

# Naima



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# Naima

"Naima" is a ballad composed by John Coltrane in 1959 that he named after his wife, Juanita Naima Grubbs. Coltrane first recorded it for his 1959 album, *Giant Steps*, and it became one of his first well-known songs. Coltrane biographer John Litweiler said "... the melody of "Naima"—quiet, sunfilled—is worthy of Coltrane's reverence, the unsuspected calm in the midst of his storms....". Coltrane recorded this song many times over during the course of his life, and is said to have considered it his best composition.

I didn't listen to "Naima" until the 1990s, but once I did, I was hooked. It was "Naima" that ignited a passion for jazz in me. Coltrane's technical ability to play whatever he set his mind on was never in doubt, but what was so special about "Naima" was the way he could slow his music down, as if to say that his love for this woman was so powerful that it had to be savored slowly. For this series, a model Dierdre, is photographed with a blue filter as she listens to and reflects on "Naima".





































































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