
Subject: Why the music matters for men

Posted by [Duke](#) on Sat, 01 Jul 2006 21:41:09 GMT

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Have you noticed that more men than women really get into music, and often by extension into this hobby of ours? Why does the music matter so much to so many guys? Well I have a theory on the subject. Let me introduce it by telling you a story. My stepfather is a retired Marine aviator who flew helicopters for two combat tours in Viet Nam and completed a third tour flying fixed-wing aircraft. He is a genuine warrior - tough, practical, honorable, logical, and in control. Never ever emotional. He makes Mr. Spock look like Richard Simmons. Now my stepfather has a passion for opera, and one day I gave him a Cecilia Bartoli disc. He invited me to listen to it with him. This was a first, so I did so. He has no sense of speaker placement or sweet spot, but I've learned not to try to impose my audiophilia on him. We sat in silence through the entire disc. When it was over, I saw movement out of the corner of my eye. He was quietly wiping away tears. I was stunned. What had happened? This is what I think happened: This old warrior has been conditioned (and has further conditioned himself) not to feel or show his emotions. Music - in his case, opera - has the power to take him past his conditioning, deep into what is normally forbidden territory. Nothing else has the power to do that for him. Music is where he goes to feel. Music is his connection, his lifeline perhaps, to his well-hidden emotional side. Despite the warrioriness - and I'm convinced that's who he really is; it's not a facade - he has a suppressed side that needs to feel things, and to feel them deeply. And for him, there simply is no other way. Now I'm not half the man he is, but still my feelings are not something that I let out. I have my barriers too. Music serves that role for me as well - it facilitates my feeling things that normally I put up barriers to and keep locked away. I speculate that music plays this role in the life of many men. I do not think it's as essential for women because they aren't as walled-off from their feelings as we are. They can cry or mourn or show giddy elation and it's okay. They don't need the inner therapy session that we get when we put on an album we love, close our eyes, and feel all it way way down deep to the very bottom of our souls. And when it's over, we come away just a little bit better than we were before, a little bit more true to that part of ourselves, and perhaps a little bit healed from the wounds we would never let anyone know were there. Music well reproduced does this better of course, but even the car radio can work it on me. Duke

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men

Posted by [MWG](#) on Sat, 01 Jul 2006 23:11:19 GMT

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I know you are right in what you say. I had a unpleasant relationship with my stepdad. I used to let music take me out of my situation and make me forget my surroundings for a while. I still use it to move me to a place. A place where I can relax or in the case of rock music get absorbed in it. You are right about the medium. Sometimes just hearing a old song on a car radio triggers memories of times gone by. Oregon NPR used to have a show where the host told you who wrote the piece about to be played, why he wrote it, what it meant and lastly who was playing it. This was a wonderful way for someone like me who had little or no exposure to classical music to learn to appreciate it. I've noticed there are certain songwriters I relate to better than others. Gordon

Lightfoot, John Prine, JJ Cale and Mark Knopfler all write lyrics I can easily relate to.

Subject: Songcrafters Gordon Lightfoot & Mark Knopfler

Posted by [Duke](#) on Sun, 02 Jul 2006 02:23:36 GMT

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Yup Gordon & Mark to it for me, and now I'll have to check out John Prine and JJ Cale. Neil Peart (of Rush) and Ian Anderson (of Jethro Tull) are a couple others that can speak to me. For years music was a more reliable friend to me than most of my fellow primates, or so it seemed. End even today I can still put on any one of the first four albums I bought as a kid and the magic is still there, courtesy of Queen, Led Zep, Blue Oyster Cult and Jethro Tull. Duke

Subject: Re: Songcrafters Gordon Lightfoot & Mark Knopfler

Posted by [MWG](#) on Sun, 02 Jul 2006 02:47:42 GMT

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John Prine's first album is his best I think. He is sort of an unpolished Lightfoot. His metaphors are powerful and easily visualized. J.J. Cale is more laid back and his first album "Naturally" is the one I like best.

Subject: Blue Velvet

Posted by [Damir](#) on Sun, 02 Jul 2006 19:42:45 GMT

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This story reminds me of that Lynch movie...when Frank (Dennis Hopper) looked at Dorothy Vallens (Isabella Rossellini) performed "Blue Velvet" song on stage, he cried like a baby... The day before, he perversely and the most sadistically raped her...

And other scene, where he listened "In Dreams" by Roy Orbison, high on some pills and unknown gas...totally emotional, out of this world...then brutally beat Frank (Kyle MacLachlan) and tried to cut his ear...

Huh, those man...

<http://www.lynchnet.com/bv/pics2.html>

Subject: Re: Songcrafters Gordon Lightfoot & Mark Knopfler

Posted by [Duke](#) on Mon, 03 Jul 2006 23:43:03 GMT

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Thanks!Duke

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 15:56:14 GMT

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Men are more solitary, and appreciating music is a solitary experience. Women are more social, and appreciating music becomes social for them. In general, of course there are exceptions. How you doing, Duke?-akhilesh

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men

Posted by [Duke](#) on Fri, 21 Jul 2006 05:14:30 GMT

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Hi Akhilesh,I hadn't thought of that, but I think you're right. We are rather solitary creatures, though some of my most memorable listening sessions were with close audio buddies.I'm doing fine, though recently I'm a bit more motivated to get some speakers into production and make some money. My oldest son was accepted to an expensive film-making school in California, and I don't have any money saved up for it. He had a little. So...At this point I have four projects in the works. The one that's potentially the money-maker is a subwoofer system designed to work well with Magneplanars. I'll be building the prototype in a few weeks hopefully. Wayne's plan to move the show to Dallas has the potential to transform it into a major regional show. That would be great. Lori and I will definitely be there next year.Well I'm off for the next four days or so on another trip, will try to check in once or twice.Duke

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Fri, 21 Jul 2006 12:43:53 GMT

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Sounds good, buddy! Good luck with your projects. I agree, moving the show to Dallas should make it a lot more prominent. Hope I get to hear your stuff soon (esp the fostex speaker you did)-akhilesh

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [lostinstereo](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2012 19:41:22 GMT
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I completely agree. Music is the absolute best way to dive into emotions you're not sure how to express. I will argue that it seems antisocial women are also into music, though still not as much as men.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [Miranda Starr](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2012 07:14:59 GMT
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I'm sure this is true for some, but I think there are many exceptions. I know some men who are much more interested in subjects like sports and politics. I do agree that there is a certain percentage of the male population that is extremely into music, and the reasons given for that here make sense.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [The Wiz](#) on Wed, 29 Feb 2012 23:57:30 GMT
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This is an interesting thread, and something I'd never really thought of. So women have things like sad movies to get their feelings out. Men rely on music for that cathartic experience. That's a great theory, it seems to ring true for me.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [mixinlady](#) on Sat, 28 Apr 2012 19:52:00 GMT
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I think you have something here with the feelings theory. My hubby loves metal music, even though to me most of it just sounds like screaming. He connects to it in a way that I cannot comprehend.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [audioaudio90](#) on Fri, 21 Sep 2012 13:01:47 GMT
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Duke wrote on Sat, 01 July 2006 17:41 They don't need the inner therapy session that we get when we put on an album we love, close our eyes, and feel all it way way down deep to the very bottom of our souls. And when it's over, we come away just a little bit better than we were before, a little bit more true to that part of ourselves, and perhaps a little bit healed from the wounds we would never let anyone know were there.

This is an old thread, but interesting. While it's true that men are socialized to repress emotion more (which I think is a shame), I'm not sure that translates to a deeper appreciation for music. What Duke describes above certainly happens to me as a female when I listen to music. I'm sure it happens to plenty of other women as well.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [Danny](#) on Fri, 05 Apr 2013 11:22:15 GMT
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I can't say that I've noticed that more men get into music than women. Almost all the women I know love music. However, there are many more men musicians. I think there might be something to that, but what, I have yet to figure out.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [Azuri](#) on Tue, 28 May 2013 19:32:24 GMT
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This is an interesting topic Duke, thanks. Now that I think about it, it does seem that more men are "in tune" as it were. You would think that music being a more emotional outlet and women being more emotional, that things would be different, but they're not.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [Kingfish](#) on Tue, 29 Nov 2016 08:32:36 GMT
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Now that I think about it, you do have more men who are singers and songwriters than there are women.

So music appeals more to men than women.....go figure.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [Cortney](#) on Fri, 23 Dec 2016 10:17:29 GMT
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We are vibrational beings, and music is nothing other than vibration that we are translating and hearing and 'feeling' so it doesn't come as a surprise that ALL people find vibrational alignment with at least one type of music.

Subject: Re: Why the music matters for men
Posted by [WorkingWoman2017](#) on Sun, 12 Nov 2017 20:00:46 GMT

Well, I have to disagree with you that women only like music in a social setting. I love to get in my car for a long trip and play all my music over and over. I really miss that these days since I don't get to go as much. Not every idea is 100%.
