

Listening Journal Week3:

Sam Cook "A Change is Gonna Come":

An instrumental beginning which makes the song sound almost serene and cinematic as if it was being played at the start of a movie. The violin, cello, trombone and french horn are used to create the aforementioned effect. Sam Cooke's voice when the vocals kick in starts out strong and melodic. He uses a hopeful tone to sing the socially conscious and emotional lyrics giving the song a powerful feel. The orchestra throughout creates a dramatic feel to the song all while the lyrics make you think. The orchestral arrangement and Sam Cooke's voice complement each other perfectly and we can see the amount of control he has over his voice. The gospel influences can be heard all throughout the song as the song sounds more spiritual than pop. The genre this song falls into would probably be Soul.

Bob Dylan, "Masters of War"

The song starts off with a heavy (i'm not sure if this is the right word) guitar picking pattern that loops throughout the song, which gives the song a hurried feel. Bob Dylan's voice sounds bitter and powerful while he sings about the government and the military. Dylan's lyrics can sound harsh and violent at points but he intended for them to be so for the powerful impact they create. It sounds like the only instrument being used throughout the entire song is the same guitar pattern on loop along with the vocals which makes the song sound raw and real while simultaneously allowing the lyrics to be the main focus of the audience. The only time the guitar changes is right at the end of the song, after the last line "And I'm sure that you're dead.", where instead of continuing with the picking pattern he plays just one chord aggressively and repeatedly which further adds to the anger and overall feel of the song while also drawing focus to the last lyric.