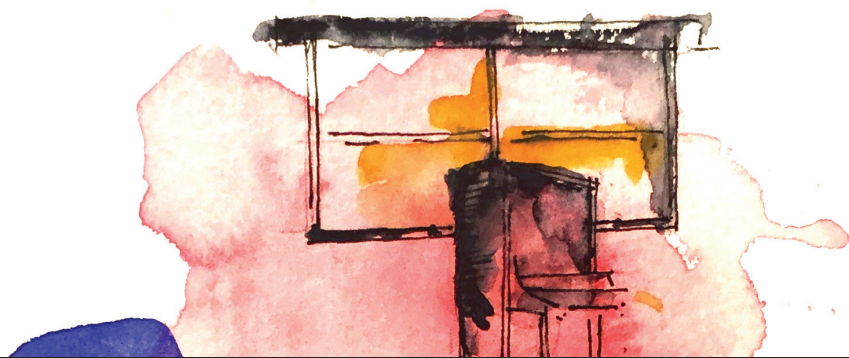


THE SOUND OF MEMORY

in buenos aires, argentina





MY STORY

I once knew a lady more than she knew herself. I say this because she could not remember the smallest things about herself, but I could. She was my neighbor and she had a routine. I watched her through my bedroom window every morning as I practiced Beethoven's Sonata No. 14 in C-Sharp Minor on the piano. This piece is widely known as "Moonlight Sonata", but to me it was the soundtrack to the moments I watched my neighbor take her morning strolls to nowhere. Her face always blank.

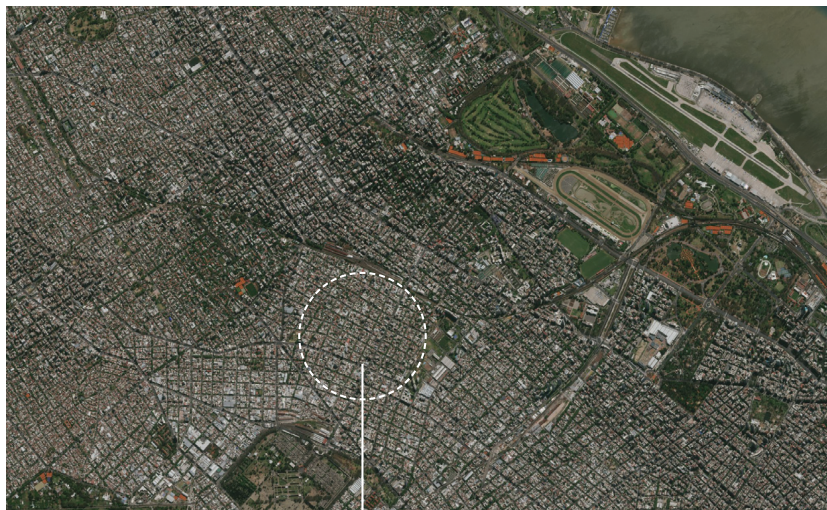
If she heard this same piece, I wonder if it would bring her back to the memories of these very mornings too.

I have always been intrigued with how quickly and how far a song can bring a person back to a particular time in their life. And even more so, I have always been intrigued with the details that come with it and the stories we become so eager to tell others: all from a single song. Storytelling derives from past memories and memories are often triggered by music. These are the details of my story conjured from a memory I just shared to you solely triggered by Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata".

HER STORY

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She had no memory to hold on to and no story to tell.
She was suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.



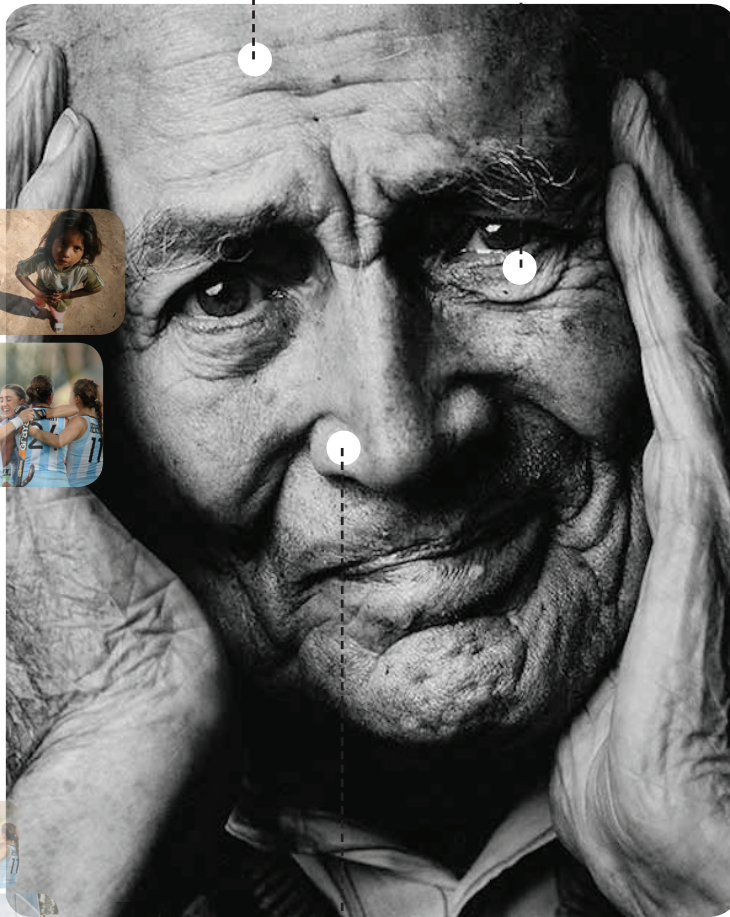
Buenos Aires,
Argentina —

WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE,
THE PEOPLE WE LOVE

PLACES WE SEE

& AROMAS
WE SMELL

ALL FADE





PURPOSE OF EXPLORATION

to explore music as a stimulus to liberate lost memories of Alzheimer patients

Neuroscience has proven for music and memory to share an intimately strong connection in the human brain. Hearing a song can bring us back decades at a time and as far back as three past generations. Our minds string music to be in shape with our autobiographical memories and emotional responses throughout our lifetime. This oftentimes trigger memories we may not always consciously be aware of. For those suffering memory loss, music becomes a catalyst for remembering the past and curing a deteriorating mind.



ABOUT A.L.M.A.. BUENOS AIRES

Asociacion Lucha contra el Mal de Alzheimer

6.5 hundred thousand Argentines suffer from Alzheimer's disease caused by social and environmental stress growing within the slums of Buenos Aires. The ALMA association of Buenos Aires seeks to shelter and care for these people. Although some are too poor to receive appropriate medication, the city of Buenos Aires lies rich in music. In a country known to be musically oriented, I hope to trigger and resurface lost memories forgotten in elderly Argentinean patients through the transmittance of traditional tango music.





PROCESS OF EXPLORATION

01

prepare a collection of music

02

fly to buenos aires

03

meet alzheimer patients at A.L.M.A

04

organize music according to each patient

05

record any reactions shown and/or memories spoken

06

fly back to the states

07

replay recordings

08

synchronize memory with song

09

display documentation in gallery

10

relive unburied memories





REASON FOR EXPLORATION

to further embrace the value of memory and the power to remember

There are many instances in our lives when we refer back to our own memories in order to do things like tell a story, learn from mistakes, teach others, motivate ourselves or to just simply reminisce. But as much as we remember, we also forget and, sometimes, almost too often. I have always wanted to learn how to control this concept. What do we want to remember and how can we always remember them? How do we begin to exercise the mind to organize these memories over the course of our lifetime instead of letting it overflow and gradually disappear? Especially with Alzheimer's disease when the power of remembering is out of our control, how can we relive what is already forgotten?



IMPACT OF EXPLORATION

to bring back happiness in people's lives and to appreciate happiness of our own

When interacting with a patient suffering from Alzheimer's disease, sometimes it is hard to even conjure up a smile on their face because their minds are lonely and isolated. Through rhythm and harmony, I hope for the impact of music to be known again. Whether that be the snapping of fingers, tapping of feet, or nodding of the head, I hope that observers would do the same too and to do it with the patients. Together we can sing and dance all night long and together we can experience happiness.

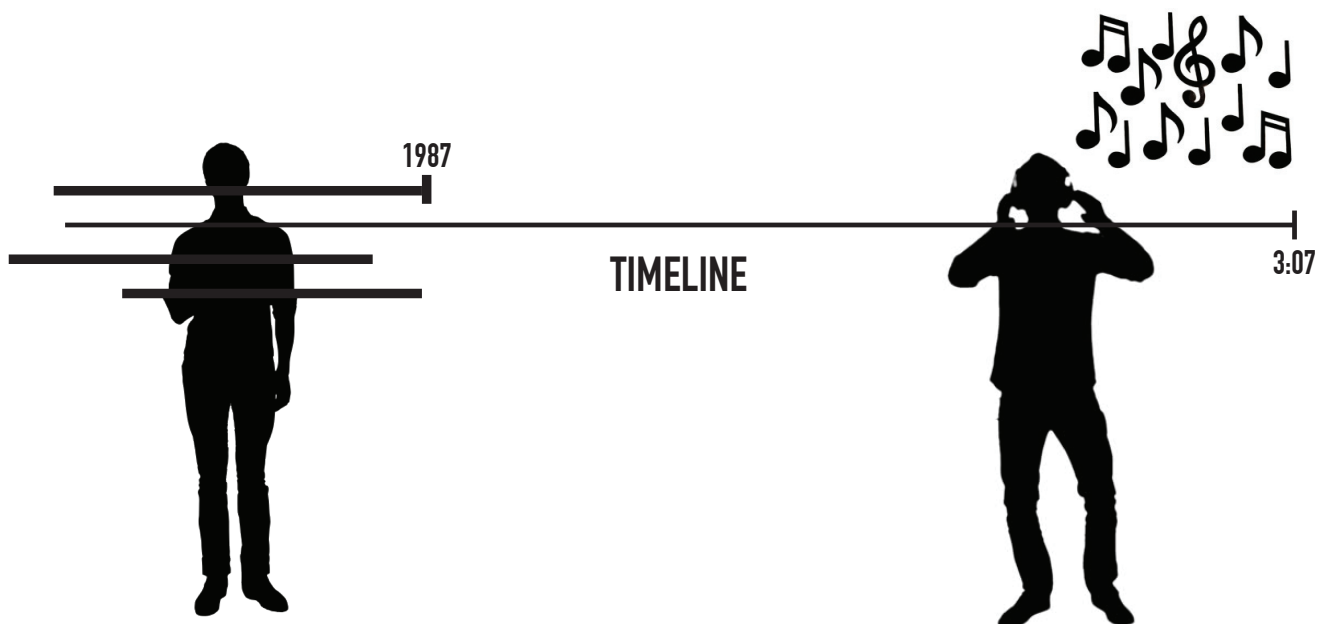


DOCUMENTATION OF EXPLORATION

displayed through recordings of memories and its soundtrack

During my visit to Buenos Aires, I plan to post footage of the Alzheimer's patients listening and reacting to the music they are hearing through their headphones. Thus the sound of music will remain unknown to viewers, however each footage will include text of any memory each patient may have spoken out loud. My documentation of these reactions will be carefully organized and articulated to ensure correct timing of when each memory was triggered during each song.

After arriving back to the states, I plan to organize all recordings representing a timeline, each symbolizing a song. It is here that visitors will be able to match each patient's memory to the particular time and place of the song. Visitors will then finally be able to listen, experience and hypothetically relive the patient's memories.



[illegible]