

UNIVERSITY AT BIFRÖST

Feelings and music

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Assessment

I have been listening to music for as long as can remember. My late father was always listening to classical music, jazz and blues. I think that I was about one year old when I started singing and that was a song by Billy Joel called „my life“. Of course I did not know the whole song or the words but I knew the first notes and the words, my life. When I am listening to music it depends what kind of music I'm listening to at the time. If I'm listening to classical music I begin to think about my childhood, about my father and the days when I was studying classical guitar myself. I see pictures in my mind of those days and I can remember some good times and also the bad times. Also when I'm listening to music, in general, I can relate to all kinds of different smells and I think that has something to do with each and every ones memories. For example if I'm listening to rock and roll music, Deep Purple or Led Zeppelin, I can feel the smell of summer and how everything is coming alive. if hear a Christmas song in the summer time I can feel the smell of cookies.

I have been a professional musician for 12 years, that is to say I have earned my living that way. Today I'm still playing music with my band, performing on concerts, composing music and lyrics, recording and so on. I have never written the lyrics before the song, I always write the song first and when I talk to my friends about it, who are writing songs and lyrics as well, they also do it in that order. Of course you can do it the other way around but for me it seems to have more meaning in the end, to express myself first with music and then to find the words to go with it. When me and my friends are talking about music and trying to express how we feel when we are listening to it we often share the same feelings but as well the quite opposite. We are maybe listening to country music and sharing some thoughts about how we feel and what we are feeling when we listen to it. Some are feeling sad while some one is feeling lonely and others are feeling happy. I think that is the beauty about music, it creates different feelings for all of us. I think I can listen to all kind of music as long as it is honest and you can find honesty in all kind of music. Today I have in my CD player a hard core band called Pantera. Some would say that kind of music is not music, just some guys trying to play but instead it comes out only as noise to some people. To me it feels like I can express anger, sadness, joy and happiness all at the same time and sometimes I cannot find the words to describe it at all. Two of my favorites are reggae and soul music. If I compare myself to the African-Americans and to the Jamaican culture I can find one thing that we have in common and that is music. We as human beings can all relate and find some things that binds us

together when it comes to music. In my opinion it doesn't matter where you are from because we all have feelings when it comes to music and that is something that everybody share

I like to listen to opera and classical music and most of the operas that have been written are in Italian and German. I don't understand a word in those languages but I don't have to, because of the music. If I don't understand the language I listen to the notes that are being sung and that is how I try to approach music from different cultures as well, listen to the music.

I think that people can relate up to several levels, when it comes to music, which is great, to have some kind of communication system that everybody can understand. But I also believe that everyone has their one unique experience when it comes to music that words can never describe.