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Album of Musical Compilations

Did you know that Rock and Roll used to be a term referring to sex before it became the name of a music genre? For as long as I can remember, I have always been interested in music. Music has had an overwhelming role in my life, but I have never been able to really get into properly understanding the origins and the process by which it is made. I, like many other people, call music an art without a single educated clue as to why. This is one of the reasons that my Capstone project is completely centered on the understanding and appreciation of music. As I begin learning more about the magnificence of music, I will also be able to use new software and technology in creating my very own musical album. While in the process of creating my album, I will primarily focus on three different styles of music, Jazz, House, Rock and Roll, and House Music and how they led conflicting factions of society to come together as one. As I am doing all this, my goals are to increase my knowledge of the three different musical genres, successfully create my mix- tape album, and most importantly help others broaden their knowledge and appreciation of music.

Part I: Jazz

Starting off with Jazz. Jazz is the eldest style of music in comparison to the other two genres. Jazz music, often known for its subdivision of music called the Blues, came to originate from the African American sect of United States society. Initial works of Jazz first began to develop popularity during the Post- Civil War Era that began in 1865, and even earlier than that,

when the Emancipation Proclamation was established in 1863. After slavery had been abolished in the United States; African Americans began to see a new and much brighter future for themselves and their families (Elmer 25-34).

Not by chance did Jazz become as popular as it did at such a brisk pace. Jazz really grabbed the notice of society during the, "roaring twenties," a period of soaring economic prosperity in the United States that allowed for most any business, including that in the musical industry, to obtain success (Time- Life Books 54-59). Because of this, Jazz began rapidly developing, and not before long, the Blues were the hype of society. During that period of time, racial segregation still existed in the United States. The development of Jazz music began to show the first signs of a unifying nation when black and white musicians began to work together to produce music.

The Blues became probably the single most influential creation that allowed the, now free, African American society to reflect on its future realities. Jazz is one of the most influential factors of African American society. Since its beginning continuing into the current society, it is a style of music that reflects upon the emotions in a person's heart. It is the musical interpretation of these emotions that gives Jazz the beauty that it possesses. Jazz is music from the heart, and it has played a profound role in the shaping of African American society. Blues, being of the larger subdivisions of Jazz, initially began upon spiritual concepts, then throughout time it transformed based on the era that it was being developed. Most people refer to the blues music as that which represents bad times, fears, hard luck, and love. That is why this kind of music is so influential. One can also see that the best Jazz music that has been created consists of songs that seem to have the most passion in them. For if a person listens to Jazz and can really hear that passion flowing from the singers heart and with the beautiful complementary sounds of the surrounding

instruments it really becomes a sensation to listen to and enjoy (Elmer 25-34). All the highly regarded Jazz stars such as Frank Sinatra (1915-1998), Billie Holiday (1915-1959), Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1996), and Benny Goodman (1909- 1986) have this in common. They leave their viewers overwhelmed from the emotion exhibited in their work, making their fans crave for more and more song production (Google.com).

Part II: Rock and Roll

The second genre that I will discuss is Rock and Roll. This style of music received its current name from a night Club called the Moondog Rock and Roll House Party that played a very energetic form of Jazz music. It is in clubs like this one, that the first forms of Rock music were beginning to attract the public attention (Flat World Knowledge).

Rock and Roll, much like Jazz, is one of America's favorite genres of music. Rock and Roll songs have often been on top music charts both domestically and internationally. Even so, there has never been a lack of criticism towards Rock music. In the eyes of some people, it depicts unnecessary violence and aggression. However, no matter how many individuals wish to criticize Rock for what it is, it has become so successful that not only does it have a large constituency, but it has imbedded itself in the mainstream of American Culture (Denning 328).

Society began to see the first glimpses of the creation of Rock and Roll in the early 1900's. It was during 1938, that the first electric guitar solos by Eddie Durham of the Count Basie band were recorded. During the forties, music began to develop upon a path that would later lead to the creation of the first Rock song, Rocket '88, by Ike turner and vocalist Jackie Brenston (Woog 6-7). From that point on more and more tracks began to hit the eye of the public and by the 70's and 80's, Rock and Roll became a powerhouse style of music that was listened to by most of the American society (Interview). It was earlier though, during the fifties,

that rock's first major stage performers began to make names for themselves. Stars such as Elvis Presley (1935- 1977) began to abuse their creativity as to make Rock and Roll an even greater sensation than it already had become. The fifties was the period of time that set the footstones for what Rock and Roll has become today. From the first hits of Elvis Presley, the Beatles, and John Lennon, to the modern day hits by Jon Bon Jovi, Paul McCartney, and Jimi Hendrix, Rock and Roll has become a developing style of music that learns from the desire of its fans and adapts accordingly to their demands.

It did not so much bring together people from around the world as it did the people of America. Rock became one of the most popular forms of music because of the support it received from the American society. Rock and Roll brought together Americans of different racial and social groups who would usually not interact much with each other, due to their varying ways of life, and allowed them to put their differences aside while enjoying it together (328 Denning).

Modern day Rock is much louder and almost more malevolent in comparison to earlier rock which was more subtle and benevolent due to that fact that modern society is one that exhibits violence and aggression in more ample quantities than the society of forty to fifty years ago (Woog 6-7). One of the reasons that Rock and Roll became as famous as it did at such a fast rate was the fact that Rock had a close-knit relationship with mass communications and media. Basically, Rock's commercial effectiveness, that no other form of music had previously possessed, was what sent Rock to the top charts of the musical industry (Wicke 4).

Part III: House Music

My final selected genre of music is House Music. It is the youngest of the three, with its origins dating back to only the 1970's. The birth of House music took place in the city of

Chicago, and even more specifically in a Club called the Warehouse. At first, House Music was identified as Disco Music but over time that changed and it adopted the name it holds today. DJ Frankie Knuckles, who many consider the godfather of House Music, combined old-fashioned disco classics with some of new Euro beat pop tracks that recently came into the United States.

House is a style of music that does not only have its origins in just American music. Much of it originated from beats that had been previously used in Europe, specifically in the countries of England and France. Even though House Music has some origins that date farther back in time and outside of American borders, it was finalized and officially acknowledged in the United States. House music, much like Jazz, was created within the African American community. It grew to become the hit that it is today in American metropolitan cities such as New York and Chicago. African American musical traditions such as gospel songs, soul music, Jazz, and even some Latin also played a role in the birth of House Music. DJ's would take these songs of traditional African American culture and combine them with already popular music styles and tracks, some of the more notable ones being, Depeche Mode and Soft Cell.

The late eighties, early nineties, was the time of prosperity for House Music in the United States (The Beginnings of House Music). This was the time of prosperity for the subdivision of House Music, also known as Techno. At that point in time it was a new form of art that was different from the usual styles of music. It remained popular and hit its all-time climax of success during the early to mid-nineties (Jerrentrup 65). Since then, it has never been a subject of mass interest until just recently when a new generation of DJ's such as Quintino, Avicii, Tiesto, Dimitri Vegas, and Like Mike began to find new and innovative ways combining beats. Their creativity allowed for a new form of modern House music to emerge that has

become the most listened to music in Europe and also obtain a high level of popularity within the United States.

House Music is a modern style of music that can take all forms in tone and rhythm (House Music). Originally, it was a deep and raw form of music that, at the time, was created to give people something to dance to that would not necessarily have a series of respected dance forms but rather acted as a music style that allowed people to dance in a sort of free- for all manner (The Beginnings of House Music). In modern days, due to the advancement in DJ creativity and innovation and the new forms of technology, House music can possess a soft and relaxing tone such as in the tracks Another Love by Tom Odell and Get Lucky by Fire the Mob and also deeper and less subtle tones, such as in the musical pieces Madness by Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike, and Wake Me Up by Avicii. House music is a style of music that can be made out of any beats and sounds as long as they are in the hands of a good DJ.

Its diverse style brought people who would usually not associate with each other together whether people are from the country or city, black or white, international or local it is irrelevant. House Music varies in sound based on global location but revolves around the same concepts. It's this paradox that brings all these different groups of people together as one and why House Music has become one of the most popular styles of music ever to be created (Electronic Music).

Part IV: Analysis

All these three genres of music have their similarities and differences. Each style of music has been very influential in its own period of time, Jazz during the early 1900's, Rock during the mid to late 1900's and House Music during the late 1900's to current times. Some of the differences between the three are that Jazz music is made up of swing feet, meaning that four beats are divided into three parts with the emphasis going on beats 2 and 4. Rock music is

different, its four beats are divided into two parts with the emphasis on beats 1 and 3, and House, music because of its diverse composition, could be made up of any number of beats per a measure with the emphasis resting on any one of the four beats depending on the style of the House Music. Also, in Jazz, the on- beat is emphasized whether as in Rock the off- beat is the one that receives the emphasis, and in House music either the on or off- beats receive the emphasis depending on the song and its tone. Some of the similarities between the three include the fact that all of these styles of music have four beats per a measure and all three genres have a common harmonic structure, meaning that all the genres are similar as far as the process by which the musical cords and sounds are harmonized to produce a melody.

Individual works from each one of the genres have taken time in and out from the top charts, but as far as the genre that has been most popular and influential during its period of time; the number one slot definitely goes to Jazz. Jazz music came during a tedious time in American history. Jazz music presented us with the struggles of African Americans. The Jazz, blues, the most popular form of Jazz, at times may seem to have a happy melody, but it primarily speaks of a person's melancholy state of being and emotional sadness. Another reason why Jazz is the most popular of the three during its respective era is because it had nowhere near as much competition in the music industry as Rock Music and House. Jazz was the dominant form of musical entertainment during that period of time because there was not much other music to compete against it in the industry. Rock and House Music on the other hand do have more competition leaving them with less of an opportunity to prosper as much as they could if there were less (Interview).

The primary goal of my project is to successfully create an album in which I have combined the three genres into individual mix- tapes. I will do this by finding songs of each

genre that are either similarly soothing, exciting, or have any other sort of sound and tone similarities, and using a special software program, Mix- Vibes, I will integrate individual works with similar characteristics into one eloquent smoothly flowing mix- tape, and I will attempt to make two or three of these mix- tapes for my album.

Part V: Conclusion

In conclusion, having analyzed the history, the influence, and the development of Jazz, Rock, and House Music, it is only proper that I emphasize the importance of music in culture. Music reflects the state of society, and acts as crucial artifact in the ever-growing history of a nation. Music can be traced back as far as written history exists. It is a representation of society, and the different emotions and feelings that surround it. Music is a method of bringing a conflicting society together. It allows a people to set their differences aside and enjoy the utopia presented by the mutual enjoyment of a musical masterpiece. Music has the potential to bring peace amongst various divisions of society by giving them the opportunity to enjoy its magnificence together, for it is an art form that's sole purpose is to bring varying identities together and to rejoice in its beauty. As historically an influentially different that these three genres might seem, they are created as to bring satisfaction and enjoyment to a person while at the same time allowing them to be at a piece of mind, moving aside all the stresses that life may bring and momentarily letting them to exist without a care in the world while enjoying the beauty of the beats flowing into his or her mind. Personally, out of the three genres I seem to fancy House Music the most because it is the predominant style of music at this point in time, and it is the most relaxing form of music for me to listen to whenever I seek relief from my daily challenges. Non- the less, it is important to have an appreciation for all styles of music, and not only those ones that one may favor. Allowing diversity into one's mind allows a person to

broaden his view of life and its possibilities. It also provides him the opportunity to relate with a greater division of society rather than limiting himself to less. If he possesses a one sided view, then he does not allow himself to see the full beauty of the picture but rather only the incomplete beauty that he desires to see. Music has had a profound influence on society and it will continue to do so in the future.

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