



Name Surname

Professor's Name

Course

Date

Why Do People Perceive Music in a Different Way?

Every song, at its core, is a sequence of sounds. These sounds are aligned according to a structure that depends on the genre of music. These genre constraints limit the number of sound combinations quite a lot. With the amount of music that is being produced today, we have inched closer and closer to being forced to consider how many years it will take until we run out of songs to write. And this is where the evolution of genre comes in. We steadily moved from classical, rigid structure, to chaotic jazz, to beat-focused disco, to rock, to alternative, to electronic, to modern. That's a very simplified way to put it. But the idea is that music evolves along with humanity.

What are the reasons it evolves? Why do we consider some music "too old" and some "too avant-garde"? How come different generations and even different people within one generation prefer different types of music? In this case, we are going to consider two theories. These are cultural adaptation and sound pattern recognition. A more precise answer would probably be more layered and nuanced than that. But for the purposes of this essay, let's focus on these two.

The human ear receives sounds and passes them through nerves directly to the brain. The brain's job is to recognize and interpret these patterns. In the case of music, there's little it can do in terms of interpretation. However, finding structure and order in the patterns of sound is



something it does really well. We can assume that the brain can become bored of seeing the same old pattern over and over again. This is why we can't listen to the same song on repeat. This applies not only to the song we listen to. But to every song that fits the pattern. There's a lot of room for variation even within similar songs of one genre. The slightest change can reignite the brain's interest in music. However, if you listen to similar songs long enough - you will start feeling that fatigue. This will eventually force you to look for something innovative, ultimately leading to the exploration of a new genre.

On the other hand, its cultural aspect has more to do with what we associate music with than what it actually sounds like. If we enter into a conflict with a particular group of people, like a group of school bullies, and they have a preference for a particular genre of songs, we are likely to subconsciously resent this genre. This can push us to mix and match sounds that we associate with something good while avoiding sounds that we associate with something bad. This, in turn, can lead to the creation of an entirely new combination of musical tools and a discovery of a totally new musical genre.

These two aspects of musical evolution lie on the very surface of our perception. And although this process has many more hidden parts, these two seem to have the most influence over what direction our personal musical preferences take us.