

1972 Outreach Survey Results

Q1: Music helped define our time at Carleton. Which of these songs would you like to see on a class playlist? Indicate all you would include and suggest a few other favorites.

Sex, drugs and rock and roll are thought to have heavily influenced the music of the '60s and '70s. Based on this survey, the long-term music influences on the Carleton Class of '72 would be better described as Love, Peace and Classic Rock and Folk. The songs listed in the survey were ranked:

1. Like a Bridge Over Troubled Water – 64%
2. Like a Rolling Stone – 53%
3. Blackbird – 51%
4. Purple Haze – 39%
5. River – 30%

“Other” received an additional 45% of entries and the list of songs and artists is a reminder of the wealth of musical talent we listened to as we became adults as well as how music transitioned during this period with the advent of new instruments (electronic and unusual) and competition from contemporaries. Artists that appeared frequently in the “other” responses included Leo Kottke; the Beatles; Carole King; The Band; Bob Dylan; Buffalo Springfield; the Byrds; Credence Clearwater Revival; Crosby, Stills and Nash; Judy Collins; Moody Blues; James Taylor; Neil Young; and more. Of course, more classic rock artists like the Doors, Rolling Stones, Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, Cream, Grateful Dead, the Kinks, Led Zeppelin, and Santana appeared in the responses. Folk, blues, jazz, and country singers including Johnny Cash, Joan Baez, Muddy Waters, Roberta Flack, Taj Mahal, and Peter Paul and Mary. Motown fans offered The Temptations, Four Tops, Gladys Knight and the Pips, and Al Green. Other entries included music from earlier centuries (e.g., Verdi, Chopin). There also were many with only one or two mentions. We look forward to compiling these into a class playlist.

Q2: Which of the following do you use most often to listen to music in your home?

It appears from the answers provided that streaming services or music recorded on home computers, smart phones and similar digital devices supply most of the music listened to by those responding to the survey. The responses were:

1. Smart speaker, computer, smart phone, etc. – 55%
2. Radio – 21%
3. CD player – 20%
4. Record player – 2%
5. Other (piano, all of the above except Smart Speaker) – 2%

Q3: Are you retired (i.e. no longer working more than 10 hours per week time for money)?

Retired: 71%

Still Working: 29%

The retired stopped working how long ago:

1. One to almost 5 years – 32%
2. Five to almost 10 years – 31%
3. Ten to almost 15 years – 15%
4. Less than 1 year – 15%
5. Fifteen or more years – 7%

Q4: During the last 49 years, what is the longest amount of time that you worked for one organization?

1. Over 30 years – 35%
2. 10 years to 19.9 years – 35%
3. 20 years to 29.9 years – 24%
4. 5 years to 9.9 years – 4%
5. 4.9 years or less – 2%

Q5: As you approached retirement or if you are currently thinking about retiring which of the following was or is your greatest concern? (Check a few that are most important to you).

As you'll see below, by a wide margin those who responded were most concerned about whether they could find something meaningful and worthwhile to occupy their time. Some comments expand on this theme by linking good health to actually fulfill these activities.

1. Will I find something meaningful and worthwhile to occupy my time – 53%
2. Do I have sufficient financial resources – 37%
3. How will I be able to do all the things on my bucket list – 21%
4. Will I be bored – 18%
5. Will I become a burden on my spouse, children and/or friends – 15%
6. Will I have a close relationship with grandchildren – 12%

The 24% who chose “other” included people who claimed to have no concerns about retiring, those concerned about having good health (and figuring out health insurance options), ability to maintain close relationships with friends and family, loneliness, ability to continue to grow in artistic measures, ability to gain expertise in a new field and make contributions in that field, getting through the challenges of starting a new life in retirement after moving, and reducing “stuff.”

Q6: How many nonprofit organizations are you involved in as a board member or active volunteer?

1. 1 or 2 – 46%
2. 3 or 4 – 27%
3. None – 18%
4. 5 or 6 – 5%
5. More than 6 – 4%

Q7: With which type of voluntary organization(s) are you involved? (Check all that apply)

1. 501(c)(3) (foodbank, childcare center, environmental org, etc.) – 62%
2. Other – 42%
3. Religious or religious affiliated organization – 40%
4. Political group or campaign – 27%
5. Civic organization (Rotary, HO association, country club, etc.) – 15%

Most of the specific organizations listed in the “other” category would fit into one of the groups above but are interesting in their diversity, including professional organizations, kennel clubs, citizen science in a national park, foundations, pro-bono entrepreneur support, crisis team for first responders, Carleton reunion planning, youth coach, Toastmasters, community bands, language learning, social justice

reforms, social justice and legal reforms, local government, homelessness and other housing groups, and libraries.

Q8: How many hours in a typical month do you spend volunteering? (Please use your pre-pandemic involvement.)

1. 5-10 hours – 33%
2. Less than 5 hours – 16%
3. 10-20 hours – 15%
4. None – 14%
5. 20-40 hours – 13%

Q9: Have you ever been to a Carleton reunion.

Yes: 72%

No: 28%

Q10: As you think about the 50th Carleton reunion how would you rate the following in importance as you decide whether or not to attend? A chance to (displayed as weighted average of importance):

It's clear that we value connecting with each other, and we will share this information with the Program Committee to ensure we allow time for this during our reunion in 2022.

