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Subject: Re: What determines how we perceive different types of music?

Posted by [Ebirah01](#) on Thu, 04 Aug 2011 19:55:43 GMT

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Hey there Carmon!

The first part of your post is part of the answer: the appreciation of music is highly subjective and draws heavily from a listener's background and their personal construction of sensibilities and aesthetics. It is impossible to determine the answer to your question with any level of certainty, but what is certain is that musical tastes are without a doubt widely varied and extremely personal.

One source that may interest you is a book published in 2006 by Atlantic Books called *This Is Your Brain on Music* by Daniel Levitin. The author was a record producer who gave up his music job to study neuroscience. It does not give specific answers (and rightfully so), but it does map out great ways of looking at the questions you just posed.

There are a few other books, too, such as Anthony Storr's book called *Music and the Mind* and a collection of essays edited by Henry Stobart entitled *Sound*. The latter book is a variety of thoughts on the construction of aesthetics and not directly related to your query, but the underlying meanings therein are pertinent and it is a great read!

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