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A VISION OF PEACE AND HUMANISM IN MODERN MUSIC

Abstract. The article "A vision of peace and humanism in modern music" examines how contemporary musicians use music as a platform to express the values of peace, tolerance and humanism. The research focuses on the analysis of lyrics, metaphors, symbolism and other literary devices that contribute to the formation of deeper meanings that influence social ideologies and cultural narratives.

The topicality of the topic is due to the growing role of music in the formation of social attitudes and ideas related to coexistence, justice and solidarity. The article emphasizes that modern music not only entertains, but also becomes an important tool in the formation of public perceptions and culture, causing a dialogue about social problems.

The study highlights how musicians use a variety of literary devices such as metaphors, symbolism and repetition to convey their messages. Through detailed analysis of songs by artists such as M.I.A., Lady Gaga and Matisyahu, the article demonstrates how music can reflect the complexity of human emotions and social challenges, and call for change. Moreover, the article emphasizes the importance of music as a form of cultural commentary that reflects the social realities and challenges of our time. She explores how musical works become instruments of protest and means of expressing hope for a better future, revealing the potential of music to influence society.

The analysis shows that themes raised in music, such as inequality, conflict and environmental issues, create a space for reflection on the shared values of humanity. Investigated songs are becoming powerful tools to call for action and change attitudes on social issues. It encourages reflection on how art, in particular music, can become a catalyst for progress and a beacon of hope in difficult times.

The key words of the article: peace, humanism, modern music, song lyrics, social values, cultural ideologies, metaphors in music, social change, literary devices.

Formulation of scientific problem and its significance: The scientific inquiry centers on analyzing how contemporary music serves as a vehicle for promoting values of peace and humanism through its lyrical content and the use of sophisticated literary devices. This research highlights the importance of music not merely as entertainment, but as a significant force in shaping societal ideologies and fostering meaningful social change. It delves into how musicians artfully employ metaphors, symbolism, and other narrative techniques to communicate messages of empathy, justice, and unity, which resonate deeply with audiences on a global scale.

This investigation is crucial, as it seeks to understand how modern music not only reflects but actively contributes to the promotion of peace and cross-cultural understanding. By studying the subtleties of lyrical expression, the research reveals the ways in which artists engage with complex societal issues and emotional landscapes, encouraging dialogue and fostering social cohesion. The work underscores music's role in bridging cultural and societal divides, making it an essential tool for peacebuilding and the promotion of humanistic values across the world.

Moreover, this research emphasizes the role of modern music as a form of cultural commentary, reflecting the social realities and challenges of our times. By examining specific songs and their lyrical themes, the study aims to uncover how artists respond to contemporary issues such as inequality, conflict, and environmental degradation. This exploration not only sheds light on the artists' intentions but also reveals the collective consciousness of society as expressed through music. Through this lens, the study will assess the potential of music to galvanize movements, inspire activism, and cultivate a sense of shared responsibility among listeners. Ultimately, understanding the interplay between music, culture, and social change enriches our appreciation of how art can serve as a catalyst for progress and a beacon of hope in challenging times.

Analysis of research on this problem. The analysis of research on this problem reveals that modern music plays a crucial role in expressing and promoting values of peace and humanism. Through its lyrical content, use of literary devices, cultural impact, and capacity for fostering dialogue, music serves as a powerful catalyst for social change and a means of connecting individuals across diverse backgrounds.

The purpose and objectives of the article. The main goal is to discover how artists communicate ideas of compassion, equality and unity through music, and how these ideas resonate with listeners. By analyzing the lyrics of songs by artists such



as M.I.A, Lady Gaga, Rag'n'Bone Man and others, the study reveals how music becomes a tool for social change and cultural dialogue.

Presentation of the main material and substantiation of the obtained research results.

The article explores the vision of peace and humanism in modern music by examining the works of influential contemporary musicians such as Lady Gaga, Rag'n'Bone Man, Green Day, M.I.A and others. These artists use their music to delve into profound societal issues, advocating for compassion, empathy, and unity.

In particular, the study analyzes the intricate use of metaphors, symbolic imagery, and lyrical craftsmanship that convey deeper meanings of peace and humanism in their songs.

Music has long been a reflection of the values and ideologies that shape societies. It often conveys such shades of feelings and experiences that are difficult to express in words. Through melodies, rhythms, and lyrics, artists express their beliefs, challenge norms, and offer visions of the world as it could be. Values such as compassion, unity, and justice are often embedded in songs, while ideologies—whether political, social, or cultural—find a powerful voice in music. These concepts are integral to how music resonates with listeners, as it not only entertains but also educates, inspires, and influences. [1].

The focus on peace and humanism in contemporary music is more relevant than ever. As the world grapples with global challenges such as conflict, inequality, and climate change, music offers a unifying message of hope and empathy. Through the exploration of humanistic values—centered on dignity, respect, and shared humanity—modern musicians are using their platforms to inspire change and promote a vision of a more peaceful world. In this context, the importance of music lies not just in its artistic expression, but in its potential to influence ideologies and foster social transformation.

The stylistic aspect of translation encompasses the careful selection of lexical and grammatical means that align with the original text's functional and communicative orientation. Stylistic devices play a crucial role in literature, allowing authors to portray characters and scenarios from multiple perspectives. Among these devices, metaphors stand out as significant tools for enhancing descriptions and creating vivid imagery through deliberate deviations from standard language conventions.

The topics of peace and humanism are particularly pertinent amid global crises such as military conflicts, climate change, and human rights struggles. These songs serve not only to entertain but also to educate, reminding audiences of shared human values and inspiring empathy and activism. In the wake of significant events related to the fight for equal rights, artists frequently explore themes of anti-racism, equality, and mutual respect.

In recent decades, numerous historical events have significantly impacted society and its cultural expressions, particularly in music. Conflicts such as the wars in Iraq, Syria, and Ukraine have left deep social and psychological scars, which modern artists seek to express through themes of pacifism and humanism. Additionally, terrorist acts, especially September 11 in the United States, catalyzed the emergence of new musical genres and protest songs that challenge aggression and advocate for peace. Consequently, music has become a vital tool for articulating protest and expressing hopes for peace in the contemporary world.

In the realm of music, many songs serve as poignant commentaries on pressing societal issues, including migration, racism, and political repression. One such track is "Borders" by British artist M.I.A., released in 2015 as a single from her fourth studio album, A.I.M. This composition has emerged as a significant work within the discourse surrounding social justice, migration, and identity.

At its core, "Borders" addresses the themes of migration, systemic oppression, and social injustice. M.I.A. poignantly highlights the challenges faced by refugees and immigrants, drawing attention to their struggles for a better life. The artist questions the very concept of borders that separate individuals and invites listeners to contemplate the implications of policies that govern migration.[2].

The use of the term "dom" in M.I.A.'s lyrics reflects the complexities of contemporary freedom. This prompts the audience to consider their commitment to collective well-being over individualism. Phrases such as "Where's your 'We'dom?'" and "Re'dom" underscore a call for a new understanding of freedom that prioritizes community and transformation. Furthermore, the admonition "Don't be dumb!" serves as a warning against complacency regarding societal issues, urging listeners to critically engage with the role of technology in their lives.

Throughout the song, the repetitive question "What's up with that?" conveys a sense of confusion and frustration about interconnected social issues, including borders and police violence. M.I.A. employs metaphors like "Guns blow doors to the system," suggesting that violence can disrupt oppressive structures and highlighting the harsh realities faced by marginalized communities.

The lyrics also incorporate empowering terms such as "Queen," "Killing it," and "Freaking internet," which address themes of empowerment, success, and the pervasive influence of digital culture. The phrase "talkin' in our sleep" implies that marginalized voices may express their truths in subtle ways, even if these expressions are not actively acknowledged in mainstream discourse. Additionally, allusions to media representation, such as "they don't play us on the FM," critique the exclusion of certain voices from popular platforms.[3].

M.I.A.'s lyrics encourage reflection on identity and societal norms through direct address, compelling listeners to examine their own values and beliefs. Imagery of communal spaces, like the "stoop," symbolizes grassroots knowledge and connection, contrasting sharply with the impersonal nature of mainstream media.



In summary, the lyrics of "Borders" skillfully combine allusions, metaphors, repetition, and vivid imagery to critique societal norms and celebrate the collective identity of marginalized communities. By challenging established values and power structures, M.I.A. encourages critical engagement with the issues at hand, fostering unity in the face of systemic oppression. Through "Borders," the artist not only sheds light on the struggles of displaced individuals but also inspires a collective call to action for social justice.

"Til It Happens to You" by Lady Gaga stands as a powerful anthem that seeks to spark a crucial dialogue about sexual violence and its far-reaching consequences. With emotional lyrics and a stirring performance, Gaga compels listeners to confront the uncomfortable truths surrounding trauma, advocating for compassion and support for those who have endured such horrific experiences.

At the heart of the song are themes of trauma, isolation, and misunderstanding that frequently accompany sexual abuse. Drawing from her personal experiences, Gaga conveys a sense of urgency and compassion, highlighting the challenges faced by those who have not experienced similar situations in grasping the profound pain felt by victims. This is particularly evident in the repetitive phrase "it gets better," which underscores the inadequacy of common reassurances often offered to those in distress, emphasizing the feelings of dismissal and isolation that trauma survivors frequently encounter.[4].

To further illustrate this disconnect, Gaga employs rhetorical questions, such as "How could you know?", expressing disbelief at the gap between those who have lived through trauma and those who have not. This contrast reinforces the notion that understanding trauma transcends mere intellectual comprehension; it is an emotional reality that can only be fully grasped through lived experience. The transition from rhetorical questioning to the use of imperatives, like "Hold your head up and be strong," reveals a patronizing attitude from those unfamiliar with the depths of trauma. This highlights the societal expectation that survivors should simply "move on" from their pain, further emphasizing the complexity of their experiences.

Gaga's metaphor "Til your world burns and crashes" vividly illustrates the catastrophic impact of trauma, evoking feelings of destruction and upheaval in one's life. This imagery sets the stage for her poignant phrase "Til you're standing in my shoes," which emphasizes that genuine understanding stems from personal experience. By spotlighting the gap between the speaker's reality and the perceptions of outsiders, Gaga invites listeners to reflect on their own attitudes and responses to survivors.

Ultimately, the song champions the need for authentic empathy and support, encouraging listeners to acknowledge that resilience comes from within. Real understanding requires more than just words; it calls for action and solidarity with those who suffer. Through her powerful lyrics, Lady Gaga advocates for deeper



connections and a move beyond superficial platitudes. "Til It Happens to You" serves as a heartfelt reminder that empathy and understanding are essential in supporting survivors of trauma, fostering a culture of compassion and awareness that can lead to healing and solidarity.

Matisyahu's "One Day" is a moving and uplifting song that conveys a powerful message of hope, peace, and unity in the face of conflict and hardship. Released in 2009 as part of his album *Shake Off the Dust... Arise*, the track quickly became an anthem for social change and resilience, resonating with listeners around the world.

At its core, the main theme of "One Day" is the desire for a future filled with peace and harmony. Matisyahu addresses the numerous challenges that individuals and communities face, particularly within the context of violence, discrimination, and social division. The lyrics express a vision of a world where people can coexist peacefully, free from hatred and suffering.[5].

Imagery plays a significant role in the song, as exemplified by the evocative phrase "laying under the moon." This line evokes a sense of peace and introspection, contrasting sharply with the struggles depicted throughout the song. It highlights the dichotomy between tranquility and turmoil, allowing listeners to reflect on their own experiences. Additionally, the act of praying conveys a sense of hope and purpose, with the line "here for a reason" suggesting a belief in a greater meaning behind life's hardships.

The repetition of the phrase "one day" serves as a hopeful mantra, reinforcing the anticipation for a future filled with peace and unity. The contrast between "drowning in tears" and maintaining resilience reflects the human experience of facing sorrow while striving for perseverance. Matisyahu skillfully encapsulates the struggle of overcoming adversity while holding onto hope.

Powerful imagery, such as "blood-drenched pavement," evokes the violence and suffering present in society. This stark visual captures the listener's attention and provokes a visceral response, forcing them to confront the harsh realities that many endure. Furthermore, the metaphor of a "maze" symbolizes the complexities of life, highlighting the challenges individuals face as they navigate through chaos and uncertainty.

The line "under the same sun" suggests unity and equality, indicating that all people share the same world and opportunities for happiness. Matisyahu emphasizes the interconnectedness of humanity, reinforcing the idea that despite our differences, we all seek the same fundamental desires for love and peace. The phrase "singin' songs of freedom" symbolizes the expression of joy and hope, implying that collective musical expression can unite people in the fight for freedom and equality.

Overall, Matisyahu's lyrics convey an optimistic vision of a future characterized by peace, equality, and unity. The song encourages listeners to aspire to a world free from violence, celebrating the possibility of coexistence. In a time



when social issues often dominate the headlines, "One Day" serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring human spirit and the collective desire for a better tomorrow. Each of these songs deals with themes of social justice, trauma, and striving for a better world, using different literary devices to convey their messages and provoke thought in listeners.

Conclusions. Contemporary music often becomes a platform for highlighting important social issues, including topics of social justice and trauma. Three songs — M.I.A.'s "Borders," Lady Gaga's "'Til It Happens to You" and Matisyahu's "One Day" — vividly illustrate these themes, prompting listeners to think about their own role in solving the issues they raise.

M.I.A. in her composition "Borders" draws attention to the problems of migration, identity and systemic oppression. The singer's lyrics make listeners think about the difficulties faced by refugees and immigrants, emphasizing the need for active participation in the struggle for social justice. Through vivid images and metaphors, M.I.A. creates an emotional resonance, calling for a critical understanding of the boundaries that separate people.

Lady Gaga, in turn, in the song "'Til It Happens to You" focuses on the trauma of sexual violence. Her text highlights the gap between those who have lived through such experiences and those who often offer superficial reassurances. Gaga uses her personal experiences to convey the importance of true compassion and understanding, urging listeners to realize that true support is only possible through deep emotional involvement.

In contrast, Matisyahu in his song "One Day" offers a hopeful vision of a future full of peace and unity. His work emphasizes the power of collective efforts in achieving social change, emphasizing that change is possible through collective perseverance. While M.I.A. and Gaga highlight themes concerning marginalized communities, Matisyahu draws attention to the potential for harmonious existence.

Each of these songs uses powerful imagery and metaphors to heighten the emotional impact. The artists' vivid visual effects help listeners confront the uncomfortable truths of social injustice, illustrating the complexity of human emotions and the importance of understanding diverse experiences. The repetition of key phrases in all three songs also emphasizes the underlying themes, heightening the emotional response. The use of rhetorical questions and imperatives demonstrates the gap between different experiences, encouraging listeners to reflect on their own role in understanding and supporting others.

Together, these three songs thus create a powerful discourse about social justice, trauma, and hope. They show how music can influence society, calling for deeper understanding and solidarity. Each artist has a unique approach to the topics raised, contributing to the formation of cultural awareness and the development of empathy among listeners.

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