

Listening and Performance Reflection

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Part A: Music Heard Outside Class

During the time period of the listening journal, I encountered various musical experiences outside the course material. Here are five instances:

Date(s)	Name	Genre	Frequency	Reflection
January 3rd, 2024	Leprous - "The Sky Is Red"	Progressive metal	Several times	While not typical for regular listening, the complexity of the composition intrigued me, prompting repeated listens.
January 28th, 2024	Katatonia - "Ghost of the Sun"	Melancholic rock	A few times	Found the mood of the song captivating and appreciated its emotive depth, making it a likely choice for future listening.
February 1st, 2024	Sleep Token - "Calcutta"	Progressive metal	Several times	The unique blend of genres and ethereal vocals left a strong impression, making it a favorite for repeated listens.
February 10th, 2024	Opeth - "Ghost of Perdition"	Progressive death metal	Several times	As a fan of progressive metal, the intricate compositions and contrasting dynamics of Opeth's music always draw me in, making this track a favorite for repeated listening.
February 18th, 2024	Tool - "Lateralus"	Progressive rock/metal	Several times	"Lateralus" is a timeless piece of music that I frequently return to for its musical complexity and thought-provoking lyrics.

Table 1. Music Heard Outside Class

Part B: Music in Class

Chapter Selection Rationale

I chose Chapter 4, "Music and the Life Cycle," from "Music, a Social Experience" by Stephen Cornelius and Mary Natvig¹ because it offers a comprehensive exploration of how music intersects with various life events and transitions. This chapter delves into the cultural, social, and emotional significance of music during significant milestones such as birth, coming of age, marriage, and death.

Summary of Main Ideas

Chapter 4 delves into the ways in which music accompanies individuals throughout their lives, serving as a means of expression, communication, and cultural identity during key life events. It discusses how music reflects and shapes cultural traditions and societal rituals associated with birth, coming of age, marriage, and death. Through diverse case studies and examples, the chapter highlights the universal role of music in shaping human experiences across different cultures and contexts.

Reaction to Musical Examples

The musical examples provided in Chapter 4 effectively illustrate the profound connection between music and the life cycle. They offer insight into how music is woven into the fabric of various rites of passage and societal rituals, enriching our understanding of the chapter's concepts and themes.

1. Stephen Cornelius and Mary Natvig, *Music, a Social Experience*, 3rd (London: Taylor & Francis Group, 2022), <https://www.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/4538609?accountid=15182>.

Strong Reaction to Example

One example that evoked a strong reaction from me was the discussion on wedding music in different cultures. The chapter highlighted how wedding music varies widely across societies, reflecting cultural traditions, beliefs, and values. The description of elaborate wedding processions accompanied by lively music in certain cultures contrasted with the solemn and contemplative melodies in others. This example vividly illustrated how music encapsulates the diverse emotions and meanings associated with significant life events.

What intrigued me most about this example were the contrasting emotions conveyed through the music. The joyous and celebratory tones of wedding music in some cultures juxtaposed with the solemnity and reverence in others captured the multifaceted nature of human experiences. It made me reflect on the role of music as a cultural marker and a medium for expressing complex emotions during pivotal moments in life.

Likelihood of Listening Again

While some of the musical examples discussed in Chapter 4 may not be readily encountered outside of academic settings, their cultural richness and emotional depth make them compelling choices for further exploration. The chapter sparked my interest in exploring diverse musical traditions and understanding how they intersect with the human life cycle. I would be inclined to seek out similar examples to broaden my musical horizons and deepen my appreciation for the cultural diversity of music.

Part C: Performance Report/Reflection

In the realm of live music, where notes hang in the air like suspended dreams, I embarked on two transcendent journeys—one with the legendary Pink Floyd and the other guided by the cinematic genius of Hans Zimmer. These candlelight concerts, each distinct in genre and style, unfolded like ancient scrolls, revealing the magic of sound and light. As the gentle glow of candle flames danced around me, I bore witness to musical alchemy that defied time and space.

Pink Floyd Concert: A Progressive Odyssey

Venue and Date On **January 24th, 2024**, The Great Hall in Toronto, Canada, transformed into a sanctuary for progressive rock enthusiasts. The flickering candlelight cast shadows on the walls, creating an intimate ambiance—a fitting backdrop for the ethereal sounds that awaited us.

Genre and Performers Pink Floyd, the architects of cosmic rock, emerged from the shadows. Approximately four musicians—faces obscured by the play of light—stepped into the spotlight. Their instruments whispered secrets of intricate compositions, experimental sounds, and thought-provoking lyrics.

Musical Elements The vocal timbre, both delicate and raw, echoed Roger Waters' introspective lyrics. Layers of instrumental texture wove intricate patterns—the bassist anchoring, the keyboardist painting celestial hues, and the lead guitarist conjuring haunting notes. Dynamics shifted seamlessly from hushed whispers to thunderous crescendos, mirroring life's ebb and flow.

Peer-reviewed Reference One peer-reviewed reference used is "On Bowie/Shock and Awe: Glam Rock and its Legacy" by Edward Komara,² providing context to the genre of progressive rock.

Audience Reaction The audience, visible through the live chat, erupted in applause emojis and exclamations. Their enthusiasm mirrored my own. We journeyed through time, our souls echoing with Pink Floyd's legacy.

Hans Zimmer Concert: A Cinematic Overture

Venue and Date A month later, on **February 26th, 2024**, the Maxwell Meighen Centre in Toronto hosted the Hans Zimmer Candlelight Concert. The warm light bathed the venue, setting the stage for a different kind of magic.

Genre and Performers Film music and orchestral compositions unfolded—a genre known for emotive storytelling and dramatic orchestration. Zimmer's scores, etched into our collective memory, evoke powerful emotions during cinematic journeys.

Musical Elements The vocal timbre spoke volumes, even without lyrics. The instrumental texture transported us—violin, cello, and percussion painting cinematic landscapes. Dynamics swelled and receded, mirroring our hearts' tides.

2. Edward Komara, "On Bowie/Shock and Awe: Glam Rock and its Legacy, from the Seventies to the Twenty-First Century/Encyclopedia of KISS: Music, Personnel, Events and Related Subjects," Name - RCA Victor; Copyright - Copyright Association for Recorded Sound Spring 2017; People - Reynolds, Simon; Bowie, David; Weiss, Brett; Sheffield, Rob; Last updated - 2023-11-17; SubjectsTermNotLitGenreText - Reynolds, Simon; Bowie, David; Weiss, Brett; Sheffield, Rob, *ARSC Journal* 48, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 66–70, 86, <https://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/on-bowie-shock-awe-glam-rock-legacy-seventies/docview/1961323001/se-2>.

Peer-reviewed Reference For insights into film music and orchestral compositions, "Marcia J. Citron, Opera on Screen" by Marcia J. Citron³ provides valuable analysis.

Audience Reaction Silence enveloped the room as the final chords of "Time" from *Inception* resonated. The candle flames stood still, as if holding their breath. Zimmer had orchestrated our souls, conducting a symphony of memories and dreams.

Summary

The Pink Floyd and Hans Zimmer candlelight concerts offered profound journeys into the realms of progressive rock and cinematic orchestration, respectively. Each performance, enveloped in the soft glow of candlelight, transcended mere entertainment to evoke a sense of wonder and introspection. Both concerts left indelible impressions, weaving threads of wonder into our souls.

3. Marcia J. Citron, "Opera on Screen," *New Haven and London* 295, no. 1 (2000): 81–85, <https://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/marcia-j-citron-opera-on-screen-new-haven-london/docview/203612521/se-2>.

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