

A-SIDE

- 1. Don't Stop Believin' by Journey
- 2. 9 Wanna Dance with Yomebody by Whitney Houston
- 3. When Doves Cry by Prince
- 4. Africa by Toto
- 5. Jrue Colors
 by Cyndi Lauper
- 6. 9 Love Rock 'n Roll by Joan Jett & the Blackhearts
- 7. Love Shack by The B-52's
- 8. Hold On

 by Wilson Phillips
- 9. Under the Bridge by Red Hot Chili Peppers
- 10. Boy Band Medleyby Blackstreet, Backstreet Boys,*NSYNC, Boyz II Men

- 11. Viwa La Diwa!by Lady Gaga, Madonna,Britney Spears, Beyoncé
- 12. Yeven Nation Army by The White Stripes
- 13. Re: Stacks
 by Bon Iver
- 14. Shallow by Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper
- 15. We Are the World by USA for Africa
- 16. You Learn by Alanis Morissette
- 17. What About Usby P!nk
- 18. Ever-Changing Land (World Premiere) by Chris Urquiaga
- 19. Дарру by Pharrell Williams
- 20. Shut Up and Dance by Walk the Moon

BY JOURNEY

1981

Michael Steelman, soloist
Cary Gibson, soloist
John Mark Carter, cover
Julia Chertkof, cover

arr. Alan Billingsley

Full Dance Team
Devon Gunn, Dance Captain



This power ballad was inspired by advice from Jonathan Cain's father, who told him, "Don't stop believing or you're done, dude."

In 2022, Don't Stop Believin' was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the United States National Recording Registry as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

In 2008, it became the most downloaded track of the 20th century on the iTunes Music Store

BY WHITNEY HOUSTON

1987

Full Dance Team Kelly Griffin, Dance Captain

arr. Allan Laiño



Produced by Narada Michael Walden who joined Journey in 2020

Houston won her second Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for this song at the 30th Annual Grammy Awards



Writer Shannon Rubicam said: I pictured somebody single wishing that they could find that special person for themselves. It wasn't, 'I wanna go down the disco and dance,' really. It was, 'I wanna do that dance of life with somebody.' That was the thought behind the song.

BY PRINCE 1984

Christopher Daniels, soloist Kelly Griffin, soloist Hayley Fleming, soprano Sarah Bruno, alto Blake Brittain, tenor arr. Allan Laiño

Dance Team
Russell Ames
Lynne Barstow
Steven Boyd
Kristina Kelly
Loretta Richardson

Prince's first Billboard Hot
100 No. 1 single, staying there
for five weeks

The song was intended to match a theme of a difficult parental relationship and a love affair for a segment of Purple Rain, but was also inspired by Prince's relationship with Susan Moonsie

BY TOTO

1982

arr. Roger Emerson

Reached No.1 on the Billboard charts, and became popular in the 2010s with Weezer's cover (which version do you think is better?)



Co-founder and writer David Paich said that the song is about a man's love of the continent Africa

He was inspired after watching a latenight documentary with depictions of African plight and suffering

"It both moved and appalled me, and the pictures just wouldn't leave my head. I tried to imagine how I'd feel about it if I was there and what I'd do." - David Paich

BY CYNDI LAUPER

1986

This performance is dedicated to Claudia Levy (1943-2021), a longtime member and fierce supporter of the Congressional Chorus family.

Briana Thibeau, soloist Paden Tranter, cover arr. Matthew Brown

Lauper founded the True Colors annual music festival to support LGBT charities and human rights activism (Joan Jett and the B-52's were featured in the festival!)



Written by songwriter Billy
Steinberg about his own mother

The song has taken on special meaning in the gay community which is represented by a rainbow pride flag. Lauper, a continuous supporter of LGBTQ rights, was thrilled to hear the song resonated with that community.

BY JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS
1981

Eliza Abendroth, soloist



Originally recorded and released by the British rock band Arrows in 1975



Joan Jett decided to record the song after seeing the Arrows perform and recorded her cover with members of the Sex Pistols

BY THE B-52S

1989

John Mark Carter, soloist Kristina Caggiano Kelly, soprano Hayley Fleming, alto



Inspired by—you guessed it—an actual shack with a tin roof, near Athens, Georgia where the band conceived "Rock Lobster", a single from their debut album

The "Love Shack" is in many ways a state of mind; a place where people of all stripes come for a groovy good time. The band drew inspiration from a real club called the Hawaiian Ha–Le. This place drew a multifarious crowd of hippies, scenesters, and lots of students from the nearby University of Georgia.

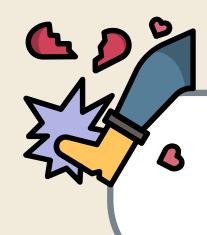
BY WILSON PHILLIPS

1990

Karen Dowling, soprano 1
Devon Gunn, soprano 2
Hayley Fleming, soprano 2 cover
Michelle Kannan, alto

arr. Kirby Shaw

Written by Chynna Phillips about her personal struggle with addiction, based on lessons she learned in AA. Phillips later said, "I thought to myself, 'Well, AA tells me, just hold on, just one day at a time.'



On release, Hold On kicked Madonna's Vogue off the No.1 Billboard spot

BY RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
1991

Jonathan Lain, soloist Blake Brittain, cover

The song's intro by guitarist John
Frusciante was inspired by Hendrix's
1967 Little Wing

Similar to Hold On, Anthony Kiedis wrote the song about his personal struggle with addiction to heroin and cocaine, ultimately impacting his relationship with girlfriend lone Skye

BLACKSTREET · BACKSTREET BOYS · *NSYNC · BOYZ II MEN

arr. Allan Laiño

Donald Willis, soloist
Christopher Daniels, soloist
Kelly Griffin, soloist
Chris Urquiaga, soloist

Dance Team
Eliza Abendroth
Russell Ames
Karen Dowling
Devon Gunn
Natalie Grandison
Kelly Griffin

No Diggity (1996) by Blackstreet samples "Grandma's Hands" by Bill Withers. The beat was originally suggested to Tupac, but Dre ultimately sold it to Teddy Riley.

Btw, in case you were wondering, 'no diggity' means 'no doubt'. You're welcome.

I Want It That Way (1999) by Backstreet Boys was voted the best boyband single since 1998.

The song is beloved as a pop ballad, but the lyrics have been criticized for 'making no sense' even by admission of the original writers!

CONT.

Tearin' Up My Heart (1997) was initially pitched to the Backstreet Boys but *NYSYNC ultimately recorded it.

TOP (!)
100

The song ranked #5 on Bilboard's 100 Greatest Boy Band Songs of All Time

...(below I Want It That Way at #1)

The etymology of Motown Philly (1991) by Boyz II Men involves a combination of two of the group's main musical influences: 1960s Motown and 1970s Philly Soul.

Bye Bye (2000) by *NS/NC was written by Kristian Lundin, a Swedish composer who also wrote numerous Backstreet Boys hits along with Max Martin.

15 MINUTES

LADY GAGA · MADONNA · BRITNEY SPEARS · BEYONCÉ

Original GLEE arr. by Adam Anders and Tim Davis Adapted for publication by Mark Brymer

Dance Team

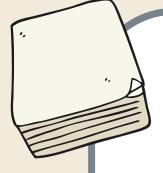
Eliza Abendroth
Karen Dowling
Natalie Grandison
Kelly Griffin
Devon Gunn

Loretta Richardson

There are three Alfred
Hitchcock film titles hidden
in the lyrics of Bad Romance
(2009) by Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga was accused of ripping off Madonna's Express Yourself (1989) on her 2011 #1 hit, Born This Way. However, Gaga claimed to have received an email from Madonna, in which the Queen of Pop gave her support on behalf of the single.

CONT.



Cathy Dennis said that writing Toxic (2003) was "sheer torture." She told Songwriting magazine: "I beat myself up for seven days, not sleeping. The melody came first, then I had this puzzle of trying to fit words to the right number of syllables. It was really weird. I kept writing and then re-editing myself again, and again, and again."



Lady Gaga initially wrote Telephone for singer Britney Spears' sixth studio album, Circus, but Spears went in a different direction

The Single Ladies' dance is based on a dance performed on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1969

BY THE WHITE STRIPES

2003

Blake Brittain, soloist

When Jack White wrote the main riff for this song, his first idea was to save it in case he ever got the chance to write a James Bond theme

The title of the song comes from what Jack White thought the Salvation Army was called when he was a child

BY BON IVER
2003

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

as performed by Sonos arr. Jessica Rae Freedman

The name "Bon Iver," is actually derived from the French phrase "Bon Hiver" meaning "Good Winter"

The use of "Re" in the song title relates to the "Regarding" people use in letters and emails

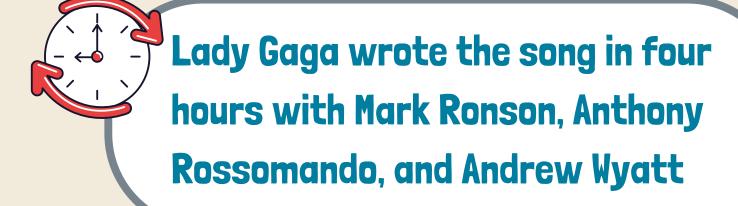
BY LADY GAGA AND BRADLEY COOPER

2018

Michelle Kannan, soloist Steven Boyd, soloist

Cary Gibson, soloist Blake Brittain, soloist

This song won the Golden Globe award for Best Original Song From A Motion Picture



BY USA FOR AFRICA

1985

arr. Roger Emerson

Soloists

Rosalie Person
Cecilia Brawner
Michael Steelman
Donald Willis
Lynne Barstow
Val Lehman
Julia Chertkof
Steven Boyd
Natalie Grandison
Paden Tranter
LeighAnne Markaity
Jonathan Lain

We Are the World was a benefit single for victims of famine in Africa. It raised over \$60 Million, which was distributed to Ethiopia, Sudan, and other impoverished countries.

The project from conception to recording took about a month

BY ALANIS MORISSETTE

1995

Karen Dowling, soprano 1 Hayley Fleming, soprano 2 Michelle Kannan, alto arr. Mark Brymer

Alanis Morissette is the first

Canadian female to have a #1

album in the US (Jagged Little Pill)

The lyrics, "Swallow it down, what a jagged little pill," in this song, provided the album title

WHAT ABOUT US

BY P!NK

2017

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Madison Malin, soloist LeighAnne Markaity, soloist

arr. Paul Langford

The album, Beautiful Trauma, where this song was featured, was Pink's second album to debut at #1 in the US



The song's lyrics send a message about those who feel unheard or forgotten

BY CHRIS URQUIAGA

2020

WORLD PREMIERE

Music and Lyrics by Chris Urquiaga Arr. by Chris Urquiaga



Commissioned in 2019 by nine members and friends of Congressional Chorus

Diamond Sponsor: Louise Buchanan

Gold Sponsor: Holly Hassett

Silver Sponsors: Mike Blank, David Cape, Claudia

Levy, Noel Nazario

Bronze Sponsors: Fritz Olbricht, Myra Turoff,

and Ken Weiner

BY PHARRELL WILLIAMS

2013

Dance Team

arr. by Mark Brymer

Russell Ames

Karen Dowling, captain

Natalie Grandison

Kelly Griffin

Devon Gunn

Kristina Kelly



Happy was written and produced by Pharrell Williams for Despicable Me 2

The word Happy is repeated 56 times throughout the song. See if you can count them all!

BY WALK THE MOON 2014

Full Dance Team
Eliza Abendroth, captain

arr. by Andy Beck



This song is featured in Tony
Award-winning Moulin Rouge! the
Musical, currently on Broadway

Walk the Moon has cited Talking Heads, David Bowie, the Police, Tears for Fears, and Phil Collins as influences in their music

APAITISTS ATTISTS





DR. ALLAN LAIÑO Artistic Director

American Prize winner Allan Laiño ("lah-EE- nyoh" or / la '?i njo /) is the fourth Artistic Director of the Congressional Chorus. As a second-generation Filipino-American with wide-ranging musical influences, he aims to reshape the landscape of American choral artistry by creating an environment in which all voices can flourish. In 2021, he was the awardee in music for The Outstanding Filipinos in America presented at Carnegie Hall.

Laiño has prepared choral ensembles for the National Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Marin Alsop, BSO Pops and Jack Everly, NSO Pops and Steven Reineke,

DR. ALLAN LAIÑO Artistic Director cont.

Piedmont Symphony Orchestra, Game of Thrones Live Concert Experience, and the Josh Groban Live National Tour.

2018, he debuted on the Kennedy Center stage as a choral conductor, collaborating with The Philip Glass Ensemble and The Washington Chorus in tribute to honoree Philip Glass at The Kennedy Center Honors. He returned to lead TWC in a choral feature for the NSO Pops holiday concerts. As Assistant Conductor for TWC, he stepped in on short notice to finish choral preparation and serve as substitute chorus master for the world premiere of Lera Auerbach's ARCTICA with the NSO and Teddy Abrams. As Co-Conductor of the Sunday Night Singers in 2012, he earned First Prize at the World Choir Games in the Mixed Chamber Choir Champions Division. He is the 2018 winner of The American Prize—Community Chorus Division, and was a finalist in two categories for the 2020 The American Prize in Composition.

As a Principal Associate Conductor and Artistic Coordinator with the National Children's Chorus, Dr. Laiño conducts ensembles in the Senior Division, and supervises a nationwide musicianship program. As Co-Artistic Director of DC-based professional ensemble Bridge, Laiño produced, edited, directed, and sang in America, You're Beautiful, a short film that merged spoken word and choral music to

DR. ALLAN LAIÑO

Artistic Director cont.

examine racism in America. The film won the Black Truth Film Festival, Queens Underground International Black and Brown Film Festival, and Shortie Film Festival.



DR. STEVEN SEIGART
Principal Accompanist

Dr. Steven Seigart is a conductor, organist, and composer based in the D.C. area. Dr. Seigart holds degrees in choral conducting and organ from the University of Maryland, Boston University, and the Eastman School of Music. He specializes in improvisation, has been featured on NPR's Pipedreams Live!, and was a semifinalist in the National Competition in Organ Improvisation. He has held positions at the Church of St. Joseph (Bronxville, NY), Christ Church (Rochester, NY), St. Paul's Cathedral (Syracuse, NY), and many others across the Northeast. He currently serves as Director of Music at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, Virginia and as Principal Accompanist for the Congressional Chorus. He is also active as a collaborative pianist, continuo player, and composer, and resides in Burke, VA with his wife Suzanne and their dog, Schubert. More at stevenseigart.com.



CHRIS URQUIAGA Composer, Guest Conductor, Guest Soloist

Singer-songwriter, pianist, and producer Chris Urquiaga, known as JChris, is lauded for his exciting performance energy and smooth voice. Hailed as "...the next big thing" by Metro Weeklymagazine, this Latin pop virtuoso is internationally recognized for his pop compositions which are laced with Latin, Afro and Brazilian influences. His music explores themes of gender fluidity and queer culture.

Chris started playing piano at the age of 7 and started playing at churches at the age of 9. During Chris' childhood years, his performance experiences as a soloist and with choral and instrumental ensembles brewed an interest in composition. Throughout high school and college, Chris developed a desire to tell his own story through his own music. After studying composition at the Eastman School of Music, Chris became highly active as a singer-songwriter, releasing indie pop albums under the stage name Chris Urquiaga. Chris' desire to deepen his connection with and express his Brazilian, Peruvian and gay identity, led him a new direction. In 2020, Chris rebranded himself as an urban Latin artist under the stage name JChris. As JChris, he has already seen great success with the release of his singles. His 2021 single, Caliente (featuring major Latin artist Naldo Benny), has reached over 1 million views on YouTube. Chris' Spotify channel has over 500,000 streams.

Chris has co-arranged and co-produced with JohnnyTechAudio for his new sound as JChris. As a team, they have received critical acclaim for their high-quality and

CHRIS URQUIAGA cont.

edgy urban tracks.

Chris has worked with an international team of professionals including chart-topping superstar Naldo Benny for JChris' "Caliente" music video, and Yurel Echezarreta from the movie West Side Story (Remake) for JChris' upcoming LGBT-centered music videos Oportunidad and Dime. A vocal a cappella version of JChris' Macarena has been made by arranger/composer Tom Anderson, whose arrangements have been featured on NBC's "The Sing Off". The vocal a cappella version of Macarena written by Anderson is planned to be recorded and released in 2023. Chris has also shared the stage with Stokley Williams of the band Mint Condition.

Chris' achievements and accolades led him to receive the 2017 Montgomery County Hispanic Heritage Month Award in Maryland for his achievements in the performing arts and for playing a vital role in shaping his hometown community. In 2019, he was the featured performer for the Hispanic Swearing-In Ceremony for the 116th US Congress, performing for Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer. That same year, Chris was featured on the cover of Metro Weekly magazine, being described as an artist with a "potent, sweet, and rich voice [with] songwriting skills to match."

While attending the Eastman School of Music, he composed and performed music for all styles and mediums. His education in music helped him achieve several career milestones including commissions by Congressional Chorus, Grace Chorale of Brooklyn and soprano Carmen Balthrop, and performances for Barack and Michelle Obama at The White House, Feinstein's/54 Below, and Conservatorio

CHRIS URQUIAGA cont.

Nacional de Música in Lima, Perú, among other venues in the US, South America, and Europe. Chris is currently composing a musical comedy about gentrification called "Mr. Manhattan!" with lyricist Jordan Silver in New York City. The musical's protagonist, like Chris, is also of Brazilian and Peruvian descent.

For more information, visit jchrisofficial.com/about



CHRIS DECHIARA Drums

A native of Boston, MA, percussionist Chris DeChiara received his Master of Music degree from New England Conservatory and Bachelor of Music from UMASS Lowell. He was a percussionist and soloist with the United States Navy Band in Washington D.C. for 21 years, drummer of the local cover band, Dr.FU; Iron Maiden tribute, Eyes of the Nile; lead vocalist of the Beatles acoustic group, Nowhere Men; principal timpanist with the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, and an active freelancer/recording artist in the Washington D.C. area. Chris resides in Burke, VA.



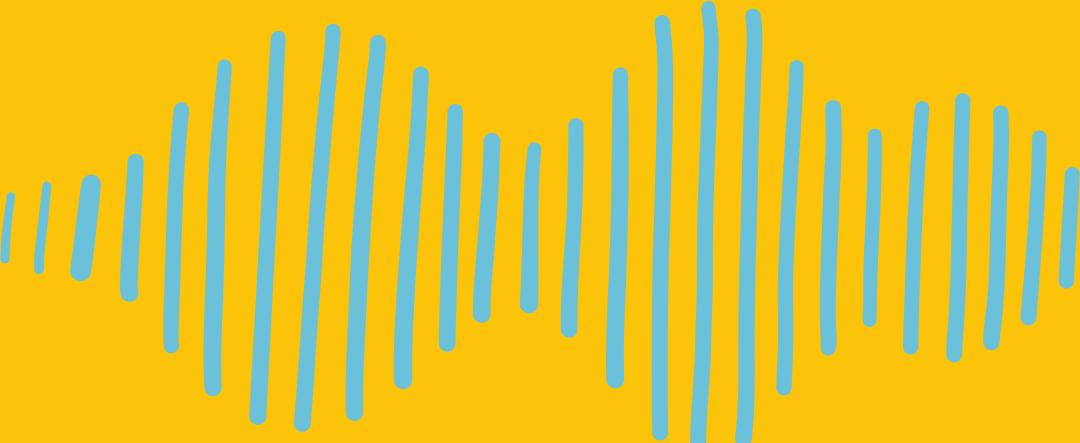
TOM LAGANA Guitar

As a jazz guitarist and band leader, a classical guitarist, an educator, and a composer, Tom Lagana has garnered respect for his creativity, musical integrity, and devotion to his craft. After graduating from the Berklee College of Music, he worked as the guitarist for the Walt Disney Jazz Band in Orlando, Florida, before returning to his home state of Maryland where the Tom Lagana Trio became the house band at The King of France Tavern in Annapolis. Lagana went on to get a Masters in Music at Towson University where he was awarded second prize in the Sidney Lieberman Competition, the first guitarist ever to place in that competition. Lagana was featured with the National Symphony Orchestra in David Del Tredici's work Final Alice and appeared again with the NSO and Eric Idle of the Monty Python troupe. He has also performed with the York Symphony Orchestra, the Richmond Symphony, and recently with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in the John Waters' Hairspray tribute and again as accompanist to singer Jackie Evancho. He has taught at Towson University and is currently on the faculty at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. His recordings include Patuxent, Schematic, and most recently, Vol.1.



MAX MURRAY Bass

Bassist MAX MURRAY is a seasoned veteran of the performing and recording scene. He has played nearly every imaginable style of music on both electric and acoustic bass. Max served as a member of the US Navy Band for over two decades. Since his military retirement, he has established himself as a much sought after player in the region. Max has shared the stage with a diverse list of artists, including Henry Mancini, Mose Allison, Jimmy Witherspoon, Lee Greenwood, Neil Sedaka, Louie Bellson, Gene Bertoncini, Poncho Sanchez, Dave Samuels, Richie Cole and Donny McCaslin. His bass work can be heard on many jingles and recordings. In 2008, he earned a Latin Grammy Award with The Caribbean Jazz Project, for Best Latin Jazz Recording. When not on stage, Max can often be found in DC area theatre pits. For more information, please visit his website, www.maxbass.com.





LYDIA PAPPAS Choreographer

Lydia Pappas was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia where she studied dance for nine years with Atlanta Dance Theatre. She extended her dance training to several summer intensives including Boston Ballet, Joffrey Midwest, Ballet Austin, and more. She was a Political and International Affairs major and triple minor in Dance, History, and Biology at Wake Forest University. She is a dance instructor with 305 Fitness and DivaDance DC, and the Senior Sales Manager, Onboarding at Industry Dive.



DARRYL PILATE
Choreographer

Originally from Texas, DARRYL PILATE completed his fourteenth year teaching dance education at High Point High School in Prince George's County Public Schools. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Dance with a minor in Health Administration from Texas State University and a Master of Business Administration from Texas

DARRYL PILATE cont.

Woman's University. He studied under various dance artist in genres such as ballet, jazz, Hawkins technique, hip hop, and contemporary. Darryl Pilate has taught in several middle and high schools choreographing many styles of dance. As a District of Columbia resident, Darryl dances with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington DC and choreographs for the DC Congressional Chorus. He is a guest artist/choreographer for Light Switch Dance Theatre. Pilate is the owner of Dazza Entertainment, LLC.



CONGRESSIONAL CONGRESSIONAL

SOPRANO

Eliza Abendroth
Kate Bogan
†Kristina Caggiano Kelly
†Karen Dowling
Maggie Dunlap
Cary Gibson
Louisa Glor
†Devon Gunn
Mechelle King
Val Lehman
†Madison Malin
*†LeighAnne Markaity
Loretta Richardson
Laurène Meulemans
Amy Swartz

TENOR

+Steven Boyd
+Blake Brittain
John Mark Carter
Walt Cooper
+Christopher Daniels
*+Kelly Griffin
Jonathan Lain
John Lemen

*Section Leader +Chamber Ensemble

ALTO

Cassie Anderson Lynne Barstow Cecilia Brawner +Sarah Bruno Louise Buchanan Julia Chertkof Irina Dvorak Hayley Fleming **Emily Fournier** +Natalie Grandison +Michelle Kannan *Elizabeth Megginson Rosalie Person Rachel Saady-Saxe +Briana Thibeau Paden Tranter

BASS

*†Russell Ames
Dave Cape
Greg Michaels
James Petrick
Michael Steelman
*†Daniel Wanke
Donald Willis



Lydia Pappas & Darryl Pilate Co-Choreographers



Eliza Abendroth
Russell Ames
Lynne Barstow
Steven Boyd
Karen Dowling
Kristina Caggiano Kelly
Loretta Richardson
Karen Dowling
Louisa Glor
Natalie Grandison
Kelly Griffin
Devon Gunn
Donald Willis

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Lydia Pappas, Choreography
Darryl Pilate, Choreography
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Amy Swartz, Program Research

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