



# OCCUPATION

Five songs that shook the world

Songs About Artists Blog

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## Carleen Anderson

Artist: [Song One by Carleen Anderson](#) Composer: [Song One by Carleen Anderson](#) Director: Tim Hopkins

### Amplify the protest.

[Song One | Available to download now](#) | [Download the lyrics](#)

'The theme of my song, *Grains of Dust*, concentrates on the brutal patterns of tribal/cultural disunion in the U.S. which sets a dangerous tone for the collapse of a nation built on the premise of unity and justice for all.'

I got involved with the Occupation project because I think it's a powerful channel of modern communication, delivered in an artistic package, for people all around the world to feel a sense of empowerment, that their voiced objections to the global injustices of our times will make a difference.'

Carleen Anderson

[Download Song One - \*Grains of Dust\*](#) | [Download the lyrics](#) | [Listen to Carleen Anderson's intro](#)

Song One by Carleen Anderson



[See Biography](#)



∞

Songs

- [Song One | 14 Nov](#)
- [Song Two | 28 Nov](#)
- [Song Three | 12 Dec](#)
- [Song Four | 19 Dec](#)
- [Song Five | 23 Jan](#)

Fri 21st Nov 2014

#### Grains of Dust

Last week saw the recording and filming of our first original protest song for the Occupation project.

Wed 12th Nov 2014

#### An interview with Occupation Creative Director, Tim Hopkins

We caught up with him to ask him for his thoughts on Occupation, and his personal experience with protest.

Thu 30th Oct 2014

#### Carleen Anderson on her songwriting process

Songs come to me all at once: melody, piano chords, lyrics, and vocal harmonies flow simultaneously.

Tue 14th Oct 2014

#### Social Media and Protest

Social media has played an integral role both in the recent wave of mobilisations in the Arab world and in protests across Western countries, such as the Occupy movement in 2011.

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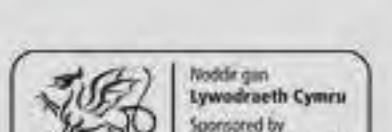
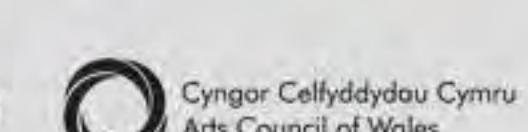
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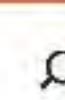
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## Cerys Matthews

### Song Three | Available to download now

Cerys Matthews is a singer, songwriter, author and broadcaster. She won Gold at last year's Sony Radio Academy Awards for her popular BBC6 Music Sunday morning show, which she programmes and hosts. She has also recently started a weekly BBC Radio 2 show. She is the One Show's cultural reporter and writes and presents radio and television documentaries on subjects as diverse as Cuba, early classical composers, shark fishing and early female blues players. A collector of songs for over 30 years, Cerys is a columnist for the world music magazine Songlines; and her sing-a-long book, *Hook, Line and Singer*, published last year by Penguin, quickly became a Sunday Times bestseller. She is the author of children's stories *Tales from the Deep* and soon to be published *Gelert, A Man's Best Friend*.

Cerys has curated for theatres and the Tate Modern and was artistic director for the opening ceremony of the World Music Expo 2013. Awarded an inaugural St David Award for her services to culture this year from the First Minister of Wales, she was honoured with an MBE this July.

Also in 2014, Cerys wrote and presented a six part television series looking into the history of centuries old folk songs in her native Wales. She is currently working on an album of music and poetry by Dylan Thomas; as well as an Archive Hour programme for BBC Radio 4, looking into her uncle, Colin Edward's role in amassing a huge archive on this great lyrical poet. She also wrote and presented a BBC4 documentary on *The Mabinogion*.

Cerys has created a brand new cultural festival, *The Good Life Experience*, which successfully launched in Hawarden, Flintshire on September 20. She is a judge for the Dylan Thomas Prize for young writers, and a judge for the Forward Prizes for poetry.

Her self-produced album of traditional Welsh songs, *Tir*, is the biggest selling Welsh language album of the past ten years; the second volume, *Hullabaloo*, followed last year.

Cerys was the founder member of multi-million selling band Catalonia and duets with Sir Tom Jones on the single, *Baby it's Cold Outside*.

She is Vice President for the homeless charity, Shelter; Vice President of the Hay Festival of Literature and the Arts; is patron of the Dylan Thomas Society and Ballet Cymru; and is Arts Ambassador for the Linden Lodge School - a specialist school for sensory impairment.

Cerys lives in West London with her husband and children.

[Download Song Three - I Can't Breathe](#)



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### Artists

[Carleen Anderson](#)

[Margaret Constantas](#)

[High Contrast](#)

[Tim Hopkins](#)

[Dan-Wyn Jones](#)

[Cerys Matthews](#)

[Cyrus Mirza'shafa](#)

[Ewan Jones Morris](#)

[Judith Weir](#)

### Listen to Song Three | Cerys Matthews



### Blog posts

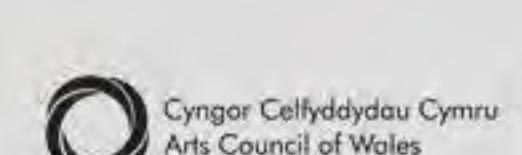
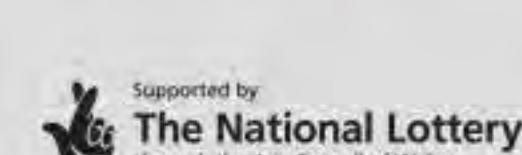
#### The history behind 'Nobody knows'

African-American folk music is a living history of the turbulent events that happened throughout slavery and its abolition. This music, known as spiritual music, was created unaccompanied and in secret – singing and playing drums was not allowed.

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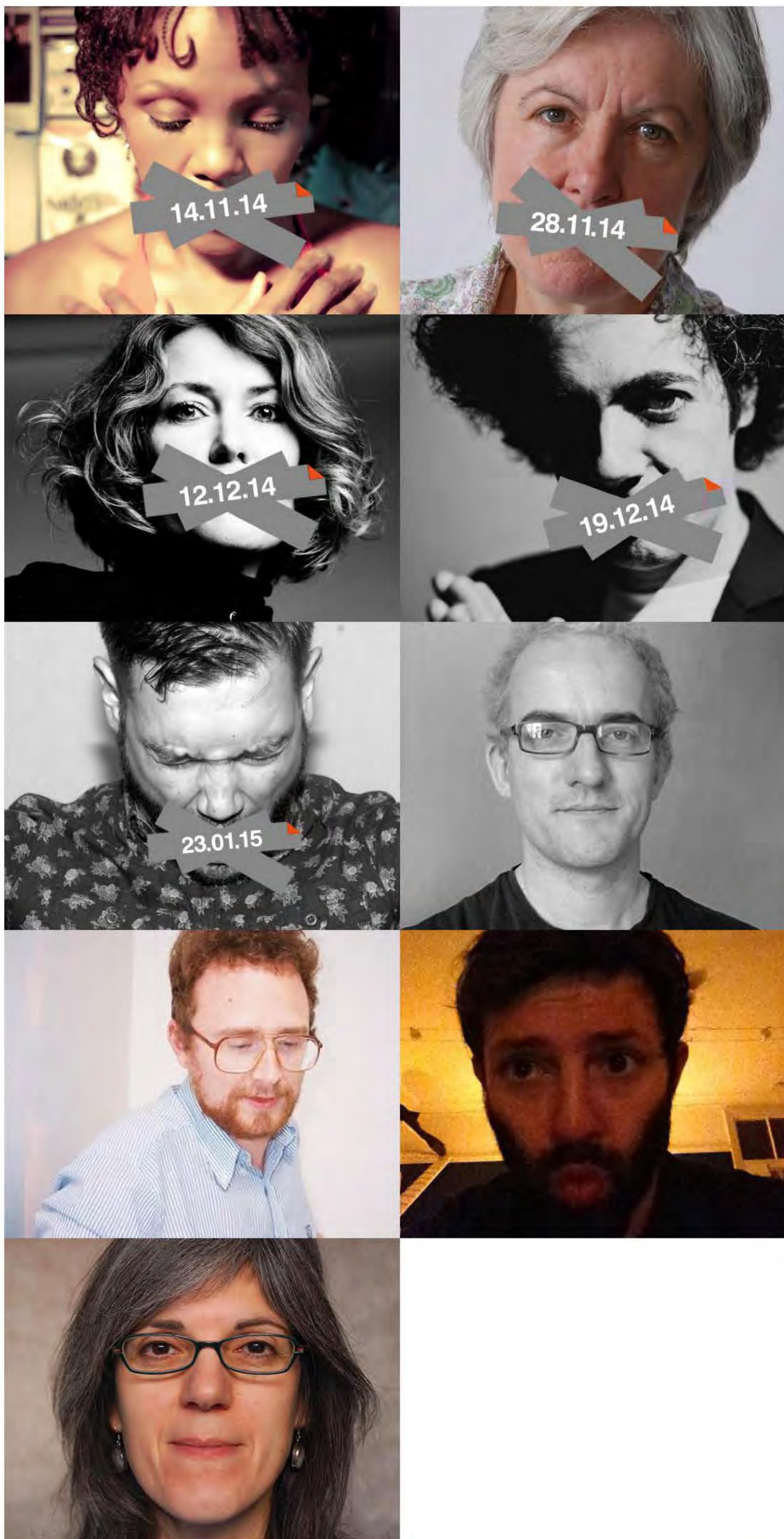


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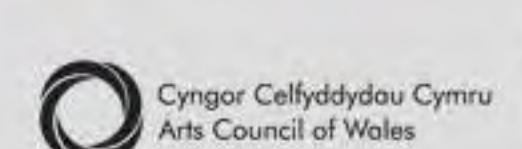
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film

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## Occupation - Five songs that shook the world

The democratisation of communication technology has fuelled rebellion and public protest like no other breakthrough since the mass-production printing press. It's increasingly impossible for a state to blinker its people. And a kickback against a regime can go viral to seismic in moments. Are ignorance, repression and censorship now on the run?

Technology has altered our social and political world. But change takes more than a digital medium and access to knowledge. It needs a powerful voice too.

Occupation explores arguably the most potent vocal expression of public protest – music and song – through social media. Five composers, from diverse musical genres, will compose original works in parallel to acts of protest and crisis across the world. Protest songs take many forms. Some quietly enlighten and others call for immediate and audible action. Each piece, will be shared across social media channels. They will be observed on how they engage, inspire and enlighten communities – online and offline.

Be part of it. See and share the songs and be integral to their journeys. You might spark a change, even shake the world. Who knows what will happen next?

*Occupation - five songs that shook the world.*

[Song 1 | Carleen Anderson | Available to download now](#)

[Song 2 | Judith Weir | Available to download now](#)

[Song 3 | Cerys Matthews | Available to download now](#)

[Song 4 | High Contrast | Available to download now](#)

[Song 5 | Dan Wyn Jones | Release date 23 Jan 15](#)

Co-commissioned by [The Space](#) and [Welsh National Opera](#)

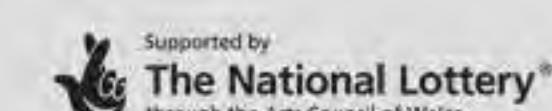
Artistic partners include [Ffilm Cymru Wales](#), [BFI Network](#) and [The University of Sussex](#).

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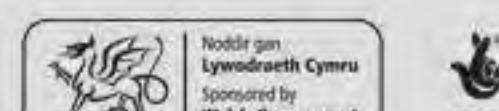
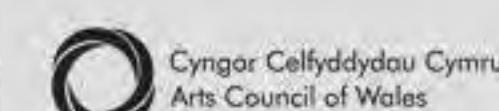
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## Je Suis Charlie - Freedom of speech

With the events in Paris last week, the internet has been awash with articles and blog posts about what freedom of speech really means.

When the last song is released on 23 February, *Occupation – Five songs* will have itself occupied a corner of the web for three months. In that time, current events have delivered many moments where people have stood for liberty in the face of mortal danger, consciously and unconsciously. Five composers have given us artistic snapshots of how they feel, and how they think, about a small number of these and other critical contexts. From the very beginning of the project, when Carleen Anderson sang about the events in Ferguson, through Judith Weir's considered piece on the Umbrella protests and to both Cerys Matthews' and High Contrast's depictions of the fight to be heard, the project has been fortunate to be able to present a variety of honest human responses to the current events of our modern age, and tried to offer space where audiences can tell us what they feel and think in response.

Whether you feel that you are Charlie Hebdo or perhaps have misgivings about the space that the magazine inhabited, the truth remains that you are allowed to express your opinion on either stance, without the fear of censorship. It can't be denied that *Charlie Hebdo* had the strength of conviction to face discrimination and division head on, and those behind it put their lives on the line to offer an alternative way of dealing with repression. As HL Mencken said in the first half of the 20th century

'I believe in the complete freedom of thought and speech – alike for the humblest man and the mightiest, and in the utmost freedom of conduct that is consistent with living in organized society. I believe in the capacity of man to conquer his world, and to find out what it is made of, and how it is run. I believe in the reality of progress. I believe that it is better to tell the truth than to lie. I believe that it is better to be free than to be a slave. And I believe that it is better to know than be ignorant.'

With our final protest song we are bringing this power directly to the people by asking for your opinions on the political and personal events that influence your world. Join the ranks of people who have stood up for the unrepresented and send us your thoughts and opinions. Song 5 is an ambitious expression of the collective imagination – an attempt at making your dreams and wishes heard above the noise of news reports and the constant stream of information that we are subjected to on a daily basis. More than ever, in this time of difficulty, when we are all trying to come to terms with our fear and horror at the recent events, our final protest song aims to be a unifying force for good. Get involved here.

Emma Hammond

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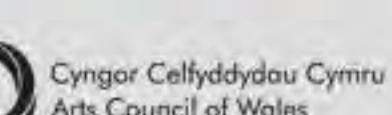
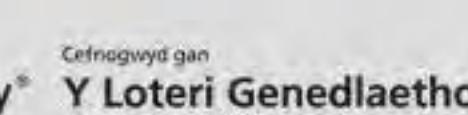
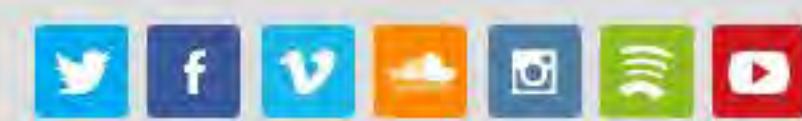
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**Song 5 | Occupation by Dan-Wyn Jones and The Public**  
from Occupation PLUS

Occupation! Occupation! Occupation!  
I like to think myself open minded  
I get my media from online blogs  
The media is no longer about the truth  
YouTube channels  
Mass media thrives as scandal breeds stories  
Facebook pages  
Social media drive people's misunderstanding of politics  
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**Occupation - Five songs that shook the world**

Created by Occupation PLUS 11 months ago

Occupation - Five songs that shook the world, 5 songs, 5 composers, respond to current affairs, as they happen. Co-commissioned by Welsh National Opera and The Space.

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**Song Four | Black Christmas by High Contrast**  
from Occupation PLUS

Directed by Ewan Jones Morris  
Black Christmas  
Black Friday; Black Christmas; Black Jesus; Black Witness.  
Let us feast. Gorge ourselves. May we choke on it. Everybody consume and forget about those outside of your room.  
There will be no more white Christmases, long as they don't listen to eye witnesses.  
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SHOUT BOX

Occupation - Five songs that shook the world

**Song Three | I Can't Breathe by Cerys Matthews**  
from Occupation PLUS

I Can't Breathe  
Cerys Matthews

I Can't Breathe  
Nobody knows the trouble I've seen  
Nobody knows the sorrow  
Nobody knows the trouble I've seen  
No Glory hallelujah  
Sometimes up, sometimes down  
Oh, Lord  
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**Song Two | The Sleeping-Mat Ballad by Judith Weir**  
from Occupation PLUS

The Sleeping-Mat Ballad

I made a friend, he wove this mat  
this yellow mat I sleep on.  
I think he would give his life  
to shelter me, to protect me.  
His heart is strong, stronger than his head.  
We all lie down, a gentle breeze,  
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**Song One | Grains of Dust by Carleen Anderson**  
from Occupation PLUS

Song 1 - Grains of Dust by Carleen Anderson

Verse 1  
(You, me, are we  
All for one or fall) Far from any worries of Third World Problems  
(Far from Third World Problems) Entitled Paved Streets  
(Paved Opportunity) Curbsides bordering the lawns for the chance of  
(Golden Chances) Opportunity  
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