hat was the song of your childhood? Doris Day’s The Deadwood Stage is Elton John’s and now he, and a host of celebs, are sharing their musical memories online to help eight million children suffering silently in overseas orphanages.

Ed Sheeran, Emeli Sande and Paul Weller are among musicians to join Elton in sharing their most precious childhood songs and memories for the ‘End the Silence’ campaign, which you too can take part in, helping to create the world’s largest online musical memory time capsule before Christmas while raising £1.5m in donations for UK-based charity Hope and Homes for Children.

The scheme allows people to pick their most precious childhood song, and then share it on social media with a memory. By adding a donation, you can help Hope and Homes for Children find families for 120,000 children suffering silence in Ugandan and Rwandan orphanages.

Mark Waddington, CEO of Hope and Homes for Children, explained: “When a baby in an orphanage cries and nobody comes to comfort them, they learn not to cry.

“By internalising their pain, they suffer lifelong mental and physical damage.

“Deprived of love, life, and hope, these children grow up in silence. They never hear laughter or music. These children will never experience the love and protection only a family can offer.

“The idea of a childhood of silence and neglect in an orphanage - without love, family and music - is unacceptable.

“By joining the world’s top musicians in sharing your most precious childhood musical memory, you can help us to end the silence.”

Every pound donated to the End the Silence campaign before December 27 will be doubled by the UK Government as part of its UK Aid Match scheme.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said: “No child should have to spend their childhood in an orphanage, deprived of the love and support only a family can bring. Through their End the Silence Campaign, Hope and Homes for Children is providing struggling individuals with the life changing support that’s needed to keep families together. Every donation made by the generous British public to the End the Silence appeal will be matched pound for pound by the UK Government, meaning we will double the difference Britons can make to those children in Rwanda and Uganda, who are suffering in silence.”

• End the Silence is supported by the UK Government, YouTube, Google and Fullwell73.
• To ensure no child suffers silently in an orphanage, share your most precious childhood musical memory at www.endthesilence.com, or look out for #endthesilence and #UKaid on Twitter

Here are the celebrities’ childhood songs... and yours

**Doris Day**

The song of my childhood was *The Deadwood Stage*.

“There are so many records from my childhood but Doris Day’s The Deadwood Stage was important because I was so frightened to go to the dentists. The only way I was going to do it is if my mum bought that record for me after. So I had my tooth out, we went in to the record store. I clutched it, I loved it so much, I couldn’t wait to get home and play it.

For a child to be deprived of music is one of the most wicked things I can think of.”

**Elton John**

Elton John’s song of his childhood is *Van Morrison and the Chieftains*.

“We lived in Yorkshire, which is about a four or five hour drive to London. My parents would commute and I’d be sat on the back seat and this was pretty much the only tape cassette we had - that and The Beatles. It’s the one song I remember. It takes me back to that specific moment, much like songs from my teenage years take me back to being a teenager or songs from two years ago transport you back there.”

**Ed Sheeran**

Ed Sheeran grew up listening to *Peter, Paul and Mary*.

“Peter, Paul and Mary.”

We asked the people of East Anglia to share the songs that transport them back to their youth, inspired by a very special charity campaign...
"Maybe it’s a question of selective memory, but I remember it being a nice summer. Waterloo Sunset came out in May, which is the same month as my birthday, I would have been nine. It’s caught up in happy..."

Paul Weller

"My dad introduced me to Mariah Carey and her music when I was about seven years old. I remember this song specifically really giving me strength and empowering me to be who I was. I grew up in Scotland, I loved growing up there"

Emeli Sande

"I absolutely loved dancing to Wilson Pickett’s In The Midnight Hour at the Orford Place in about 1966 or so. I was young and carefree and Saturday night in the city was the highlight of my life!"

Shauna McCue, Norfolk

"Boom bang a bang takes me back to my childhood. I would have been 8, I can remember singing it on my swing in the back garden."

Joanne Double, Ipswich

"There was a children’s request show every Saturday morning in the 50s, same old songs but I loved them! Puff the Magic Dragon, I’m a Pink Toothbrush etc, Windmill in Old Amsterdam, Rawhide, Davy Crockett."

Linda Human, Norwich

"Little White Bull was the first record I ever bought. I developed a crush on Tommy Steele when I was about 5, and 60 years later, it hasn’t really gone away."

Bromwyn Reeves, Ipswich

"A sad story, but I remember my mum singing Brahms Lullaby. She used to sing a lot when I was young. She was singing it when a policeman came to break the news that my brother had been killed in a road accident. She never sang it again. I can’t hear it without thinking of both of them."

Maria Maes, Norwich

"Two pop songs I particularly remember from my early childhood are ‘The Lion Sleeps Tonight’ by Token and ‘The Locomotion’ by Little Eva. The records belonged to a friend’s brother and we listened to them when playing at her house."

Beverly Bowry, Suffolk

"Oh! Oh! Antonio, I couldn’t have been more than four at the time, but I used to get the man living next door to sing it out of his bedroom window. That was in about 1937."

Alan Forsdick, Norwich

"They used to play Boogie Oogie Oogie all the time at the Bramford road fair that came at Easter around 1977 I’d have been 13 years old, I loved it."

Jane Garnham Woods, Ipswich

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HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW?
Patti Page
“My dad used to sing a lot of songs to me when I was young, including How Much is That Doggie in the Window?, Boom Boom Boom Boom and Deep in the Heart of Texas.”
Francesca Johnson, Norfolk

I KNOW AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY
Peter, Paul and Mary
“Jimmy Hanley used to play this on a Saturday morning radio show called Junior Choice... I’m really showing my age now!”
Sue Oxbury, Norwich

TUBBY THE TUBA
Danny Kaye
“Children’s Favorties on the radio Home Service, occasionally featured Tubby the Tuba, Sparky and His Magic Piano, and The Emperor’s New Clothes. I loved these because they told a story. On the other hand I couldn’t bear Max Bygraves singing I’m A Pink Toothbrush. A romance between toothbrushes pushed one’s suspension of disbelief just a little too far... although a frog teaching a talking tuba a tune was fine. I also loved the Drinking Song from Sigmund Romberg’s light operetta The Student Prince. I was under the impression it began: “Drink, drink drink Eliza...” The actual lyric is “Drink, drink, drink! To eyes that are sick!”
Lyne Mortimer, Features Writer for East Anglian Daily Times

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SWING ON A STAR
Pinky and Perky
...who were puppet pigs. I used to watch it in the 60s and loved the programme as they were quite naughty. They had weird little voices too. I think that’s why I have such a love for pigs now.
Bernice Lawless

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE
The song “You are my sunshine” reminds me of my childhood as my mum would always sing it to me.
Lou Bega - Mambo No.5 always takes me back too, as soon as I hear it I think of all the times me and my brother would play it really loud and dance around the living room, jumping from sofa to sofa, before acting innocent when my mum would come back into the room.
Megan Aldous, Ipswich

LIVING DOLL
Cliff Richard
“I used to love listening to Living Doll by Cliff Richard. He was my first grown up fancy!”
Rosemary Hare, Norwich

WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER
“We Plough the Fields and Scatter the Good Seed on the Ground, not from a religious point of view, but it reminds me of the Ladybird book with a tractor show ploughing a field with birds following the plough on the front cover. This image mirrored the view I had when walking past a field, which is now Asda and the Sports Village, while I watched the farmer preparing the fields for the next crop and seagulls following the tractor. It was the season which heralded collecting food boxes for the elderly and needy; of Halloween and having homemade toffee apples and Apple Bobbing; then Bonfire night with crisp, frosty mornings and cobwebs filled with dew stretched across the hedgerow on my way to infant school. Lovely times and happy memories.”
Cate Emmie, Norfolk

JOHN, I’M ONLY DANCING
David Bowie
“I was obsessed with music from a very early age due to my Dad’s influence. My older cousins helped and this was one of the first records they gave me.
Magical.”
Anthony Ashton, Norwich

RUNNING BEAR
Johnny Preston
“My brother was a DJ and he would play this all the time. Little White Hul was also played a lot a reminds me of our childhood and Wild Thing by the Troggs as a teenager, I remember this well with my best friend Jane jumping out from behind the curtains singing Wild Thing - lovely memories.”
Sue Pope, Norwich

MORNING TOWN RIDE
The Seekers
“I’m 60 and still sing along every time I hear this song!”
Sheree Leeds, Norwich

ALSO MORNING TOWN RIDE!
This was actually called Morningtown Ride. If you Google it you’ll find it on YouTube. The Seekers was an Australian group. Judith Durham was the lead singer at a time when few women headed up groups of any kind. As a little girl I thought she was great and loved her voice. I later went to Australia to live and work in my late twenties/thirties and saw Judith at a jazz festival. She was 20 years older but her voice was just as good.
Jayne Lindill, editor, Suffolk magazine

THREE LITTLE FISHES
Frankie Howerd
“I remember sitting in our living room at Thorpe with mum and singing along to it. Also the nursery rhyme There was an Old Woman who swallowed a fly.”
Debra Ribbans, Thorpe
Above top to bottom, Ed Sheeran, Elton John and Paul Weller
have shared their childhood songs for the charity

Pictures: Hope and Homes for Children

About Hope and Homes for Children

An estimated eight million children live in orphanages worldwide.

• Orphanages are unnecessary, because 80 per cent of children confined to them are not orphans – most have living parents, but have been abandoned because of poverty, disabilities or discrimination.
• 100 years of scientific research shows how children in orphanages are exposed to greater levels of neglect, abuse and even trafficking.
• In some orphanages, mortality rates can even be as high as 80 per cent.
• Even when a child leaves an orphanage, they are 10 times more likely to enter prostitution and 40 times more likely to get a criminal record.
• It can be 10 times more cost effective to support struggling parents with social services than to fund orphanages.
• Hope and Homes for Children demonstrates to governments how to close orphanages by preventing child abandonment, developing family support services and establishing foster and adoption care networks.
• Hope and Homes for Children works directly in eight countries, and supports likeminded partner organisations in another 20.
• They believe it really is possible to achieve the global eradication of orphanages.
• To help transform a child’s life visit www.hopeandhomes.org