A: Hi, guys. I’m glad we could meet today. I want to talk to you about something that I’m interested in. It’s about music and how we listen to it.

B: Music? That sounds like a fun topic. What do you want to talk about?

A: Well, I’ve been reading this article by Aaron Copland, a famous American composer. He says that there are three different ways of listening to music: on the sensuous plane, on the expressive plane, and on the sheerly musical plane.

C: What does that mean?

A: It means that we can listen to music for the pleasure of the sound itself, for the feeling or emotion that it conveys, or for the musical elements, such as melody, rhythm, harmony, tone color, and form.

D: Hmm, that’s interesting. But how do we know which way we are listening?

A: I think we can tell by our own reactions and preferences. For example, some people love going to concerts and listening to live music, but other people prefer recorded music. Why do you think that is?

B: Well, I think it depends on what kind of music you like and what kind of experience you want. For me, I love live music because it’s more exciting and engaging than recorded music.

C: Really? I prefer recorded music because it’s more convenient and comfortable than live music.

D: I like both live and recorded music. I think they have their own advantages and disadvantages.

A: Let’s talk about that. What are the advantages and disadvantages of live music and recorded music respectively?

B: OK, let me start with live music. I think live music has the advantage of being more spontaneous and interactive. You can feel the energy and emotion of the performers and the audience. You can also see how they play their instruments and express themselves on stage.

C: That’s true. But live music also has some disadvantages, don’t you think? For example, live music can be more expensive and inconvenient than recorded music. You have to buy tickets, travel to the venue, find a seat, deal with crowds and noise, etc.

D: Yeah, I agree with that. But recorded music also has some advantages over live music. For example, recorded music can be more accessible and available than live music. You can listen to any music you want, anytime you want, anywhere you want.

B: That’s true. But recorded music also has some disadvantages compared to live music. For example, recorded music can be more artificial and impersonal than live music. You can’t see or feel the presence of the performers or the audience. You can only hear their sound through speakers or headphones.

A: Yeah, I agree with that too. So it seems that live music and recorded music have different effects on our listening on different planes.

B: How so?

A: Well, I think live music is better than recorded music in terms of listening on the sensuous plane and the expressive plane. Live music has a richer and fuller sound quality that stimulates our senses more than recorded music. Live music also has a more authentic and original expression that moves us more than recorded music than recorded music.

C: I see your point. But I think recorded music is better than live music in terms of listening on the sheerly musical plane. Recorded music has more diversity and variety of musical elements than live music. Recorded music also allows us to listen more closely and carefully to the musical elements than live music.

D: I see your point too. But I think both live and recorded music can be good for listening on the sheerly musical plane. It depends on the quality and style of the music and the performer. Some live music can be very complex and sophisticated in terms of musical elements, while some recorded music can be very simple and plain.

A: That’s true. I guess it also depends on our own musical taste and knowledge. The more we know about music, the more we can appreciate it on the sheerly musical plane.

B: Yeah, I agree with that. So, do you think music contributes to a better quality of life? In what ways?

A: I think music definitely contributes to a better quality of life. Music can make us happy, calm, excited, inspired, etc. Music can also help us express ourselves, communicate with others, learn new things, etc.

C: I think so too. Music can also heal us, relax us, motivate us, etc. Music can also enrich our culture, history, identity, etc.

D: I think so as well. Music can also challenge us, surprise us, amaze us, etc. Music can also create beauty, harmony, diversity, etc.

B: Wow, you guys have said it all. Music is really a wonderful thing that can improve our lives in many ways.

A: Yeah, I agree with you. Music is a universal language that can connect us with ourselves and others.

C: Yeah, me too. Music is a powerful art that can touch us emotionally and, in another respect, sympathetically.

D: Yeah, me as well. Music is a magical phenomenon that can transform us spiritually and creatively.

A: Well, I’m glad we had this discussion. I learned a lot from you guys.