# Ways of Listening

Spotify Concerts (up until Covid-19)

Preferred: headphones in basement, or while driving. Most frequent: local radio while at BBQ or doing dishes Least favourite: YouTube over Apple headphones

I enjoy listening to music while I drive, do housework, complete homework, exercise, etc. I try to incorporate music as much as I can in my daily life.

Family members playing around the house

With my ears, preferably, but I use Spotify to find the music I like.

Most of the time I'm streaming from Apple music. I also get a lot of music through Youtube, for artists who haven't yet made it to Apple music either because they were written by emerging artists (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skEUnT98cWk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skEUnT98cWk</a>) or because they have fallen into obscurity (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwzjDOK-Ad8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwzjDOK-Ad8</a>). In terms of hardware, I mostly listen on "meh"-tier earbuds, but when I'm cooking dinner I use a portable bluetooth speaker, and once in a while as a treat I'll listen to something using the stereo system I have plugged into my computer.

I have a CD collection I use in the car, a small record collection at home and napster on my phone (napster is now a paid service).

Phone, laptop.
Listening to myself play piano
Music library, Spotify, Apple Music
Movies, TV Shows
Listening to my own music
CDs

Live concerts (I love the Vancouver Recital Society and volunteer with them), Spotify, CDs, record players, Youtube, campfire singalongs with friends.

Through recordings (driving, climbing, cleaning, ....)

Car Birds Live

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I mainly listen on YouTube music. I also listen to the radio and itunes. I however would really like to get a record player and records so I can start to listen to analog music.

I primarily listen to music in three ways:

- 1 Passively in the background to block out other sounds.
- 2 As a fun activity to enjoy myself.
- 3 With the intent to learn about or learn a specific section of the given piece of music.

Mostly through Spotify but I will go to a live performance when I can! I also listen to music when I exercise, when I shower, doing household tasks and while hanging out with friends (I'm not sure if that's the kind of answer you were looking for but I'll cover all my bases).

Mainly on my phone/laptop with Spotify. I really like that Spotify will make playlists for me with music it thinks I will like. I adore live music, but I don't get the opportunity to listen to it as much as I would like – (or maybe I just don't seek it out as much as I should).

I can't say that I am sure if I am meant to answer this question with how I listen to music physically (on my phone or computer, using Spotify or Youtube, or when practicing my instruments), or intellectually. Lately, when listening to music I have been focusing on the music theory element of it, with making a point to identify the key, the chord progression, and if there are vocals with harmonies, identifying the intervals between them.

Live in concert (preferably) From my CD player On my phone using earbuds On the car sound system

Primarily through my laptop speakers, although I will switch to headphones if I want to listen closer to things that interested me on first listen, like the effects used or stylistic choices

Ways I listen to music: actively, while trying to think and understand the music, passively, as background music - I typically try to listen to ambient music if I'm looking for background music

In headphones, through speakers (often with friends, family), in the car, played live (by friends, family, myself, or at concerts), through a record player

Sometimes I give the music 100% of my concentration and become entranced.

I study listening to music (genre depends on what subject).

I primarily use streaming services, and I also have a meager classical and jazz vinyl collection.

I usually listen to music on headphones (for the best quality), or over speakers if I'm driving. If there's an opportunity I will also see it live.

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I listen to different types of music depending on my mood, but I like to listen to music while doing work, organizing my room. Or even just listening appreciate how the artist is playing their instruments.

I listen to music primarily through streaming services on my phone (youtube or google play mostly), I use cd's fairly often as well, and I try to go to live performances when I can.

## **Definitions of Music**

Music means love to me. It may be hurtful sometimes but most of the time it is a mix of joy and craziness.

- 1. Deliberately organizing sound to express an idea metaphorically
- 2. A series of traditions of organizing sound that cultures deem to be art

Music to me are various sounds that are arranged in such a way that can be comprehended by listeners in an abstract and emotional way.

It's difficult to explain exactly what music is. Personally I believe that music is the combination of noises that create a sound that becomes pleasant for one to hear.

I define music as creative noises carefully made that are pleasing to the creator and other ear.

Music is created by a sequence of sounds (usually deliberate pitches) as a means of communicating some sort of emotion or expression. Music does not have to have a purpose or meaning, but its existence is a form of expression whether or not it is meant to express anything in particular.

Organized sound that, while not always pleasant to listen to, has a purpose behind it.

My definition of music is a little different than what was said in the textbook: ("Music is the rational organization of sounds and silences passing through time. Tones must be arranged in some consistent, logical, and (usually) pleasing way before we can call these sounds "music" instead of "noise".) I believe that the sounds we perceive as music is entirely subjective. I don't think consistency, logicality, and pleasantry should be the boundaries as to what is and isn't considered music. Personally, my definition of music is either a collection of or singular sounds that make me experience an emotion or make me think. Whether this be a classical piece, such as one of Chopin's Nocturnes, or perhaps a bird I hear singing while walking to lunch; these sounds invoke emotion and thought, and allow me to appreciate the importance of music in my life.

The combination of rhythm and melody for expressing emotions through sound. Tones and rhythms that are put together to make a sound that is pleasing to listen to. Notes grouped together, with/without vocals. May be very harmonically simple, or dissonant.

Music is intention, manifested through the medium of sound.

A pattern with some sort of pattern and thoughtfulness in its rhythm and notes

Music is a form of art that is mainly communicated through sound and the auditory senses. To me, it's a language, and a wider understanding of what music, sound, and noise are and how they're described by different schools of thought.

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A universal means of communication that transcends any other kind of language. It shares feelings, brings cultures together, and connects everyone regardless of their background or identity.

I tend to think of music as a series of organized sounds and silences, but I also think it's more complicated than that because not every organized series of sounds and silences is considered music, but all music is composed of some sort of organized sound and silence.

I would define music as organized complementary sound waves.

Something that sounds like it has some sort of melodic structure.

Music is a flowing sequence of notes and rhythms, in which the pitch and tonality are intentional and specific to the music.

Any grouping of sound one can enjoy, learn from, or appreciate. Others may enjoy, learn from, or appreciate things you can't.

My definition of music would be a cacophony of sounds that blend together to create a sound that makes someone feel any type of emotion

I think that what distinguishes music from noise or sound is a sense of story. Music is sound with intention, and even the most seemingly structureless experimental music is created with the intent of expressing something to the listener. Not only does music communicate, it has a narrative. A fog horn could be said to express something to a listener, but it doesn't *go anywhere*. Birdsong is not as musical as Beethoven, but much more so than a lawnmower, because the bird creates a melody which must evoke something for the other birds, and which follows a different melody depending on what it wants to communicate. There is definitely ambiguity within this definition, but I would say that the most "musical" sound is that which evokes an emotion or follows a journey, and the best music is the most evocative.

A collection of intended sounds meant to convey meaning.

I really like the definition you gave in the first session. Everyone has a different taste in music. I think that literally anything that you want to classify as music can be music.

I usually listen to music over spotify. Over the summer I listened to music a lot in the car while I was driving. Since I moved to Victoria and do not have a car anymore, I have been Listening to music on the bus or in my room using headphones. While I am very thankful that headphones exist so that I do not bother anyone near me with my music selection, I really miss being able to sing along to my songs like I did in my car.

I consider music to be a series of pitches strung together to form melodies, placed upon each other to also include constantly changing harmonies. This is a very vague and technical answer, I know, and it even excludes some of the modern music that doesn't fit in those boxes. There is

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so much to music (emotion, story, culture, community, difficulty, and your personal connection to

it/memories associated with it), yet not all music includes all of those categories. Something I don't enjoy (such as heavily edited/remixed pop or rap music) doesn't mean it isn't music to many other people. A big part of music is having an open mind and discovering yourself and the world.

My definition of music is sounds and silences organized over time.

As I am familiar with it, music is an arrangement of sounds and silences that may or may not be pleasing to the ear.

This is a tough one, I have had very deep thoughts and conversations about the definition of music, but the way I see it, is that music is extremely subjective, and so many things can be considered music. If anyone hears a sound that they believe can be defined as music, then that is music. For example, say, someone hears a tree branch break, a bird chirping, and a gust of wind; if they think that is music, then that is music. In short, I believe music can be defined as whatever anyone thinks is music.

Hmm... this is a complicated thing to put into words. Maybe a collection of sounds and silences made by instruments or voice (the voices of birds and other animals included). But what defines an instrument? I could listen to a busy street and hear music in it, but does that make cars instruments? Anyways, I think if someone hears a collection of sounds and thinks that it sounds like music, it's music. And anyone who has too strict a definition (like if their definition says that music needs to be organized in a pattern to make sense) might be missing out.

Music is a flowing sequence of notes and rhythms, in which the pitch and tonality are intentional and specific to the music.

Any collection of sounds arranged over a period of time, with the intention to bring any sort of reaction out of a listener

Music can mean many things to different people, but to me all it needs to be is organized sound. Something with intent behind it, pushing into the realm of art.

Organized sounds with a pulse and a sense of purpose.

To me, music is the combination of sounds purposefully placed together to convey a meaning.

Music a form of expression that can be perceived by others in many ways.

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Music is a form of auditory art that combines rhythm, melody and harmony for the general purpose of emotionally touching its listeners.

My definition of music is a language people can connect with around the globe. Even though there are different genres of music, by talking about music you can meet so many new people.

To quote one of my past band teachers, Mr. Dave Flello, "Music is defined as sounds and silences organized over time."

I consider the scientific definition of sound, vibrations that the eardrum senses. I also sometimes use "sound" to describe the feeling of music (e.g. How does that sound?)

Music is conveying a sort of emotion in some sort of artistic way. Rhythm and pitch are often used to differentiate music from noise, but I don't think that those attributes are necessarily qualifiers.

A combination of basic elements of rhythm, harmony, pitch, dynamics, and expression.

## **Definitions of Sound**

Sound is waves in the air that our ear is able to identify and process into information for our brain. Sound is not a specific category of sound the way music is, but encompasses all information that can be obtained through one's ear. People's speech, in my opinion, is sound. In your session when you referred to your own speech as music, I was immediately shaking my head in disagreement. Even spoken word poetry, which I very much enjoy, I wouldn't consider as music; there is a pleasing rhythm to the speech, but for me it is still not music. I have never really thought about my own definitions of these words before, but I find it really interesting.

Anything we can hear (or should hear after many years of playing with loud drummers) is sound.

A building block of music, I'd consider this to only involve very few of the parts of music, such as a single pitch with dynamics.

My definition of sound is the waves that travel and bounce off the things around us to create what we hear. Noises are the sounds created by those sounds.

Sound is the fundamental of everything we hear.

Sound is anything that is noise, hard to explain.

Vibrations in the air that we perceive

Sound is vibrations created from something that can be heard when in close enough proximity. I do not believe that something has to be heard in order for it to be a sound ("if a tree falls in a forest…" Yes! Of course it made a sound!).

Sound is a vibration that travels through the air and creates a noise, often pitched. Pitch is determined by the speed of the vibration.

Sound is what we hear from the surrounding, either man made or natural

A noise that has been created that can be listened to

Wiggly air

My definition of sound stems from a scientific view. Sounds are waves that travel through our atmosphere at different oscillations. The amplitude and length of these waves are what determine the pitch of the sound. These sounds are what make up either music or noise, depending on what the listeners perceives.

Sound and noise are often two words thrown around in the music world that seem to be

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extremely different to some people, while others use them interchangeably. To most people, sound is pleasant, while noise is harsher and often louder. I'd say my definition is that sound is intentional and planned, while noise is random. In my violin lesson, something my teacher often says is that my sound is too sweet, it needs to be uglier (because the piece calls for it). He wouldn't say to make a noise, even though the result is rather like noise. In general, sound has more positive connotations and noise has negative connotations.

I would define sound as vibrations that travel through the air with a set frequency.

Audible vibrations that hearing people and creatures are able to perceive.

Any disturbance to silence

Sound is something that is transmitted aurally and can be picked up by the ear, so it can be anything from music, to everyday noises like the ringing of a doorbell, or the barking of a dog, or a conversation. I believe all music is sound, but not all sound is music (though some may disagree).

My definition of sound would be anything the ear can hear and acknowledge.

I once read "music is what feelings sound like". This definition really resonates with me. I think music is more about feelings than about sounds. Music can speak to someones soul and can express feelings that cannot be adequately expressed another way.

For me the definition of sound would be a message that enters in the ears and is interpreted by the brain.

To go with a very general definition, sound is a lot of funky waves that our brains detect via ears.

Noise is a variety of sound, but it is usually more chaotic and disorganized. Can be considered annoying and unwanted.

Wiggly air.

Changes of pressure moving through a medium in a wave with varying frequencies.

Sound is some-whatly similar to noise, but I would say that sound is more of a tone that is purposely placed somewhere, normally with an array of other sounds that come together to form a piece of music, or even used when speaking to form a word or sentence.

Vibrations of soundwaves that are perceived through our ears

Sound is everything~

Sound is anything you may hear.

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My definition of noise would be anything that you can hear with your ears.

I define sound is any auditory effect that can be both created and heard.

I would say that a sound is something that is audible to the ears due to vibrations in airwaves.

My definition of sound: My definition of sound isn't as odd as my definition of music is, my definition of sound is very literal, I simply see sound as vibrations that our ears pick up.

Simply, anything that can be heard.

Sound is waves in the air that our ear is able to identify and process into information for our brain. Sound is not a specific category of sound the way music is, but encompasses all information that can be obtained through one's ear. People's speech, in my opinion, is sound. In your session when you referred to your own speech as music, I was immediately shaking my head in disagreement. Even spoken word poetry, which I very much enjoy, I wouldn't consider as music; there is a pleasing rhythm to the speech, but for me it is still not music. I have never really thought about my own definitions of these words before, but I find it really interesting.

Something that can be heard, or can be heard with the assistance of an instrument

Anything that can be heard, or even felt through vibrations.

Sound is a product of music creation that can be appealing or not

Sound is the vibration of particles through a medium. It takes the form of transverse waves.

My definition of sound is music, pleasure to my ears.

This I find a bit more difficult to define, but my first instinct was to say that sound can be defined as anything that you can hear. It doesn't necessarily have a rhythm or a melody; it could just be the product of living beings and inanimate objects existing. And based on my definition from the last question, I would have to say that organized sounds such as music also fall under the same umbrella.

Anything that takes up some sort of auditory space.

### MUS 116 Student Responses to Music, Sound & Noise

### **Definitions of Noise**

Too many colliding sounds, confusing to the ear and brain.

Stressful or irritating sounds that create disturbance or anxiety.

Noise is anything that makes unpleasant sounds and makes people uncomfortable, such as gunshots and babies crying.

Sounds that are not necessarily intentional

A synonym for sound, or in a negative sense as the opposite of music

Noise and sound are pretty similar to me in terms of their physical properties. I use noise mainly as a negative term (ex. "what is that noise coming from the Skytrain?") as opposed to sound, which encompasses all vibrations that are transmitted aurally (ex. "I can hear the sound of leaves rustling").

I would define noise as a distinct sound that can be heard clearly and does not blend well, so almost the opposite of music.

I have auditory processing disorder so I guess noise for me is not necessarily the same as it is for other people. Environments that have a lot of sounds are very difficult for me to process and understand. For me this is noise.

"Sounds" are messages I can understand, whereas "noise" are messages I cannot understand.

For me at least, sound becomes noise when we tune it out or can't find any meaning in it. Noise is a type of sound, because we hear it, but it lacks definition. When I think of noise, I think of white noise, or traffic noise, or unpleasant, screechy construction noise. Could you sample construction noise and make music with it? Absolutely. It may be noisy, abrasive music, but it now has meaning and intent. Some listeners might call it awful noise, some might call it great music. It all depends on perspective. Noise is what we find unpleasant, un-structured, or uninteresting; opposite music on the spectrum of sound.

A cacophonic collection of discordant sounds.

My definition of noise is a sound produced as a result of another activity.

Personally, I'd define sound and noise to be the same thing; the vibrations of airwaves translates to sound/noise.

Noise has a bit of a negative connotation to me. I tend to use it to describe annoying, loud or confusing sounds.

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My definition of noise: I see noise as an unpleasant sound that our ears pickup, however, similarly to my thoughts on music, noise can also be subjective, as not everyone finds a noise unpleasant. for example, I hate the sound of ice being scraped off of a freezer, so that counts as noise to me, however, someone may not find that unpleasant, therefore to them it is sound, or even music.

Probably the same definition as sound, but things that are noisy come to mind (loud things). I guess the difference is that something can be noisy, but it can't be "soundy".

I would define noise more or less identical to the way I would define sound. The word noise seems to hold more of a negative connotation in comparison to the word sound, however when I reflect I am sure I use the word noise quite often in a very neutral way. 'Noise' makes me think of white noise, which in my opinion is very neutral.

Noise to me, is a sound, but only if it were annoying or a nuisance. Almost like bad sound a sound or collection of sounds not intentionally arranged to bring a reaction out of a listener

Noise is sound, and can thus be music in my opinion. If the intention behindnoise is clear then it is music in my eyes.

Noise is a product of sound that does not inherently have meaning

Any sound that isn't music.

Noise is indistinguishable from sound, except in a cultural sense; noise psychologically tends to refer to loud, unstructured and randomly combined sounds that are unpleasant to hear.

My definition of noise if very different from sound. Although it is all "noise", I think of noise just as something similar to slamming a door, putting something on a desk, etc

In asking myself how I define noise, I found that initially wanted to say that sound and noise could be used synonymously. But I don't necessarily think that this is true, mostly based on the nuance of the English language; we tend to use "sound" as a way to describe something pleasing to the ear, while we use "noise" to describe something more abrasive sounding.

Any sound with a negative presence. It could be physically harmful, simply unwanted, or taking auditory space from something else, such as loud construction tools covering the music of birdsong.

I would define noise more or less identical to the way I would define sound. The word noise seems to hold more of a negative connotation in comparison to the word sound, however when I reflect I am sure I use the word noise quite often in a very neutral way. 'Noise' makes me think of white noise, which in my opinion is very neutral.

Sound with too much information for our brains to parse. More information means things like more complex interval ratios and rhythmic relationships. I feel like everybody has a unique

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threshold where this complexity overwhelms us and what we hear is noise. In this sense, it's like a subjective spice level of dissonance, one of the main ingredients of music. Noise might then be said to be lurking in the background of all music. Most people probably cross their threshold somewhere over the course of this piece: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2gVhBxwRqg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2gVhBxwRqg</a>.

Noise for me is more abstract and doesn't have to be audible. It's the filling of a space that would be empty otherwise. Noise doesn't have to be perceivable to everyone. My tinnitus is noise in my head, but it isn't sound

Noise and Sound are the same thing on a scientific level, but for me, noise is a term i use for sounds that irritate or unnerve me.

My definition of noise is a collection of or singular sounds that one does not perceive as music. For example, as I write this, I can hear the sound of construction coming from outside my window. Though this sound can sometimes invoke thoughts of annoyance, it doesn't make me experience a certain emotion or portray a deeper meaning that I would like to ponder. Therefore, I don't perceive it as music, rather as noise. In addition, I believe that noise are sounds that people don't pay much attention to, and regard as background sounds.

For me, there are 2 types:

- 1. Sounds I don't like are noise.
- 2. Background sounds we are conditioned to filter out of our lives are also noise.
- 3. Florida Georgia Line. So 3 types.

Noise is sound that is processed through your brain. It is hard to ignore noise, or to not acknowledge that it is all around us. There is actually a room in Minnesota that is said to be the quietest space in the world. It is so silent that the longest someone has lasted in there is 45 minutes. I am bringing up this fact to acknowledge that noise is super important and would conclude in a very empty life without it.

In my mind, noise is very similar to sound. Basically identical, actually. When I imagine noise, however, I think of it as a short-lived sound that is usually unwanted or comes from an unknown origin. The word "noise" usually comes with negative connotations, for example, when something is considered noisy.

I believe noise to have the same definition as sound, but with a more negative connotation. Noise tends to be used if the sound is unwanted or disliked.

The most basic part that leads to music, would only be one of the elements, has no real discernable pitches or rhythm.

I would define noise as many sound waves. To me, all music is noise, but not all noise is necessarily music.