

Measuring Time in Calendars

**The
January
2024
Issue**

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**Bonus:
Seasons of
Love Song**



Happy New Year 2024! But... how do we know it is a new year? You might say, 'Because a new year starts on January 1st, of course!'. However, how do we know that? When is that? For example, the **Lunar New Year**, coming from China, is on a different day every year in January or February. This year, it is February 10th, 2024. Why?

Humans decide time. We use **math** to **count** and **science** to watch the stars & seasons to make time! Don't believe me?

January 1st is New Year's Day in the **Gregorian calendar**. This calendar is now used by most **governments** around the world. Where is it from? It was **instituted** in 1582 by **Pope Gregory XIII** for **Catholic** countries in Europe. It is a **solar** calendar, that means it follows the path of the sun.

There is the **Julian calendar** which is also solar. It started during the **Roman Empire** but is used by the Eastern **Orthodox Church** now. This is why Christmas in Eastern European countries like Russia is on January 7th, not the usual December 25th. **Easter** Sunday is later too.

The **Hebrew calendar** is used by Jewish people for their religious festivals. It is **lunisolar**, which means it looks at the moon and sun. That is why Hanukkah is on different days in November or December each year.

The **Islamic calendar** is used for Muslim holidays around the world. It is **lunar**, so it looks at the moon. This is why the two **Eid** holidays move around each year.

The **Hindu** calendars are a variety of lunisolar calendars from India. So, festivals like Diwali are on different days each year. There are lunisolar **Buddhist** calendars from South Asia too. In the Thai **traditional** calendar, the Thai New Year is on April 13th every year. It is a water festival called **Songkran**. Lunisolar Chinese calendars **decide** the day of Lunar New Year.

The ancient **Maya peoples** of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador wrote a long time ago that a new **era** in their calendar would begin on December 21, 2012. So, in 2012, many people in different countries got worried the world was ending!

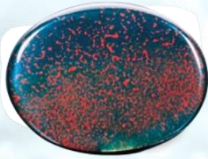


Time is a social construct!



Measuring Time in Birthstones



In the January 2023 Keika Chronicle, we talked about matching your birth month with **astrology** signs and your birth year with the animals of the **Chinese Zodiac**. Now, let's match our birth months with precious **gems**. We call these **birthstones**. Every list is a little different and some months have a few birthstones. This is because some stones are **traditional** and harder to buy now. New stones are also **discovered** around the world or created in **laboratories**.

January Garnet 	February Amethyst 	March Aquamarine 	March Bloodstone 	April Diamond 	
May Emerald 	June Pearl 	June Alexandrite 	June Moonstone 	July Ruby 	
August Peridot 	August Sardonyx 	August Red Spinel 	September Sapphire 	October Opal 	October Pink Tourmaline 
November Yellow Topaz 	November Citrine 	December Tanzanite 	December Turquoise 	December Blue Zircon 	



Measure Time with Songs!

I love **Broadway & musical theatre!** I like lots of shows, but some of my favourites are *Into the Woods*, *Hamilton*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Sheila loves *The Sound of Music*, *Wicked*, and *Moulin Rouge*.

But today, I am going to talk about musical theatre songs about time. They are about measuring time in the past, and looking forward to the future. I'll tell you a little about each song & write the **meaning** of some **lyrics**.



Song: Seasons of Love

Musical: RENT (1996)

There are 525,600 minutes in a year. This song is about a group of friends who think about what they've done in one year, and how they can measure that time.

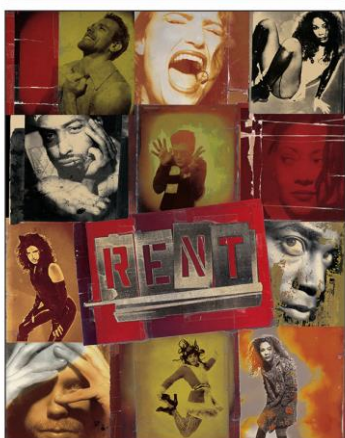
"In daylights, in sunsets": How often are you awake to see the **sunrise**? Do you ever go home from school and notice a beautiful **sunset**? Sometimes it is nice to stop and watch these things, and remember that every day is **precious**!

"In cups of coffee": Some people drink coffee every day! They spend lots of time in coffee shops, walking to **vending** machines, or making their own coffee. They must have good **memories**, like trying a new way of making coffee, or hearing a great song while waiting in a cafe. For me, I'd remember my days by the peach iced tea I drink! What about you?

"Measure your life in love": Do your parents cook **lovely** food for you? Have you helped a friend study? Have you gotten a present for your birthday? Did you give someone you love a hug? We can remember when people we love did nice things for us, and measure time that way!

PLAYBILL

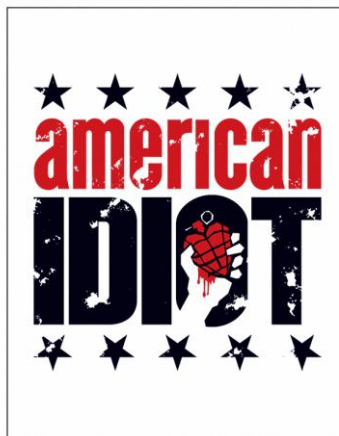
NEDERLANDER THEATRE



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ST. JAMES THEATRE



Song: Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)

Musical: American Idiot (2009)

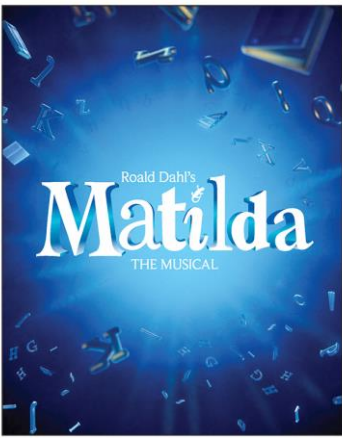
This song is about saying goodbye to friends. As you grow up, you might not see old friends very **often**, but you can remember them, and wish them the best in their future. Measure time by the friends you have.

"Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road": This is about making a big choice, like choosing what high school or university to go to. Your friends might make a **different** choice, so you won't see each other often. But if you remember your time together, you will always be friends!

"It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right": This means sometimes there are big surprises in your life. Like not getting into the school you wanted, or **changing** your mind about your dream job. These might be **surprising** at first, and might seem bad, but as long as we do our best, things will work out in the end.



PLAYBILL
SAM S. SHUBERT THEATRE



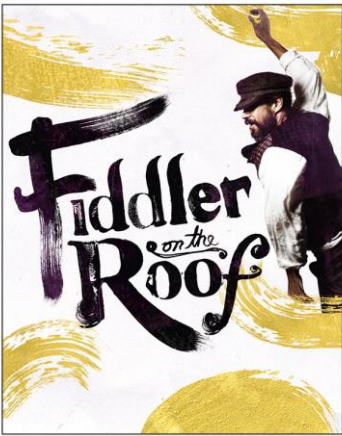
Song: When I Grow Up
Musical: Matilda (2011)

This song is about **elementary school** children dreaming about their future. Maybe you can **relate** to this. You can measure time by how your **goals** and dreams change as you grow up.

“When I grow up, I will eat sweets everyday on the way to work”: When you are young you might have dreams like this. When you are old enough to buy your own sweets, you’re also old enough to know that they’re not good for you. One measure of being an adult is that you have the money to **fulfill** your childhood dreams, but you also know how to do so in a **healthy** way. Like having sweets as a **treat** once or twice a week.



PLAYBILL
THE BROADWAY THEATRE



Song: Sunrise, Sunset
Musical: Fiddler on the Roof (1964)

In this song a **bride** and **groom**'s parents are singing about their children. They can't believe they are old enough to get married. For children, 18 years seems like such a long time, but for parents, it goes too **quickly**.

“When did she get to be a beauty? When did he get to be so tall?”: If you look at a photo of yourself from last week, you won't notice any changes. But if you look at a photo from a long time ago, you might **notice** small changes. Maybe you're a little taller now, you look a little older. When we see people every day, it's hard to notice these things. It can be **shocking** when a parent realises their child is all grown up.

“One season following another, Laden with happiness and tears”: We can measure our time by the seasons. I moved to Japan in Autumn. The red and yellow leaves are a strong **memory** of a new start. It is winter now, what do you think you will be doing next winter? 10 winters from now? In future seasons, there may be sad times, but there will be happy times too.



PLAYBILL
MARTIN BECK THEATRE



Song: Tomorrow
Musical: Annie (1977)

This song is about an **orphan** girl who has hope for the future. She has a hard life. She is made to do difficult cleaning at the **orphanage**, and the owners don't care about the children. But she has a good **attitude**, and believes that if she waits, she will be happy in the future.

“The sun will come out tomorrow”: Even if you are having a bad day, it is not forever. ‘Tomorrow’ in this song can mean many things. It can be the next day, the next week, the next year, etc. The main **message** is that if you have **hope**, things will get better **eventually**. We can measure time by remembering the ‘tomorrows’, when good things **finally** happen.

XOXO,
Erin

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♪ Bonus: Seasons of Love ♪

Official English Version

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure, measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets
In midnights, in cups of coffee
In inches, in miles
In laughter, in strife

In five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure a year in the life?

How about love?
How about love?
How about love?

Measure in love
Seasons of love
Seasons of love

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty-five thousand journeys to plan
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure the life of a woman or a man?

In truths that she learned or in times that he cried
In bridges he burned
Or the way that she died
It's time now- to sing out
Though the story never ends

Let's celebrate
Remember a year in the life of friends

Remember the love
Remember the love
Remember the love

Measure in love
Seasons of love
Seasons of love

Official Japanese Version

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
五十二万五千六百のこの時を
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
どう数える1年を

夜明け夕暮れ真夜中コーヒーの数
笑いで争いの数で
そう

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
どう数える1年を

それは Love
きっと Love
いつも Love

答えは
Seasons of Love
Seasons of Love

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
五十二万五千六百の旅がある
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
どう感じようかこの人生を

気づいた真実で
流した涙で
追いかけた夢で
出会いと別れで
今は歌おう
終わらないストーリー

さあ、生きている意味を
抱きしめて

忘れない Love
刻もう Love
Remember the Love

Measure in Love
Seasons of Love
Seasons of Love

