Xanthe Kakaras Syracuse London Semester & Syracuse Florence Summer Global Insights Project – Fall 2025

This playlist isn't defined by a single mood or genre. It's a collection of sounds that capture everything I felt and experienced during my time abroad. It's not meant for one emotion or moment, but for when you feel everything all at once: nostalgia, excitement, joy, and reflection. Each song represents a piece of my journey from London to Florence, from January to August 2025. These aren't necessarily the songs that were trending globally at the time, but rather the ones that found me. They are songs I heard from friends, in nightlife, on the streets, and in shared moments that reflected London's incredible diversity. I met people from all over the world, and through them, discovered music from so many cultures: Bollywood hits shared by friends embracing their Indian backgrounds, French, and Greek pop from my own background, and the ever-present pulse of house and party tracks that defined the city's nightlife.

Living in Camden, London added its own rhythm and super cool uniqueness, where so many artists started, and walked the same streets. These artists include Amy Winehouse, The Chemical Brothers, and even Dua Lipa that connected me to London's creative energy. When I transitioned to Florence, Eurovision season brought another wave of sound into my life. Surrounded by history and beauty, I spent my days walking endlessly through the city, listening to everything from Italian classics to contemporary Italian pop that my homestay family introduced me to.

This playlist is a reflection of how multiculturalism shaped my experience—it's a mix of pop, classical, house, and global music that summarized almost a year abroad. I think every track is tied to a person, a place, or a feeling, making it a personal soundtrack and definitely one of a kind to one of the most transformative periods of my life.

Link to Spotify