What is Music Theory?



CHANCES ARE THERE'S A PIECE OF MUSIC THAT MOVES YOU IN A PROFOUND WAY ...

A WAY THAT IS FRUSTRATINGLY DIFFICULT TO **DESCRIBE** TO SOMEONE ELSE!

LIKE OTHER FORMS OF ART, MUSIC OFTEN HAS THE CAPABILITY TO CREATE EMOTIONAL REACTIONS IN THE LISTENER THAT TRANSCENDS OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION.

THOUGH A SINGLE PIECE OF MUSIC MAY ELICIT DIFFERENT REACTIONS FROM DIFFERENT LISTENERS, ANY LOVER OF MUSIC WILL TELL YOU THAT THOSE **FEELINGS** ARE **REAL!**

ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE PARTS

OF MUSIC THEORY IS GIVING NAMES TO

MUSICAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES,

WHICH MAKES THEM EASIER TO TALK ABOUT!

leading tone (lē'dĭŋ tōn), n. [music] 1. That one note where it's all, like, NNGGG

and you just want it to be

like AHH yeah and when

they don't, you're like UGH

COMING UP WITH TERMINOLOGY DOESN'T JUST HELP US TALK TO OTHERS ABOUT MUSIC, THOUGH ... IT ACTUALLY HELPS US LEARN!

ALMOST

DONE

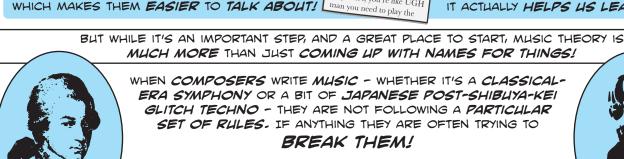
SO THEN THE BASSOON CHOIR COMES IN LIKE FLAMING HONEYDEW MELONS

FROM ON HIGH

PLEASE

BRADLEY IT'S LATE

AND IF THEY'RE REAL, THEY'RE WORTHY OF STUDY.



SO WHILE A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK MUSIC THEORY IS ABOUT LEARNING THE RULES FOR HOW TO WRITE MUSIC, THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT. MUSIC THEORISTS DON'T CREATE RULES FOR WRITING MUSIC: THEY LOOK FOR PATTERNS IN MUSIC THAT IS ALREADY WRITTEN.





...THEORISTS ANALYZE!

WHICH LEADS TO THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION ... THE ONE THAT, AS YOU STUDY MUSIC THEORY, YOU SHOULD BE CONSTANTLY ASKING YOURSELF:



WHY DISSECT MUSIC? WHAT'S THE POINT OF FIGURING OUT RULES THAT COMPOSERS THEMSELVES WEREN'T EVEN WORRIED ABOUT?

BECAUSE SOMEWHERE IN THERE IS THE REASON WHY THAT PIECE OF MUSIC MOVES YOU.

MAYBE IT'S IN THE NOTES. MAYBE IT'S IN THE SILENCE. MAYBE IT'S SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN.

THE REASON IT MAKES YOU CRY, GIVES YOU CHILLS, REMINDS YOU OF HOME.

IT MAY TAKE A LONG TIME, OR EVEN CREATE MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS.

BUT MUSIC THEORISTS ARE GOING TO FIND IT BECAUSE ...

MUSIC THEORY IS FIGURING OUT WHAT MAKES MUSIC WORK.



AND YOU JUST JOINED THE TEAM. GRAB YOUR STUFF ... LET'S GO!

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