

Music as muse

Watch artisans rely on music for inspiration, distraction and just a bit of fun

BY KATHLEEN BECKETT

Music and watchmaking have a deep connection. Consider the “tick tock” of traditional timepieces, the minute repeater complication (a function besides the telling of time) that chimes the time on demand and the tunes played by many a pocket watch.

Some watchmakers, though, say music also plays an important role in their ateliers — as inspiration, distraction and sometimes just for fun.

Below, six industry professionals talk about what’s on their playlists.

Eric Giroud

Watch designer at Through the Looking Glass, in Confignon, Switzerland



Different music fits different projects, Mr. Giroud, 59, wrote in an email. “In the research of ideas or concept I will listen to soft and introspective music,” like

Debussy’s piano concertos or Nils Frahm, he wrote. “When sketching I listen to music more rhythmic and almost disturbing in order to leave my zone of comfort (Nick Drake, Isaac Hayes, etc.)”

And creating 2-D or 3-D drawings? “Titles arranged by Claus Ogerman, for example, or Kruder & Dorfmeister,” he said, referring to the German arranger and composer and the modern Austrian remix specialists.

Music is so important to his creations that “every year I make a compilation of the music that had accompanied me during the year in the form of a CD that serves as a greeting card,” he wrote.

Just this creative watchmaker’s way of spreading the inspiration of music.