

## MUSIC—FROM MOZART TO PRINCE

by Chloe Flitter

Music is a seemingly simple thing; it is a series of notes jumbled together with a certain rhythm, can be just a few measures, with some flats here and some sharps there, and can be written on paper using symbols for the notes. Yet, to the human heart it is so much more. It can make a person cry of happiness or grief. Music can provide the motivation to run a little farther or try a little harder. Music can help us understand the hardships we face or see the compassion we need toward others. Rather than a simple thing, music is a complex art form that humans have always used to express themselves.

Music has been around for centuries, in 4000 BCE the Egyptians created harps and flutes; in 2500 BCE. Denmark created the natural trumpet. The earliest form of music was probably drum beats; they were thought to be in religious ceremonies. Many musical progressions happened in Ancient Rome and Greece because of all their free time. Indeed, Aristotle wrote a scientific theory on music in 350 BCE. In 600 CE the first music school, Schola Cantorum, was created by Pope Gregory. Catholic musicians came up with church “modes” in 850 CE, which later became known as the major and minor scales. Music has come a long way and has been reinvented, with new styles and melodies ever evolving, which are still used and enjoyed today. This history, found on the website “Method Behind the Music.com” on their history link, reflects the human fascination and connection with music for much of our days here on Earth.

Life would be very different if there were no music. For example, going to church would be different; no hymnals to sing along with, no organ to play. There would be no such thing as a band or choir, so no classes in school for music or no orchestra to attend. Musicals wouldn’t exist, nor soundtracks to a movie or play. There would be no singers or songwriters; there would be no such thing as the music industry. There would be fewer jobs, since there would be no conductors or writers. People like Mozart or Prince would just be ordinary citizens of a silent world. You couldn’t hum to the songs that got stuck in your head. The radio or record player probably wouldn’t have been invented nor would instruments be played. Living in a world without music would be quiet and boring. The “little” things we use for music would make a huge difference if they were gone.

My family and I are lucky to have music in our life. My family is full of fortunate, musically inclined people. My great, great uncle, a World War II veteran, gave me an accordion with his initials in it that he used in WWII; he played it at taverns and, in return, got free drinks. My grandfather sang in musicals and in choirs. My aunts and uncles play many instruments, from the piano all the way to the string bass. I am happily say I take after them musically. I can play the guitar, piano, accordion, flute and piccolo. I have played on the street in marching band, in a recording studio in Orlando, Florida, and lots of places in between. Music is a central part in my life as it has been for my family, and it is going to be in my future by being passed on to my kids.

Music has been around for centuries and has influenced and inspired humans since our beginnings, and this next young generation is creating yet new styles, which are infinite. Past and present, old and new, it doesn’t matter if it is Mozart or Prince, all music can have an impact on our lives and has a story to tell, you just need to listen.