Nickolas Diaz

**Professor Brian Curtin** 

**MUS 116** 

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Machine Gun Kelly - Live from Pinkpop 2023

Concert Link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of</a> jw1GA80

The live concert by Machine Gun Kelly at Pinkpop is a high-energy, pop/rock/rap concert. It features Travis Barker (drums), JT Cavey (bass), London Elise, Kid Trash (backing vocals), and lastly Machine Gun Kelly (guitar/vocals). The concert features twenty-one songs all of Kelly's best songs from the last two decades. Machine Gun Kelly or Colson Baker is a thirty-three-year-old songwriter, rapper, musician, singer, and actor born in Houston, Texas, U.S. in 1990.

The concert was performed live on June 18 2023 at 3:00 AM (PST) at Pinkpop in Landgraaf, Netherlands. Pinkpop is a yearly music festival center for pop music. It was first name Pinksteren, which is Dutch for pop music. Pinkpop is one of the oldest pop festivals in the world and has been running since the 1970s and has attracted sixty thousand people in 2023.

The twenty-one songs played in the concert all had many common themes. All of these songs had one or more of these themes such as rebellion, love, inner struggles, and societal issues. A few songs that had themes of rebellion are Born with Horns, Concert for Aliens, and Jawbreaker. The song Born with Horns and Concert for Aliens is all about rebelling societal norms by embracing one's unique qualities even if they have horns or feel like aliens. While Jawbreaker is about anger and frustration towards social norms. My Ex's Best Friend, Emo Girl, and Forget Me Too are all about love. Best Friend is about the struggles of having love triangles

and being attracted to their ex's best friend while in another relationship. Emo Girl is about the struggles, desires, and challenges of being in love with an emo girl and Forget Me Too is about the heartbreak and resentment after a failed relationship. Papercuts, Drunk Face, and I Think I'm OKAY all fit in the inner struggles group, and are all about facing their inner struggles whether it is intoxication, self-acceptance, and emotional pain. Lastly, WWIII, WW4, and 5150 are about societal issues. WWIII talks about the chaos, division, and disillusionment present in society while WW4 talks about social and political tensions that put the world at war with each other. Lastly 5150 talks about mental health in today's society and a protest of 5150 laws of psychiatric wards. Machine Gun Kelly's songs may be overlooked as they are rock and roll/rap but they have real in-depth meaning when looked at from a closer angle.

Machine Gun Kelly or MGK is also known for having a unique style while in concert. First off he has a unique energetic movement, MGK acts like a daredevil while performing, for example, he was performing on a very high staircase as a showoff and was running and jumping throughout the concert. MGK also has very elaborate stage props such as pink smoke, stage lights, and a massive LED screen as a background for visuals as well as his band's costume which reflects a typical rock band. MGK also interacts with the crowd in many ways such as standup comedy, restarting bad musical starts, waving, dancing, and letting the crowd sing. Machine Gun Kelly drives a huge amount of emotional delivery to his concerts through his intensity and passion.

In conclusion, Machine Gun Kelly's live concert at Pinkpop is a great experience and shows his talents and entertaining music. With a very talented musical lineup, displayed a performance like no other. Starting to finish, all twenty-one of his most famous songs from the past two decades were played. Showcasing many of his songs' themes, such as rebellion, love,

inner struggles, and societal issues, and showcase his unique style of performing, having a daredevil movement, having crazy stage props, and showing his intensity and passion to the crowd.