Music and the arts play a central role in our lives.

The distinction between high art and low art even more so.

Music as a form of expression, dance as a mating call, and reading as a form of channeling the intellect for progeny, are all ways we participate in the arts in our daily lives.

We both consume and produce music in our daily lives inadvertently, as we do other art forms – drama, theatre, performance. Without realizing it, we characterize a someone in a business meeting as being theatrical, or someone on call as being dramatic.

How do these notions come about, and how often are we imitating what we see in scripted performances?

Delineating the many ways a theme has entered into our common parlance is a popular way of showing its centrality to our lives. “Music to my ears” to show music’s palpably calming effect on the listener. “Dancing around the issue” to show the subtlety and care required in dancing together. Are but a few of many ways we incorporate and infuse art into our being.

To quota an oft held up ideal: “In matters of taste there can be no disputes”.

Yet, it is without saying that just as people crudely assign others a ranking, and just as status is such a commonly used word in our society it is almost devalued and cheapened, music too is accorded various “statuses” by critics, and by status chasers alike.

For instance, high art today remains what was once a classical art form through the ages. Anything new, or nouveau is accorded a lower status. And people untrained to appreciate classical music (aka, those who cannot tell apart sonata ‘n’ from fugue ‘m’) are considered philistines.

Needless to say, the classical arts are not very accessible to a wide audience.

Music is something that grows from an organic process, on street corners, at the local bar, family gatherings, and cultural occasions.

Thus, arises the question of the ties of culture to music.