

MusicRant

Group 57

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Introduction

There are many social media platforms that provide users with a friendly/welcoming experience such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, but when it comes to music the options people have to discuss music online are limited and often filled with toxicity. Our site aims to resolve this issue by providing people with the option of discussing, reviewing, and bonding with other people over their shared love for music, in a much more laid back online setting. Music forums/sites today are saturated with hardcore music fans, which can make it very intimidating for the easygoing music listener to join in on conversations and share their opinions without the fear of being ridiculed. This removes a lot of joy that can be had by people who would love to engage in conversation about music, but are turned away by the reasons listed above. Our site will result in the increase of the amount of people willing to discuss music online, which gives all the positives music can bring a wider reach. Below, the problem introduced above will be explained in more detail, followed by a more in depth-look at our solution, and our motivation to create a site like the one described.

Problem Definition

Music has always been an important part of people's lives, and the discussion of music can often be a way to bond over shared interests. The discussion of music tastes can help you discover new music, as well as challenge your existing opinions in the case of a disagreement. However, there are not many spaces online dedicated to the discussion of music and our opinions on certain artists, albums, and songs. Websites such as Rate Your Music allow users to submit their own reviews of albums, but these reviews exist in a vacuum, as there is a lack of a forum or comments section on them that prevents meaningful discussion and sharing of ideas. Albums on this website are also only ranked on an overall score out of five stars, which fails to encapsulate the nuance and particular strengths and weaknesses an album has. Websites such as Reddit do contain forums for the discussion of music, but it is more difficult to see multiple ratings for a particular album, as well as to get a sense of the general consensus on an album, which is easier to see on Rate Your Music. In our solution, we hope to incorporate the best parts of both of these websites, and make improvements that will allow users to share their opinions, while

opening the floor to other users who can provide a meaningful discussion about the music they have a passion for.

Proposed Solution

Our project will produce a website that allows users to browse through artists, albums, and songs. Users will be able to give a rating and a review to individual albums and individual songs. A rating consists of several categories such as: Lyrics, Instrumental, Vibe, Originality, etc. Users can also leave comments on other users' reviews and give them a like/dislike. Users will have a profile of their reviews and their top albums, songs, and genres. Their profile acts as a collection of their music taste. Artists will have their own profiles, consisting of a list of all of their albums, songs, and their average rating score, and songs that they are credited for. Users can follow artists to be updated on their latest album and song releases. The site will have several top charts like: Top Artists, Top Albums, and Top Songs. These charts will vary based on top scores all-time, top scores in the past year, etc. Songs and albums are categorized by genre. The site will recommend users to listen to albums from their top genres.

Motivation

The music review websites that are prevalent today are dominated by die-hard and in many cases extreme music consumers, which can result in very toxic environments that turn casual listeners away from engaging in online conversations about music. Our site provides users with the same core functionality that makes similar websites like Rate Your Music great, but what sets our website apart is the drastic improvement of accessibility/user friendliness. This will be achieved by implementing features that give our site a much more communal feel to it, such as the ability to like and being able to comment on people's posts to name a few. These additions make up a much more laid back and friendly space to discuss and rate music which will accommodate users that are more casual consumers of music. The greater accessibility will result in an increase of people being able to take part in social media regarding music which in turn will increase the general public's overall interest in music.

Conclusion

Like with any art form, music should be accessible to people of all levels of involvement and appreciation. In today's music website landscape this is not the case, and our goal is to introduce a site that grants everyone the opportunity to engage in music discussion online without feeling intimidated.

Timeline of deliverables:

- ERD: October 8th
- Relational model: October 18th
- UML & Sequence diagrams/HIPO & DFD diagrams: November 8th
- Completed implementation: December 1st
- Report: December 6th

References

Rate Your Music - [Welcome! - Rate Your Music](#)