

Mu 101's Definition of Music – May 2018

Would you have recognized or understood these definitions in January?

Neutral/baseline

A piece of music is an audible piece of art. It's a collection of sounds put together to form art. Music is organized sounds or voices that come together as a collective body.

Meaningfulness

Music is when several sounds come together to make something for the listener. It's any musical sound that gives meaning to something. It is pleasant to the ear and capable of inflicting or expressing feelings. A piece of music is wavelengths of sound coming together to create something that affects the person hearing it emotionally or intellectually.

Music is chaos with some guidance to it. It is a state of mind expressed in sound. I once thought of music as a way to make something beautiful, but music can also be very dark. It can mimic the soul and portray one's emotions.

The performer will do something that will occupy the minds of the listeners. A piece of music is like film for the ears.

The creative process

A piece of music is the embodiment of a creator's sense of feelings and emotions when developing his or her piece of music. A piece of music is a glimpse of someone's life. It's something the creator can be proud of.

Every person involved has an important role to play, no matter how small.

Listener reaction

Hearing a piece of music is like listening to something new and different. Once you hear it, you'll try to see if you enjoy it or not. Any sound which makes us happy is a piece of music. Not only does music test your knowledge, but it can make you feel more than joy or sorrow, such as confusion or awe. The audience or listener finds it to be interesting, moving, or inspirational.

It does not have to be enjoyed by anyone else but the person listening. It's up to the listener to decide if it's music or not. It has to sound musical to me.

Openness of resources

A piece of music can be a mixture of singing and instruments, or it can easily just be instruments on their own. It can be written or recorded. It can be structured or unstructured.

Music can be anything. It is not something specific; it is actually unpredictable. Sometimes it's best not to expect anything and to just honestly accept the unknown. To be an audience member you have to expect the unexpected.

It's not always about the sound but it's about the context of the performer and how they put the performance together. In order to understand a piece of music you must understand the psychological context of it (but only sometimes).

Openness of interpretation

Sounds and music can be interpreted in different ways. The same piece of music played repeatedly could have multiple emotions in it each time. A piece of music is emotions in sound form, which is weird because the emotions you receive depend on you.

Music is found in different ways, ways I never considered. I think not knowing exactly what you're about to come up with or experience makes music all the more interesting.

Ideal performances/performers

Music should be experienced in a way that allows me to hear it in the way the composer intended and from their perspective. It should be an educational and enlightening experience. A thought-provoking experience. I expect a deep message. It doesn't have to be something relatable.

I want the performance to sweep me off my feet. I expect the performance to grab me, touch me, at least make me cry a little. I want it to move me. To show me its different levels that it can reach. I want to feel the message of the piece and see it as well. I want to see it through the performance.

I expect to hear something rehearsed or practiced. I expect musicians to be skillful and take their performances seriously.

The performer should do something unconventional at least once (e.g., perform one of their unreleased tracks). The performer or a music performance should have good surprises because I feel that's what brings memorable moments that are the most important parts of a performance.

Practical concerns

I expect a show I can enjoy, something I can understand. I don't want to go home thinking I lost money. I expect to see what is promised.

Philosophical concerns

Music is all around us, floating in the air. It's an experience that occurs within a certain amount of time. These experiences bring sounds. A piece of music is a gauge of time.