mentions while comparing her taste in music to that of her boyfriend Hector, who prefers "old-fashioned salsa." This song resonates with Jesenia's very real but often misguided desire for love."
- ***I Love Music by The O'Jays*** — "Fern mentions this song as part of her love of Soul Train, and I personally always associate this song with community and love!"
- *Additional songs that inspired Carolyn's novel: Caribbean Queen by Billy Ocean; Rollercoaster of Love by the Ohio Players; Sweet Thing by Chaka Khan.*

Carolina de Robertis:

- ***Solo le Pido a Dios by Mercedes Sosa*** — "This classic of the Nueva Canción movement, performed by indigenous Argentinean icon Mercedes Sosa, was and still remains a major anthem of resistance to war and authoritarianism in Latin America and beyond. It captures both the historical resistance movements portrayed in *The President and the Frog*, and the cultural and political themes that connect its story to our current here and now."
- ***Latinoamérica by Calle 13*** — "This is one of my personal hype songs -- whether I'm preparing to teach, write, talk on a panel, or just live my day. I listened to it constantly while writing *The President and the Frog*, as it captures some of the spirit of the book for me in its blend of resistance, celebration, and pure joy at being alive in a broken, dazzling world."

Imbolo Mbue:

- ***The Gods Love Nubia***— a song from the Broadway musical AIDA that Imbolo listened to often while writing her book.