

If I could say it, I wouldn't have to dance it"

A Philosophical Investigation of Multi-Modality

If there is a particular sort of music that means a lot personally, could you describe in words why this is so?

Are there aspects of musical experience for which words fall short?

How do you regard the role of transpersonal meaning in the experience of music as meaningful?

Fado a Portuguese folklore is the music that is the most inspiring these days. It also means more to me because I got to know that type of music with my wife who was at the time only a friend. I went to a concert with Marisa who is singer of that kind of music and I still remember how it made such an impact on me and gave me a new experience. A totally new experience is something that is hard to get in the modern world. Or is something that does not fall on your lap every day at least. Maybe in some aspect that is the reason why that kind of music means a lot to me. It gave me something new. It obviously has something to do with feelings. In this case I relate the experience to a particular time in my life which was very positive and therefore I think it means more to me. The melancholic, slow and sorrowful music is something that makes it something of meaning or does it? When I was listening to the lecture this afternoon and tried to imagine a particular word or feeling after listening to a piece of music William played for us I found it in beginning easy and in my mind came an image that was what I thought was very original and the word was "dignity". It came in to my mind is an interesting chose of word because at first I was almost sure that it did just that, came from some were into my head. However I started to doubt it when I took a closer look at that image. It reminded me on a film and possibly the image was just that, a memory of a film and every film has a music theme. So did the image of some movie suddenly come to me mind and create some feeling that I related to the music? I am not convinced; on the other hand I'm quite sure that there is something that music can express that words can't. At least in my opinion it is harder to express some things with words than music. It is possible to express with music different combinations of ideas and

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feelings than with words. A book can maybe capture in some sense a musical peace and I don't mean that it would be easy to write such a book and it might even take me a lifetime to find a book that can express the same thing. However it is in my opinion difficult or almost impossible to find a book that gives the same sensation, feeling or idea as music but I just think it must be possible. Also I think that art in any form can provoke the same reaction. That is, music can make me cry theatre and films can as well. Maybe words can't even describe what I'm experiencing when I am reading something that makes me feel in a certain way. I believe that the language is very limited in that way, especially when we have to describe feelings and some rational thing at the same context. The experience people have of connection with the performer and the rest of the audience is sometimes described as a religious experience and that makes sense to me. The fact that it is hard for me to describe what it is that happens when you have such an experience makes it a kind of a mystery. That idea of something that is hard to describe but so fulfilling is maybe the reason why it has been related to some kind of higher power but makes me wonder what could happen If we really could understand the language of music.