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### The iPod's Impact as a Sound Technology

The iPod is one of Apple's most influential inventions. It is no larger than the palm of your hand, yet it can last for 10 hours and store thousands of songs. It is already known that songs are special forms of sound and communication; they can hold many aspects of life, including stories, experiences, sensations. The ability for one to store thousands of these special sounds and listen to them with complete freedom had remarkable impacts on the world of sound.

Regarding the production of songs, the iPod made it possible for songs to be transported digitally, completely eliminating the need for the purchase of physical music files such as CDs or tapes. This meant that producers did not have to go through the process of getting a record label in order to reach an audience. Independent artists could have their music heard by people across the world, meaning that more artists were motivated to produce music. Another example of how the iPod changed the production of music was the introduction of music festivals. In the early 2010s, popular festivals such as Coachella offered live streams, and they can be streamed on iPods. This allowed people to experience the festivals wherever they were, which shows that the iPod captured sound as an experience to be consumed by people in any location.

The iPod also changed how music was interpreted as well. In a world before the iPod, with limited music storage, songs would have to be downloaded rather sparingly. People would have to carefully choose their favorite songs to download since they did not have a lot of space. However, the iPod made this an issue of the past, since it can store thousands of songs. People

can now store whatever they want, including songs, podcasts, and live streams. They do not have to take account for how much storage they have left after each download, meaning that they had the freedom to explore more music. Entire albums can be downloaded and therefore people can interpret multiple songs as an entire experience that the artist conveys. Another revolutionary feature that the iPod had was the playlist feature, which allowed people to create their own collections of songs. This allowed people to interpret multiple songs to convey a similar meaning or mood. I myself have multiple playlists stored on my phone. Although it is not the iPod, it is still a feature that the iPod inspired. The playlists are called Hype, Kickback, “Japanesian music files,” and Dubstep Revolution. These are rather whimsical names for playlists that probably do not make any sense to the average person. However, the important point is that they have meaning to me, since they are my playlists. Hype contains songs that make me feel full of energy, Kickback contains songs that I can leave on in the background in a relaxing setting, “Japanesian music files” just contains Japanese songs that I enjoy, and Dubstep Revolution contains dubstep songs. If they were all in one big group of songs that I had to shuffle and play randomly, I would have to skip certain songs because I am not in the mood to listen to them. The playlist feature allows me to interpret new songs even beyond the realm of mere enjoyment; it allows me to store them in certain collections based on how they make me feel, which in my opinion is a powerful feature.

On a different note, the iPod also changed how we evaluated sound by introducing the use of high quality sound. People got used to the higher sound quality and therefore demanded more quality from the sound emitted from their other portable devices. This led to a new standard of sound that other devices had to adhere to. Also, the iPod’s ability to convey a higher quality form of sound would cause more of the instruments in the song to be heard by the

listener. In turn, the listeners would evaluate the song differently because of the previously unheard instruments.

The iPod also influenced the way people in the world communicate about music. As previously mentioned, the iPod introduced the playlist feature. There have been several instances where I heard the phrase, “I need to add this song to my playlist.” Playlists are so significant that they became the primary way people organize and listen to music, and in turn became a commonly used phrase. This also allowed people to show others their music, because people would be interested in what others’ playlists contain. People had an interest in finding new music in a social way because of playlists.

In conclusion, the iPod’s impact as a sound technology was quite large, as it changed our cultural understanding of sound. It changed the way we listen, produce, and evaluate music, as well as introduced new phrases that change the way we communicate about music. It had a variety of features that sealed itself as an influential sound device, changing the way humanity listened to sound forever.