

## A Philosophical Investigation of Multi-Modality

### First assignment

*If there is a particular sort of music that means a lot to you personally, could you describe in words why this is so? Are there aspects of musical experience for which words fall short?*

I listen to a wide variety of music, from the masterfully composed pieces of classical art to the heaviest metal known to man. Somewhere in between those extremes lies a taste for pop, jazz, rock and ambient music to name a few. There is, though, a certain genre that seems to connect directly with me. That genre is called drone and is a sort of a heavy ambient cluster of distortion and down tuned string instruments connected with a plethora of experimental effects.

To fully understand why one would actually listen to these 70 minute long pieces of music with single notes stretching over four minutes with the help of technology and enjoy it I have to tell you a little bit about myself. Ever since I was little I was baffled by the sheer speed people around me managed to perceive things without the slightest critical thinking crossing their minds whatsoever. When I watch movies with my friends I always feel that the story isn't complete, the filmmakers could make a whole movie for each of the character, heck, they could make a movie for every interaction that occurred, or did not occur, in that particular film.

I feel the same when I listen to *normal* music, the song isn't quite telling the whole story and you can't really absorb it as a single united piece of art. People, instead, deteriorate to a level consisting entirely of ignorance and consumerism and devote their time and energy to try and listen as shallowly as humanly possible to the mass produced music that has nothing but a mere *catchy* element. When listening to instrumental drone music you can hear every note and understand what it's doing there and what meaning it brings to the piece as a whole.

Until now I have genuinely tried to describe, in words, what meaning drone music has for me and why I listen to it but words can only get us so far. Eventually we will just have to accept that some things have to be experienced to be understood. Take the birth of a child for example; the feelings that stir up within a mother that has just given birth to her first child cannot be written or told, they must be experienced.

Words are perfect as long as you don't use them. As soon as you start doing so the words begin a process of labeling everything you try to describe with them. Things you ultimately do not wish to label. This is the cost of understanding, when we communicate with one another we get the satisfaction of knowing what the other person is saying but at the same time we sacrifice our own independent interpretation of the abstract matter that is being discussed. I do believe that language has in many ways helped us perceive the world around us and everything in it, including music, but it is still far from complete.

It is not until we can express every single feeling and every single thought with words in such a way that it becomes obvious to the listener exactly what we are talking about, and by communicating with those words we can share that experience to the fullest extent without any limitations whatsoever, that we have found a language suitable for discussing music on a serious note.