

WHY (I) MAKE MUSIC?!

Let's start with a more general form of this question: "Why make art?". Answering this question is not straight forward. Actually I think that it can't be answered specifically. Oops, spoiler alert. No really, if we generalize this question one step further, we get: "What is the meaning/purpose of us, life, humans?"

It is mysterious that there is no single objective answer to this question, maybe there might never be an answer. I know I could live with that, although it seems a bit scary at first glance. A lot of other questions have been answered in search for the answer on that one question, I view that as a very positive consequence of it.

Now, let's get back to the first question. I think we can agree now that there is no single objective answer, but everyone who makes art/music has some kind of reason for doing it, right? Yes perhaps, in fact there are multiple reasons most of the time I guess. For example, it could be that someone solely makes music for the sake of earning money, fame or attention. That, would be a sad attitude of course, in my opinion. It means that music itself becomes a tool to achieve something else.

Without further ado let's find a way to get to better arguments for making music. There is nothing so convincing than listening and paying attention to someone who comes forward with his or her own reasons. In fact that is what I'm going to elaborate on now, my own perspective and ideas of music and why I compose.

My first real important connection with music was in 2011, when I got into electronic music production (mainly minimal dance music). That is pretty late if considering I'm born in 1994. What appealed to me then, was the combination of interesting sounds that combined into a whole unified piece of music, but also the rhythms, the tension building, the mood changes and so forth... At this time I had no formal education in music whatsoever, but one can do a lot just with instinct, there are a lot of great music writers who never really went deeply into music theory. Later a friend of mine encouraged me to listen to Frank Zappa. I got into more rock & blues music from then onwards, especially Jimi Hendrix. I bought a guitar and then got into touch with a local guy who repaired guitars. He told me the concept of the circle of fifth's and how music theory works. Up to that point I always had thought that music theory was something boring, but that moment just changed everything. Once I got to know there is some understandable structure in music and how fascinating it works I got obsessed with it. So I learned as much as possible, meanwhile still writing small melodies. Then something important happened as I came into touch with the YouTube channel: Smalin. On this channel Stephen Malinowski creates music animations of classical music. The structure of music became even more obvious to my eyes now. I started enjoying more and more classical repertoire music and even trying to write some failed attempts myself. The rest of the story is just a continuation of knowledge building and more writing and composing which I won't bother you with now.

So here is why, music is fascinating. It is abstract art build from the mind that can move people in so many different ways, evoking emotions from happiness, to sadness, to even anger... Sometimes people experience a divine state when experiencing music, it can change people and the way they live. It has a general structure that can be understood by everyone. Music is a combination of many sounds and ideas, ideas from people of the past and the present. It's world of freedom, fantasy and artistic expression. Music can be performed over and over again by different people in a million different ways. There are so many other great arguments and motivations for why people make music, it would be impossible to explore them all here. I just wanted to write a short excerpt that might inspire and confront you with why you might actually love music without even knowing it. Good luck composing!