

Discuss two or more aspects of the role which gesture plays in music

It is curious how sometimes when I'm listening to music it seems to be impossible not to move. The rhythm of music somehow appears to be something that pushes us to move with it. Maybe is something we inherit from our distant past when we used music and rhythm to coordinate our work in the fields. I've always been fascinated by the songs that were used, mostly by black people, to keep up the rhythm of the work and probably make the hard work more bearable.

This leads me to the first aspect of the role of gesture in music. That is that for the musician himself I believe that it is absolutely essential to be able to play with gestures if you want to connect with the music and transmit the feelings music has. When I was younger I played the guitar in a band and I remember that when playing the solo I with great sense of connection to the music. I made some gestures that were completely spontaneous and in the opinion of the other band members completely out of touch with the rock music we played. The thing is that I had no control over that gesture. If I wanted to really get into the music I just had to do it, it just came. Everybody agreed that it would be so much cooler if I didn't move in that peculiar way but on the other hand they also agreed that I played so much better if I just closed my eyes and did not think about how ridiculous I looked. The point I'm trying to make is that gesture for the musician can be, in my opinion, almost a part of the music. In that sense I believe that it can even go against the music not to move and make the gestures that come to you thru the music and somehow seem to be a part of the music itself. Something must be lost on the way if you don't allow that connection to occur between the mind and body.

The other aspect of gesture in music is the one that is on the other side of the receiver. The audience driven by the same need to move to the rhythm is expecting something from the music that has to do with movement. This aspect maybe has two, the gestures that the performer makes and the audience receives as a part of the interpretation and can even be seen as a big part of the artistic experience. The other is the gesture that the music provokes in the listener. When I watch someone play music with great sense of feeling and interpretation I get so much out of it. It could even be the deciding factor when you consider if a performer is

good on stage or not. If the musician is in touch with his music and with his gestures transmits the feelings that the music has to the audience it can enrich that relationship between the performer and audience that I believe that is so important. That relationship can be in a way a kind of a constant flow between the two. The fact that almost everybody moves and makes a gesture in a concert makes you wonder if that isn't a kind of a language that makes communications possible between the performer and the audience. In fact it might be extremely interesting to make some kind of an investigation on how that relationship in is. Probably there are many more aspects of gesture in music that cannot be discussed in detail here. Some of the things I can think of are, dancing and the relationship between music and dance. Acting and how tones and rhythm of the language can be important to the interpretation of acting. Language can be in some way a kind of music; we talk to each other by making sounds and always make some gestures as well.

All these things are connected and are a part of the endless ways the human being is able to express itself. Music and gesture seem to me to be very connected and in some cases almost two parts of the same thing. In my experience it can be even impossible to get rid of the gesture from music even if you wanted to. The preprogrammed ideas that we have on how to move and behave when playing or listening to music could be in a way restraining. The idea that I have after this short and extremely interesting course is that music is a kind of language that enables us to communicate to each other without the restrictions of the spoken language. Gesture is definitely a part of that language and enriches it and gives it some kind of depth that seems to be almost necessary.