

“Graphene Has My Heart” Music Video Exhibit

2021

*“Everyone was busy studying graphite—
Carbon atoms layered up a hundred million times.
Now we know what a single layer looks like:
It is graphene!”*

The Illinois MRSEC created an exhibit for Virtual Engineering Open House that illustrates research concepts through music, aiming to engage K-8 and public audiences in materials science.

Three MRSEC grad students and a postdoc wrote the song and created a video based on a pop hit “Break My Heart” by Dua Lipa, modified to the theme of graphene. Three faculty and two more grad students contributed music or visualizations. An accompanying video includes interviews with the video creators discussing the science behind it, what they do, and encouraging the audience to learn more about materials science.

The video premiered at Engineering Open House March 26, 2021, and won an award for the “Best Exhibit on the Theme.” The music video has been viewed over 200 times on YouTube and continues to grow. It has also been shown in outreach settings, including with a partnering middle school.

I proposed the music video ... because I want to make people feel we are together. The pandemic makes people isolated and separated. Even though our bodies are separated, we can feel each other by singing a song together.
-grad student participant

Music video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00xbbW0TfHQ>

About the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tWjJ1Fb0bs>

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Above: MRSEC grad student **Sarkar** sings in the video.

Right: **Sarkar, Leem, Murzabekova, Kang, and Mason** sing the chorus of the song together.

