

The Talon's Press

Springstead High School
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Going Beyond the Radio

BY REBECCA BRAZ

The radio is a popular medium used by music lovers. The only problem with the radio is that it gives you a limited view of an artist. For myself, the one or two songs by a certain artist that are played on the radio can make or break my perception of them, depending on whether or not I have heard of them before. Those one or two songs are called singles, and they are chosen by artists to be presented to the public. These songs may be played on the radio and a music video may be made for them. One thing I am worried about is whether or not everyone is aware that those songs on the radio are not the only songs that an artist has to their name. An album with thirteen tracks may have only one song from it getting any air play, and if that song doesn't strike your fancy, you'll probably never give that artist a second thought. That is why it is important to go beyond the radio and listen to other songs by an artist. An example of this is the band AFI. Plenty of people know AFI because of their song, "Miss Murder." But as soon as you mention other songs from the same album as "Miss Murder," such as "Kill Caustic" or "Summer Shudder," you might lose them. Sometimes a single will not give the best perception of an artist- it might just be the best song for the radio that they have. Going beyond the radio is especially important if you are going to attend a concert because they're going to be playing more than just that one song from the radio, and concerts are usually more fun if you're familiar with their entire body of work and not just one part of it. Go beyond the radio and buy an artist's album if you really enjoyed their single; eight times out of ten, you will not regret it.

Sing All the Way to the Bank

BY KRISTINE CHAPMAN

As a world famous musician, it is obvious that you would be rolling in cash. In a recent study done by Forbes magazine, the world's richest musician is Paul McCartney. Sir Paul, as he was known, is well worth about \$660 billion. McCartney is worth this much simply because he took the right legal counsel and used proper publishing rights. Being a member of The Beatles and selling over 170 million copies of a CD doesn't hurt either. The Guinness Book of World Records says that Paul McCartney was the most successful songwriter in the history of pop music. McCartney makes about \$48,488,372 a year, \$4,040,698 per month, \$1,010,174 per week or \$202,034.88 per day! That means that every second, McCartney is making \$7.01 just from all that he has produced and written.

Sounds of Today

BY AARON ROGERS

What is music? According to the Google dictionary, it is "the art or science of combining vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion." That seems like such a broad topic, and it is. We can't exactly describe music, but we know it when we hear it (kind of like the Internet or obscenity).

Sometimes, our definition of "music" seems so far-fetched. Is a guy whose voice is being modified by studio editing machines while talking about his date last night in sync with thumping noises still classified as music? Apparently it is, according to the modern generation of young adults. Some music is just, well, obscene.

In my opinion, some music has just gone too far. Why does anyone want to hear you swearing and describing your drug-related activities? I think there are two possible answers.

First, my generation, like those who came before, is a lot more rebellious than our superiors. You just didn't hear about this kind of stuff in the early 1900s without it being punished by parents. I know my parents don't listen to that stuff, so they would kill me (metaphorically, of course) for doing so. Most kids can use this "art" as a way of escaping parental constraints... if there are any to begin with.

Secondly, there are lots of people who are honestly into that stuff. I don't know how or why, but some people do the things that the rappers describe and find it necessary to fill their music-listening time with that as well.

Not all music is bad though. Recent years have also seen an increase in Christian rock, soft contemporary, moderate hip-hop, and others that don't go crazy. And yes, there are still techno musicians out there.

Music in general isn't bad; on the contrary, it's an amazing invention of human beings. But the lyrics are poisoning people's minds, and, according to some older adults, turning them "rotten."

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*Music
Touches
the
Soul*

The Truth about Trombones

BY KATIE DUGUID

Usually, when I tell people I play the trombone, they're not sure what it is. Well, the trombone is more unique from other instruments in that, instead of keys and buttons, it has a slide, which has seven positions. As you go to a lower position, the sound gets deeper. The shape of your lips against the mouthpiece determines how high or low the pitch comes out. This horn is in the brass family, which means it doesn't use strings or a reed to make its sounds. You may not know this, but trombones are frequently used in jazz, classical, orchestral and ska music. Pay attention- you just might hear a glissando (the sound the slide makes when you move it around without stopping the note) in your favorite song.

Music for the Brain

BY KRISTINE CHAPMAN

Classical music may be very old, but that doesn't mean it isn't still in use. Classical music is actually linked to helping the brain in certain situations. If you listen to this style of music while writing an essay, your words flow more freely. This isn't the only thing classical music does for you, either. Classical music is also proven to soothe the nerves and cause relaxation. Focusing on classical music can also induce a mood of concentration, filter out distractions, prolong attention span, encode information in memory and improve recollection. When you need to do your best brainwork, classical music can prime and sharpen your mind. While listening to this type of music, your heart rate also relaxes and your pulse steadies itself. You also have brain activation, meaning you take in more information while listening to classical music. Although you may say it is old and out of fashion, it does have perks.

Memoirs of a Violinist

BY JENINE MASSAT

In Mr. Dasher's second period Orchestra class, the only Orchestra class offered at Springstead High School, the numbers are greatly disproportional. The majority of the class is violin players, while there are a mere two string bassists, three cellists, and two viola players. It's no surprise, however, that the violin is one of the most popular string instruments. It's probably the most famous, and as an added bonus, it's one of the cheapest. On top of that, it's glossy, sleek, petite, and all around beautiful. In fact, some of my fellow violinists have grown so attached to their instruments that they've decided to name them; mine's called Charlene.

However, despite their beauty and popularity, these string instruments, like all string instruments, are extremely hard to play. I've been playing for two years now, and I still sound like a yowling cat. For beginners, the toughest thing is to know whether or not your violin's "in tune." Each playing session starts out with strumming each individual string (G, D, A, and E) and listening to make sure the notes aren't too high or low. Otherwise, even if you put your finger in the correct position, any subsequent notes will sound terrible. For beginners, a tuner, a small machine that "hears" the note, shows you whether the notes are too sharp (high) or flat (low). The student then has to make adjustments by turning the pegs near the top of the violin or the screws at the bottom. However, your tuning isn't over yet. Throughout the entire piece of music, you have to make sure that your finger is in the exact position for each note, and that's hard, especially when your finger decides to slide down throughout. Putting tape on your violin to mark where notes are is an easy remedy for beginners, but tape isn't something you can always rely on. After playing the violin for too long, even the tape can start to slide down.

After playing a year of clarinet and being mainly self-taught on the piano, I can honestly say that the violin is the hardest instrument I've ever played. Between making sure the notes are in tune and moving the bow against the strings in a precise way, playing the violin is hard. I still love it though, and one day, I hope I can practice enough to sound much better than I do now.

CDs are Superior

BY REBECCA BRAZ

Internet piracy is no joke. Downloading music for free off of the internet is illegal, no matter what you justify it with. Whining at people about this issue never seems to help, so instead of focusing on the problems itself, it would hopefully prove more effective to tell you why I personally do not download music from the internet, illegally or legally.

The internet is a wonderful thing but it can also spell trouble for some people. In this case, I am talking about people involved in the music industry. The internet is a way for people to find out about their music and hear it. The internet is also a way for people to steal their music through websites like Limewire, Frostwire, Pirate Bay, Demonoid, and Mediafire. But then there are website like iTunes, Napster, and Rhapsody, where music can be purchased legally. You'd think that websites like this are no problem because you are actually paying for your music; in actuality, you are hurting the music industry. Record stores are closing down like crazy, such as the entire chain of Virgin Megastores in the U.S. and several FYEs, which are both stores that would mainly sell CDs and vinyl. Physical CDs that you can rip the cellophane off of and read the lyric booklet from are becoming harder to find, especially if the album is not a recent release. I prefer purchasing CDs in stores over buying from iTunes because physical copies of my favorite CDs are wonderful to have. It's an exciting experience to walk into FYE and search until I find the album I'm looking for, to walk up to the counter and have the clerk tell me, "This band is great," to struggle with the plastic seal (that uses the most powerful glue in the world) at the top of the CD case, and to pop the CD into my stereo and jam alone to it in my room. The internet cannot give you album artwork, some albums come with hidden tracks that you only get with the physical CD, and other albums may have extra booklets or an extra CD documenting the making of the album. So I encourage you to save up some money and walk into Hot Topic, FYE, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, or your favorite independent record store and buy an actual, made-from-polycarbonate CD and experience it all for yourself.

Katie's Kolumn: Music is Your Life?

BY KATIE DUGUID

It really irks me when someone says that music is their life. It might be an important part of your life or mean something particularly poignant to you, but there are thousands of facets of your life. Music is one small part of those, and it nowhere near the most important of them. For example, I'm sure you like eating, sleeping, and breathing. Who doesn't? Without these things, you wouldn't be able to live, much less function in society. Now, there are people who will counter me and say, "But I can't live without music!" Those people are liars. Music is enjoyable and meaningful, but it is not necessary to sustain human life. The closest thing to music that is vital is the "beat" of your heart.

Also, are your friends and family not important? Are they not valuable to you? Perhaps you'll tell me that you have no friends or family, and music has taken their role in your life for you. Somehow, music manages to comfort you, provide for you, and share in your happiness? Then, I assure you, I am happy you have found solace after your terrible loss. However, I doubt that's the case. Generic lyrics over the strum of a guitar and a steady cymbal tap are never going to replace the words a friend or family member can provide for just you. Not for millions of fans who bought the album, but for you.

I understand the important role music can play in a person's life. It has had a huge impact on mine, from teaching me a new skill to introducing me to people with similar interests. However, there are far more important things in life, like vital functions and the people close to you, than mere sounds.

Setting the Mood

BY DEANNE SELAMAJ

Music can drastically change your mood- I think that is its purpose. Some songs make you feel like you're on top of the world, with moving choruses and meaningful proverbs in every verse, or some can strike every fiber in your body with sadness and break you down to tears. A song can give you goose bumps every time you press play, no matter how old it is. You can never get sick of the lyrics or the overall feeling you get listening to the song, no matter how many times you've heard it. Any song can give you a memory of the first time you heard it: where you were, what you were doing, who you were with. Music can be an amazing form of art and really move your emotions.

A Day of the Week in Your Ears

BY KRISTINE CHAPMAN

At this point in time, I am pretty sure almost everyone has heard or has heard of the song "Friday" by Rebecca Black. I know, quite a few of you don't like it, but this song has gone so far considering its lyrics and tone. From its debut on March 14, "Friday" has reached over 102 million views, 2.1 million comments, and 2 million "dislikes" on Youtube. "Friday" was actually written by Black's family and Patrice Wilson. It's called "Friday" because by the time they were finished writing the lyrics, it was early Friday morning. The song is used to describe Rebecca Black's daily life and what she does. The music video took twelve hours to film and was filmed at Black's father's house. Time magazine ranked Friday number two on the list of "Top 10 Songs with Silly Lyrics." However, Black's unforgettable song has made the Billboard Top 100 Chart all across the world, including Ireland, India, Greenland, Australia, and New Zealand. There has definitely been some negative feedback about this song, but I'm pretty sure that on Fridays it's the one song that won't stop playing in your head.

Scrub-A-Dub-Dub, I Sing In the Tub

BY REBECCA BRAZ

You sing in the shower, don't deny it. Whether or not you will admit it, you are busting a rhyme or humming a tune. These are the songs that I jam to under the showerhead, and you might find that they suit your musical bathing needs as well.

1. "Beautiful Thieves" – AFI
2. "Borrowed Time" – Architects
3. "Dangerous Animals" – Arctic Monkeys
4. "Gloria" – Canterbury
5. "Fever Dreams" – Circa Survive
6. "Reindeer Age" – Closure In Moscow
7. "The Family Disease" – Oceana
8. "Memories" – Panic! At The Disco
9. "Dancing In The Future" – Powerspace
10. "Hurricane" – 30 Seconds To Mars

*"Music is the literature of
the heart; it commences
where speech ends."*

-Alphonse de Lamartine

U.S. Army Facts



Active Army:

- \$2,000-\$35,000 Bonuses for specific jobs
- \$20,000- \$40,000 Bonuses for Enlistment
- Guaranteed Training for over 150 Jobs
- \$37,000- \$73,000 for College combined with Montgomery GI Bill
- \$65,000 for loan payment
- 14 month Delayed Entry Program for Juniors/ \$500 a month for each month of participation
- Starting pay: \$1,347.00 a month

What's Expected:

Loyalty: Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution

Duty: Fulfill your obligations

Respect: Treat people as they should be treated

Selfless Service: Put the welfare of the Nation, the Army and your subordinates before your own

Honor: Live up the Army's Values

Integrity: Do what's right; legally and morally

Personal Courage: Face fear, danger or adversity (physical or moral)

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