Subject: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Azuri on Sun, 31 May 2020 00:16:23 GMT
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Not to get too deep or philosophical, but do you think morals come into play with music? When I was growing up, the old timers used to say that "today's music" didn't have any morals to it like theirs did (30's and 40's). Or that it was a bad example for kids who were just learning what morals were.

I thought they were just being old codgers, but now I'm thinking along those same lines. That the music we listened to back in our day (60's and 70's) reflected more of a moral structure than what we hear these days.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 31 May 2020 17:34:40 GMT
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I've heard the same complaint about sexually suggestive and/or violent movies, television and video games.

Which begs the question, do sexually suggestive lyrics, videos and games create promiscuous people? Do gay scenes in movies and television create homosexuals? Do violent movies, games and music create violent behaviors? Do they give influences that push people towards said behaviors? Or is it maybe that people that already have a predisposition to certain behaviors are attracted to music, movies and games with those behaviors in them?

I personally think it's a little bit of both. I don't think any of these influences create the behaviors, but I think they might reduce inhibitions. I also think they can generate endorphins that increase sexual and/or violent urges, even in well-adjusted people. That's what the sexually or emotionally charged lyrics and/or scenes are there for - to create an emotional reaction.

People naturally have sexual arousal, they naturally have anger and they naturally have fear. Those are physical responses to certain stimuli. They can even be responses to internal thoughts. So in my opinion, each of these three feelings are natural and good. Our sex drive pushes us to find the right mate. Our fears move us to a safer place. And our angers push us to fix something in our lives that isn't working.

But I think it's really easy to get stuck in those three particular emotions. An obsession with arousal can cause a person to be stuck in an unhealthy pattern, to not be able to let go of a relationship that isn't healthy, or even to get them into date-rape situations. An obsession with fear becomes a phobia, and a person can become paralyzed and never approach the feared thing to solve it, or maybe even never leave the house. An obsession with anger becomes a resentment, and the resentful person tends to hate the world or some aspect of it. They forget how to be grateful for life, have joy and experience love.

I find that when I'm in a "good place," little disturbances don't affect me. I walk through them, so

to speak, and easily brush off slight irritations. In that mental place, I'm not particularly interested in hearing any angry music or being around any person or environment that is negatively charged.

But if I have something difficult in my life, perhaps the loss of a loved one that makes me grieve or the loss of health or income in my life of the life of a loved one, then I feel fear and perhaps anger. There are lots of things that can make me feel fear or anger, and I know that time will take care of those things if I "walk through" them and resolve the situation. Sometimes it's just a matter of time. In those cases, I find I just have to accept the situation and wait for time to heal. Other times, I need to take action to resolve the situation. Often times, it's a little of both.

During those times - when I'm uncomfortable, angry or afraid - I find myself more attracted to angry music. It's time to break out some Tool, Metallica or Limp Bizkit. I'm sort of expressing an internal rage through the music. But I usually get sick of it after a while and calm back into a more mellow musical selection. I find it funny, sort of laughing at myself, for my lack of acceptance in those minutes. It's a part of a grieving process, I think.

I could easily get stuck there though, especially if I think someone else has wronged me. I can look at politicians and think how stupid they are. I can get angry at how people look like they follow stupid things blindly. The world looks ugly and dark and stupid. When really, most of what I'm looking at is through the filter or my own inner dialog. And I know that. So that keeps me from getting stuck there. But sometimes I linger a while. :lol:

OK, I've been way too philosophical. How 'bout this for some levity:

Now we return to our regularly scheduled programming.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Rusty on Mon, 01 Jun 2020 13:34:12 GMT
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That old generation gap thing. Like old man river, keeps rolling along. What was once Devils music, or Race music, dirty music. After the years roll on. Can seem quaint in perspective. Are we that more enlightened? Not bent out of shape, with what caused such a commotion, way back when. I know I'll never be able to appreciate hip-hop, and certainly not death metal music. What will be perverse to the elders of the future? Will they note the disparity of what plagued us old pfarts today and think, you ain't heard nothin' yet. Man, I hope not. I hope life in general isn't so oppressive as to inspire music to reflect that.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Vaiger on Wed, 19 Aug 2020 16:01:10 GMT
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As Wayne said, inhibitions can be loosened. We listen to artists that appeal to us for various

reasons. One being, the topics they sing about. So if you are predispositioned to violence, you're going to enjoy songs about violence. Same with love, social issues, etc.....

As the old saying goes "You can't take somebody somewhere that they haven't been to before".

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by gofar99 on Fri, 21 Aug 2020 03:04:29 GMT
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Hummm.... Good stuff. having achieved through little fault of my own the ripe age of 74 I have discovered a few things. Nothing is permanent. Being mellow is much better than being angry. Smiling and trying to see other people's perspective is always useful...if not to them at least to me. So I take stuff without getting riled up by it and hope to hang in there for a while longer. :roll:

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by The Noise on Sat, 22 Aug 2020 20:29:23 GMT
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Yep, time does have a way of smoothing out the rough edges Gofar.

But this is the old chicken and egg argument. You have to remember that most musical acts don't do it to become trendsetters. What they do reflects their social circle. I don't really know of anyone who tries to speak for, and affect, the world.

Musicians simply reflect whatever moral structure they live with.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Phonetic Ear on Sun, 10 Oct 2021 10:04:37 GMT
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Azuri wrote on Sat, 30 May 2020 19:16
I thought they were just being old codgers, but now I'm thinking along those same lines. That the music we listened to back in our day (60's and 70's) reflected more of a moral structure than what we hear these days.
Seeing the lyrics of some of the songs now, I can see what that post is pointing. Music before expressed more about life and offered more meaning. Indeed artists have different approaches, but we know more important things to put in our song.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?

Posted by Concorde on Tue, 12 Oct 2021 17:45:50 GMT
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Morals come into play, but I don't think it's a conscious thing with the artist unless he or she makes Christian music. It's the people listening to the songs who read morals into the songs.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Kingfish on Tue, 16 Nov 2021 16:11:39 GMT
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This is a "Chicken or the egg" conundrum. Artists tap into the public consciousness in order to better appeal to the public, the public puts their own personal interpretations into the art the artist is selling, artists then take that change as a shift in public morals and make art that suits that.

Just goes to show just how subjective morals are.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by sammi40 on Tue, 01 Feb 2022 11:43:10 GMT
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Wow, great topic. Artists now sing what "sells". To me a lot of it is just plain garbage. If you think back I bet a lot of people said the same thing about the older singers. I bet a lot of parents didn't want their children listening to Johnny Cash.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Zart on Fri, 11 Mar 2022 04:33:06 GMT
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Yeah, pertaining to the lyrics, I can see what you're talking about when you say morals. The majority of the songs' content before was definitely more meaningful. It told more about what's happening in society.

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Miami on Mon, 14 Mar 2022 04:42:26 GMT
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Zart wrote on Thu, 10 March 2022 22:33Yeah, pertaining to the lyrics, I can see what you're talking about when you say morals.
Through other personal interests of mine, I found out that interest in song lyrics is peaking again. There are so many, and popular, lyric sites. SO hopefully, this trend of dirty, misogynistic, and degrading messages in songs through lyrics will turn around. Maybe people will get tired of all the negativity and let writers know they want more positive things to listen to.

/rant :lol:

Subject: Re: Morals Anyone?
Posted by Kingfish on Mon, 14 Mar 2022 05:08:08 GMT
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Did somebody say lyrics and morals?

I see this as the age-old chicken and the egg question. I believe that you can't appeal to someone something that they don't already feel or agree with. It borders on confirmation bias.

I'm not justifying the darker and uglier side of human nature, I'm justifying why we listen to it. It's already in us. Songwriters bring it out in the open and that rubs some people the wrong way.

I think any uptick in songs with less than desirable messages is in tandem with our willingness to admit to them. It's called growing as people and that's not a bad thing.