

Music

- Alex Kerai

When was the last time you heard music? Was it in the car on the radio? Or perhaps on your iPod walking somewhere? Personally, I can't spend a moment not listening to music; when I'm in the car, the radio is always on, when I write or can't concentrate I turn on my iPod and listen to film scores, or when I'm stressed out I find music to fit my mood (recently it's been Dave Matthews Band, film scores, and Elliot Smith) and I listen to that. I love the stories that all three manage to convey and Smith's haunting lyrics coupled with his simplistic guitar make his songs perfect for a down day, while DMB manages to make every day a great day with their upbeat tempo and crazy lyrics, and film scores are great for an occasion for the variety of stories they manage to convey with no words. It doesn't matter what type of music you listen to or prefer, as long as it makes you happy to hear. If music ignites a certain feeling inside of you or makes you remember something, then it's done its job.

Music is a universal language that almost everyone is fluent in. It doesn't matter if you play an instrument, all that matters is that you appreciate music and the message it's trying to send. All music does that. Music wants to tell a story and it does it in the simplest of ways. It uses lyrics in a soothing harmony to keep your attention and then overlays other instruments to keep the tempo and feeling of the story going. One famous example of the lyrics driving the music is with the song *Three Little Birds* by Bob Marley. The first words in the song, "Don't worry/About a thing/Cause every little thing/Is gonna be all right" set the tone for the whole song. The calming guitar chords and the organ and guitar playing little riffs over Marley's lyrics fit perfectly with his happy message. Marley's song is one example of a song that is understood and appreciated around the world. His song is known around the world, and not because of its complex structure, but because of its joyful message.

The music scene is changing rapidly and it has been for the last few decades. New genres of music have emerged and taken over the airwaves. Most of the songs now still manage to tell a story, but they do it with many more people and a lot less creativity. The experience of listening to a song and hearing a full story is all but forgotten. There are still some songs that manage to tell superb stories and use fantastic metaphors for life or love, and then there are the others. Here's to hoping the art of writing songs is still around somewhere, and that it can still provide us with that little pick-me-up that is needed on those off-days.

Whether you listen to music in the car or while walking somewhere, you know the feeling of connecting with a song. The feeling when the music and lyrics just seem to combine and provide for a surreal experience, like you're there in the song, watching the action unfold. Isn't that the best feeling? It feels like the world has just stopped and all that matters is you and the music. So hopefully reading this you'll go dust off that stereo in your basement or plug in the iPod sitting in your bedroom and spend of the day just listening to some songs and reminiscing in old memories.