

***If you only have 15 minutes ...***

Though the people who make music differ from one another, each takes inspiration from common influences that audiences identify and appreciate. Some of these influences stem from emotions, like love, sadness or joy. Other times, influences come from culture. And still other times, music blossoms from its own uniqueness and is eventually accepted.

Each of these three influences is described below and paired with sections from the article that put them in context of Manganiyar music and musicians. Then working alone or in a group read each influence, then think about the music that you listen to or possibly perform and explain any similarities you see.

**The Influence of Emotion**

Emotional influences such as love, pride, jealousy, eroticism, sadness, joy, anxiety, fear, patriotism, defiance or excitement often inspire musicians. They create music that speaks to these emotions in lyrics and/or melodies that audiences feel.

This quote from the article speaks about the emotion of Manganiyar music:

Lakha Khan closes his eyes, takes a breath and pulls a rosined bow across the stringed instrument in his lap. The hand-carved wooden sarangi emits a drone with unexpected power, piercing like the cry of a hungry infant in a concert hall but soothing like a lullaby. It's a sound that resonates, an otherworldly note from the beginning of time.

After a moment, Lakha Khan adds his own voice, raspy and warm. He sings a love story hundreds of years old.

How does the music you listen to give you a strong feeling? Give an example of a song or

musical piece the artist(s), the instrument(s) and the sound(s) that stirs emotions within you.

### **The Influence of Culture**

Music represents the culture and the collective memories/experiences of a community. Whether it be the well-regulated music of a marching band, or the descriptive lyrics of folk or country music, the rhythm and beat of Latin music, or the urban sound of rap and hip-hop, music expresses the culture of the composer in what he or she was thinking and feeling at the time.

This quote from the article describes how the music of Manganiyars speak for and carries on Rajasthani culture:

In Rajasthan, professional musicians like Lakha Khan—who are Muslims—serve as the principal curators of Rajasthani culture, including songs of celebration for all communities. No birth, wedding or funeral—no major event—happens without them.

How does the music you listen to express your culture or a culture you admire? Identify the song, lyric or lyrics the artist(s), the instrument(s), the sound(s) make and the connections you feel it makes to your culture.

### **The Influence of Acceptance**

Music is a universal form of communication. It is also a unique form of communication, as unique as the individuals who create it. Sometimes, music audiences aren't ready for this uniqueness. Here are three examples:

- Since the beginning of commercial radio in the 1920s, most radio stations refused to play African American music like the Blues. That was until white musicians began playing the same music in the 1950s and 1960s.
- At its 1913 premier, Igor Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* ballet departed so much from

traditional orchestra music that the audience and critics were disgusted with the performance. Now it is considered one of the most important pieces of orchestrated music.

- The music of Elvis Presley, The Beatles and Jimi Hendrix were originally banned in many cities and communities for their provocative nature. Now much of this music has become mainstream and is heard all the time.

This quote from the article describes how Manganiyar music is finding audiences despite its minority status.

Manganiyar music is specifically written for a society that is alien even to most Indians—a world of arid isolation at the edge of India’s largest desert, the Thar. Just as Appalachian folk musicians broke through ages of prejudice to pave the way for modern country in the United States, the stories and songs of Manganiyars have an emotional power that transcends the borders of languages, cultures and even national origins.

How has the music you listen to gone through the transition of being only for a small audience and then accepted into a larger one? Identify the song(s), lyric(s), artist(s) or instrument(s) that made that transition.

**Common Core Standard(s) Met:**

**CCRA.R.1** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**CCRA.R.2** Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.