

Pierre Williams

Professor Conway ENG 101

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What Is Music?

Can you tell me what you think music is? You may say that it's the hip-hop that comes on when you turn on your radio. Or you may say that it's the smooth sounds of R&B you hear when you put in your favorite CD. You may even say it's the rap, pop, and rock that fill the streets you walk on and the stores you shop in. Is it just the recorded sounds that we hear every day? No. Music is much more than that. It is also the live, vibrant sound waves that hit your eardrums everyday as you live your life. From the music at a live concert to the sounds of cars on busy streets, music is everything we hear.

Music is the song of artists and poets all over the world. It is their way of expressing their feelings and their emotions. Music is their release from reality, their ability to finally free themselves from everyday life. It is the artists' way to relieve the minds and hearts of the people who hear it. It is the artists' ability to show everyone that no one is alone, that someone else feels just the way you do. Music is the medium that connects all people across the world, no matter what race, nationality, or religion.

Music is the sound of the bed creaking when you wake up in the morning. It is the sound of the door slamming behind you as you step out into a new day. It is the busy hum that the crowd of passing faces makes as they hurry down the block. Music is the cars honking in rush hour traffic, the buses coming to a screeching halt, and the trains screaming as they fly through the stations. It's the sound of a million different sounds racing and colliding at the intersection

that is your eardrum. The stomping of dancers, the arguing of neighbors, the loud landings of jet planes, and the soft tones of a singer; it's all music and it's all for you.

Music is the sounds of a band onstage, playing live and loudly at their concert. It is the song of vocalists harmonizing in the studio. It is the sound of applause at the end of a great show. It's the thunderous roar of the wind on a stormy day. Music is the soothing voice of your mother wishing you another good day. It is the clatter of forks on plates at the table during supper and the clanking of dishes in the sink after dinner. Music is the sound of you laughing with your friends between classes; it is the lecture your professor while class is in session. Music is the sounds of all the voices in a nation, screaming, yelling, crying, and laughing.

What is music? Is it the sounds coming from your radio or the tracks playing from your CD? Yes, it is, but it is so much more. It's everything hitting your eardrums, from elderly women tapping with canes to lead guitarists playing their solos. It is the sound of feet traveling over concrete sidewalks and tires screeching over blacktop streets. Music is the sound of the world living and dying; music is life.