

USA TODAY EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW OF 'LISTEN' CD
Cover of LIFE Section



Music

'Listen' to help stutterers

A variety of pop and musical-theater artists have joined with Our Time Theatre Company, a non-profit group devoted to helping young people who stutter, on *Listen*, due June 23. Recorded at Jon Bon Jovi's studio, the album features 15 songs written by such teens and pre-teens. Performers include Carly Simon, Duncan Sheik and Daryl Hall and John Oates, alongside Mandy Patinkin and other Broadway stars such as Kelli O'Hara, Adam Pascal, Michael Cerveris and Sherie Rene Scott.

Simon, who "had a debilitating stammer for most of my life," was inspired by group founder Taro Alexander, who "has contributed his gifts (so that) having a stammer or a stutter has grace and originality, and does not have to be hidden in the dark chambers of shame."

— *Elysa Gardner*

