
MUSIC

UNDERSTANDING ITS PURPOSE AND ITS POWER

CHRISTOPHER HOPPER | CREATION | 06.30.2011 | 3PM

MUSIC PRECEDES MOVEMENTS

“Let me write the songs of a nation. I don't care who writes its laws.”

ANDREW FLETCHER

SCOTTISH POLITICIAN, PHILOSOPHER,
KEYBOARDIST FOR DEPECHE MODE

- ROARING 1920'S – EMERGENCE OF JAZZ, SOPHISTICATION AND AMERICAN PROSPERITY
- FLAPPERS OF THE 1930'S – JAZZ MAINSTREAM: PROHIBITION AND CASUAL SEX
- BIG BANDS OF THE 1940'S – WORLD WAR TWO AND US PATRIOTISM
- ROCK AND ROLL 1950'S – POST WWII FREEDOM
- CLASSIC ROCK 1960'S – HIPPIES, REVOLUTION OF FREE LOVE & PEACE
- DISCO 1970'S – POST VIETNAM FALL-OUT
- PUNK-ROCK 1980'S – BEGINNING OF ALTERNATIVE CULTURE
- ALTERNATIVE & GRUNGE ROCK 1990'S – GENERATION X
- POST-MODERN 2000'S – NARCISSISM

LYRICS DO MATTER

A Generation's Vanity, Heard Through Lyrics

By JOHN TIERNEY | NYT

Published: April 25, 2011

“Late adolescents and college students love themselves more today than ever before,” Dr. DeWall, a psychologist at the [University of Kentucky](#), says.

Now, after a computer analysis of three decades of hit songs [a study of song lyrics from 1980 to 2007], Dr. DeWall and other psychologists report finding what they were looking for: a statistically significant trend toward narcissism and hostility in popular music. As they hypothesized, the words “I” and “me” appear more frequently along with anger-related words, while there’s

been a corresponding decline in “we” and “us” and the expression of positive emotions.

“In the early ’80s lyrics, love was easy and positive, and about two people,” says Dr. Twenge, a psychologist at San Diego State University. “The recent songs are about what the individual wants, and how she or he has been disappointed or wronged.”

During [the last 30 years], there have also been reports of higher levels of loneliness and depression — which may be no coincidence, according to the authors of the song-lyrics study. **[They] note that narcissism has been linked to heightened anger and problems maintaining relationships.** Their song-lyrics analysis shows a decline in words related to social connections and positive emotions (like “love” or “sweet”) and an increase in words related to anger and antisocial behavior (like “hate” or “kill”).

[HTTP://WWW.NYTIMES.COM/2011/04/26/SCIENCE/26TIER.HTML?_R=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/26/science/26tier.html?_R=1)

IT'S PURPOSE TO CONNECT

Psalms 89:15

15 How blessed are the people who know the ^[a](A)joyful sound!
O LORD, they walk in the ^(B)light of Your countenance.

■ MUSIC HAS THE POWER TO CONNECT THE HEARTS AND SPIRITS OF PEOPLE TO MOVEMENTS AND IDEAS GREATER THAN THEIR CURRENT EXPERIENCE.

■ [MY PARENTS DON'T LIKE MY MUSIC] IF MUSIC ORIGINATES FROM THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE SOUL OF ITS COMPOSER, HOW CAN IT NOT EQUALLY AFFECT THE SOUL OF ITS RECEIVER?

IT'S POWER TO CONQUEROR

2 Chronicles 20

21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his^[a] holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

“Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.”

22 *As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.*

Joshua 6

20 *When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.*

Isaiah 30

32 *Every stroke the LORD lays on them with his punishing club will be to the music of timbrels and harps, as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm.*

■ MUSIC IS ONE OF GOD'S TOOLS FOR CONQUERING ENEMIES.

■ SATAN ONLY KNOWS HOW TO PERVERT THE ORIGINAL NOT CREATE FROM SCRATCH, SO HE WILL USE THE POWER OF MUSIC TO ATTACK GOD AND HIS CREATION.

YOUR 3 RESPONSIBILITIES

1.) TO CREATE: IF YOU'RE CALLED TO THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD, YOU MUST PUT IN THE TIME, GAIN UNDERSTANDING, AND PROVE YOURSELF FAITHFUL.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

¹⁵***Study to show yourself approved** unto God, a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

■ STUDY AND WORK HARD.

Luke 14:28-30 (NIV)

²⁸*Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?*
²⁹***For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him,*** ³⁰*saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'*

■ PLAN FOR YOUR DREAMS.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

■ DO IT FOR THE LORD FIRST.

2.) TO ENDORSE: YOUR DIVINE POSITION OF AUTHORITY.

Philippians 4:8-9

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. **And the God of peace will be with you.**

■ ONE OF THE REASONS OUR GENERATION IS NOT AT PEACE WITH THEMSELVES, WITH OTHERS, AND WITH GOD, IS BECAUSE WE HAVE FAILED TO ADHERE TO THINGS THAT CULTIVATE THE PRESENCE OF THE GOD OF PEACE.

■ BE VERY DELIBERATE AND CLEAR ABOUT **WHAT, WHO, AND WHY** YOU ENDORSE.

■ IF YOU WANT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUS BY GOD, HAVE BIBLICALLY SOLID REASONS FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO.

3.) TO INTERCEDE: PRAY FOR ARTISTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

PAUL'S CONVERSION & NEW MISSION

Acts 26:9-11 (NIV)

⁹"I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.

¹¹Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

Acts 26:16-18 (NIV)

" 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. ¹⁶'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. ¹⁷I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. **I am sending you to them ¹⁸to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'**

DAVE MATTHEWS

In Fall 2004, DMB returned to their studio in Charlottesville, Virginia with a new producer, Mark Batson.[citation needed] Stand Up was released on May 10, 2005, debuting at #1 on the Billboard charts with sales of 465,000.

On September 6, 2007, Dave Matthews Band performed a free concert for the [Virginia Tech](#) student body and faculty. The show was entitled "A Concert for Virginia Tech" and was done in memory of the shootings that took place on April 16, 2007. [John Mayer](#), [Phil Vassar](#), and [Nas](#) joined them. There were over 50,000 people in attendance.^[34] Two days later, they performed a benefit show at Atlanta's [Piedmont Park](#) with the [Allman Brothers Band](#) opening. Though only 65,000 tickets were sold, nearly 20,000 additional people snuck into the show, making it the largest one-day concert in Atlanta history.

SOURCE: [HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/DAVE_MATTHEWS_BAND](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Matthews_Band) - CITE_NOTE-23

■ IN TWO DAYS, OVER 135,000 PEOPLE HEARD DAVE MATTHEWS, HIS MUSIC, AND ANYTHING HE WANTED TO SAY. IMAGINE IF HE RETURNED TO HIS AFRIKAANS QUAKER ROOTS.

FINAL THOUGHTS

■ WHAT CONNECTIONS ARE YOU PROMOTING WITH YOUR LISTENING BEHAVIORS?

■ WHAT AREAS OF YOUR OWN HEART ARE YOU PUTTING UP FOR GRABS TO CONQUERING FORCES?

■ LADY GAG DOESN'T NEED YOUR \$.99 ON ITUNES, SHE NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS.