



## Résumé (2000 to Now)

Monte Michaelis



20:23



46:55





## **Hotel Yorba**

The White Stripes

2:10

---

Animator at Jet City Studios  
Seattle WA / 2000-2003

My first year on the job. The White Stripes—on tour for "White Blood Cells"—played Seattle's Crocodile Cafe.

The show was walking distance from Jet City Studios, but I didn't go. Such is the work ethic of a newly-graduated animator, even at the height of the garage rock revival.

A few years later, my first child was delivered while listening to this album. I had front row seats for that.



## **You Can't Hide**

**Maktub**

**3:30**

---

Art Director and Adjunct Faculty at DigiPen  
Redmond WA / 2003-2006

Before Reggie Watts was leading James Corden's house band, he was fronting Seattle neo-soul group Maktub.

This was 2003, the year I started teaching animation. I held a class contest and first prize was a limited edition copy of Maktub's second album, "Khronos."

All I remember of the contest is that the second-place finisher wanted this record real bad but he had to settle for a bobblehead.



# **I'm the Man Who Loves You**

**Wilco**

**3:56**

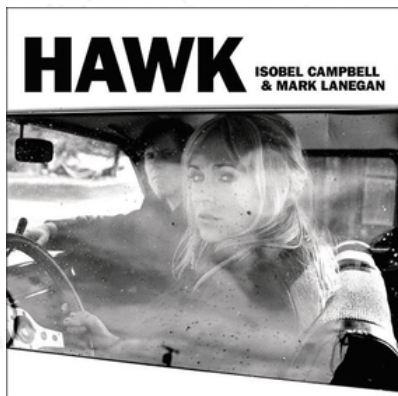
---

Senior Designer at Smashing Ideas  
Seattle WA / 2006-2009

When not designing games and activities for preschoolers, I was listening to, playing, and writing alt-country songs.

So, as one might expect, I was obsessed with Wilco and with "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot." Fun fact: today I own the saxophone you hear on this song.

I own a lot of odd things. We should chat.



## **Snake Song**

Isobel Campbell, Mark Lanegan

2:48

---

Art Director at Electronic Arts  
Seattle WA / 2009-2013

As an art director on Plants vs Zombies 2, I made scary things look cute.

As a music fan, I like scary words and beautiful music.

For probably a year straight, if you saw me drawing zombies and I had my headphones on, I was listening to "Hawk" by Isobel Campbell and Mark Lanegan.



## **I Could Never Take the Place...**

Prince

6:29

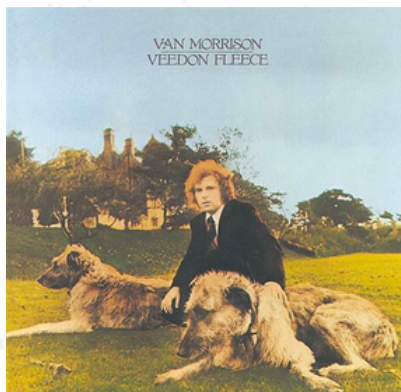
---

Senior Art Lead at WildTangent Studios  
Seattle WA / 2013-2014

It was a special time. I was the art lead at a new studio and Prince was playing clubs only slightly larger than our Pioneer Square office space.

I caught the tour at Seattle's Showbox Theater. By this point in my life I was wise enough to know that you don't skip the show.

Note to self: a special moment (like seeing Prince in a small club, or working with good friends in a little brick office) may only happen once. Don't miss out.



## **Fair Play**

**Van Morrison**

**6:15**

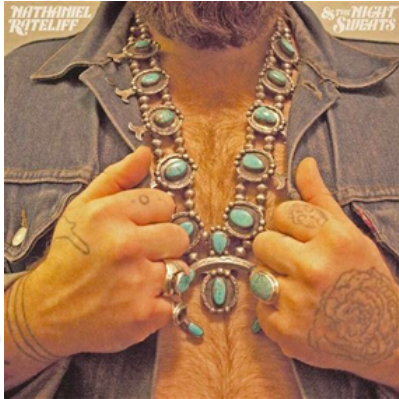
---

Creative Director at Geocaching  
Seattle WA / 2014-2016

I grew from a UX manager to a creative director while helping people have fun outside. At the same time, I made travel a priority.

I was listening to this song while riding on a train with my family. No games, no social media. Just the view from the window as France turned into Germany.

My favorite job. My favorite memory.



## **I Need Never Get Old**

**Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats**

**4:14**

---

Mixed Reality Creative Director at Microsoft  
Redmond WA / 2016-2018

I was in my groove when I began leading mixed reality vision labs at Microsoft.

I felt fully actualized. I got people excited for what was going to be better. I helped people be less afraid of what might be different.

From this point on, what the Stax Records logo is to this album I would be to the teams I lead: a guarantee of a great time.





## **If You're Ready (Come Go...**

**The Staple Singers**

**4:27**

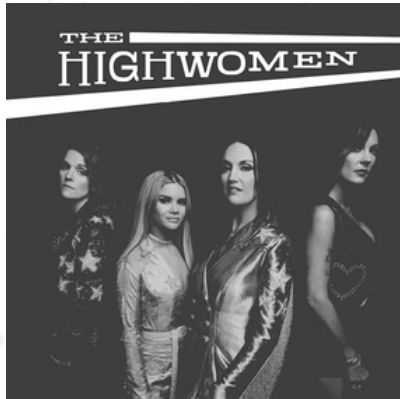
---

VP of Creative Innovation at Arkadium  
New York NY / 2018-2019

After moving to NYC my family and I saw my favorite singer, Mavis Staples, perform at the Apollo. Amazing!

The move was hard, but rewarding. I believe if you do the right thing then you'll get what you need right when you need it. It's proven true for me many times.

Weirdly, I was again in the local orbit of Jack White. We were on the same plane, heading into Moscow. Me, to visit my direct reports in another office. He, I assume, on his way to be Jack White (but in Russia).



## **Crowded Table**

The Highwomen

3:30

---

Head of Creative at Collibra

New York NY / 2019-2020

I led a team to deliver (in only 3 months) the MVP of a project that had been stalled for over a year.

What is my philosophy on team management? On collaboration? On operational effectiveness? On hiring? On customer experience? On product strategy?

The answer to these questions is the chorus of this song.



## Keep 'Em on They Toes

Brent Cobb

2:44

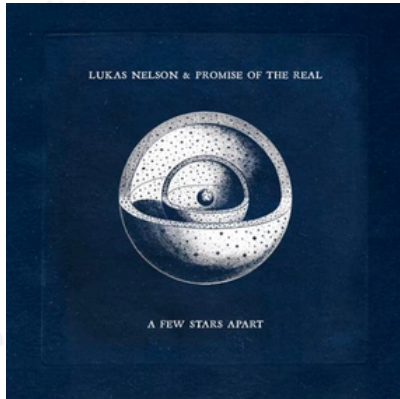
---

Director of Experience Design at Slalom Build  
New York NY / 2020-2022

Ah, the pandemic years. I now have a full-time mohawk and a lot more hats. These facts are ... related, I guess?

I led design at Slalom Build for the NY/NJ region, but I worked with clients from everywhere. I loved it. I was based out of One World Trade in NYC, but I was only in the office twice. First, for my job interview. Then, two years later, for my farewell lunch. It's a great view!

In life, in work, and in haircuts, you gotta be you. Take it from Brent Cobb: "Walk on to your own beat."



## **Perennial Bloom (Back to You)**

Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real

3:17

---

Interactive Creative Director at Amazon

Remote / 2022-2023

As CD for games on Amazon Glow, I got to do a little bit of everything I've done: kids content, games, new-to-world experiences, mission-based app development.

The first verse of this song applies to me:

Some of the stillness I have found is bound to last  
Some of the restlessness will live on  
Some of the pain I've always known is hard to pass  
But a mutual blessing takes the game on

The ride was short, but a blessing. The game goes on!



## **It's Darker**

New Pagans

3:34

---

Creative Director at Hypixel Studios

Remote / 2023-Present

About six months after joining Hypixel Studios, I visited the company HQ in Derry, Northern Ireland. When one work at fully remote game studio, being in the same room as your teammates is extra special.

I bought New Pagans' debut album based on the album cover alone. At the thrift store next door, I bought an old coffee mug decorated with four leaf clovers.

The record, the mug, and this job have been nothing but good luck!



**My playlist**



**My profile**



**My portfolio**