

Topic: Music may predate humans

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Summary: Similarities between the music of humans and other animals add weight to the idea that music has been around longer than human language, and maybe even longer than humans, say US researchers. The fact that whale and human music have so much in common even though our evolutionary paths have not intersected for 60 million years, suggests that music may predate humans - that rather than being the inventors of music, we are latecomers to the musical scene.

Comment: Music is a universal language. Every living creature is familiar with it. We can hear music not just in human civilization, if we pay a visit to the great outdoors, far from human contact we can still feel the presence of music. The twittering of the birds, blowing of winds, pitter patter of raindrops on the ground, flowing of river or just rickets making some noise. We are unable to escape the music the Mother Nature has created. Now a recent study on animal sounds has suggested new theories, humans- the self proclaimed most intellectual animal of all- is not the creator of music. It was long before humans ever stepped foot on earth music filled the air, if there was any.

The scientist found the sounds that the birds make similar to human music. One bird song even sounds like the opening of Chopin's "Revolutionary" Etude. While some birds sing Western music scales, others sing pentatonic scales - which consist of five different tones within the octave and are more common in African and Eastern music. "There are interval inversions, simple harmonic relations, and retention of melody with change of key," write the researchers. Many birds transpose motifs to different keys. Some birds also practice "call and response" song patterns - a technique often used in gospel music. The Californian marsh wren, for example, may sing as many as 120 different themes in a fixed sequence while a neighbor responds identically to each theme. Other birds use instruments to produce music. The palm cockatoo of Northern Australia and New Guinea, for example, makes drumsticks from a tree twig and uses a hollow log as drum. Like humans, the ability to memories and recognize a musical pattern is central to the music making of birds and whales. Tunes are passed on from parent to offspring, from adults to unrelated younger generations, and between peers.

Evidences of human-music dates way back. The invention of the flute demonstrated that Neanderthal civilizations used to devote considerable time and skill to construct complicated musical instruments. Given the sophistication of these 50,000-year-old instruments, it is quite possible that humans have been making music for several hundred thousand years. Human music-making may vary dramatically between cultures, but the fact that it is found in all cultures suggests that there is a deep human need to create, perform, and listen to music. If it is as ancient as some believe, this could explain why we find so much meaning and emotion in music even though we cannot explain why it makes us feel the way it does.

Music is pleasurable and profound. Music adds joyfulness to life and makes it enjoyable. On the other hand, music also evokes some things in life that we have been taking for granted. So we can say that music is the best way to communicate and spread the message far and wide. Who doesn't listen to music? Maybe people may not listen to news or read magazines and newspapers or listen to long and boring speeches but everyone enjoys and listens to a good piece of music. Some music can speak larger and better than words. The real expression can be felt just with the help of instruments. For example, musical pieces of Beethoven and Mozart are so expressive. Their piano was their note book and their fingers were their window to their mind. The musician

of today also like Joe Satriani, Michael Angelo, Steve Vai, and Eric Johnson express themselves with the help of guitar, with beautiful riffs and leads. Music is the best way to express one's self. Music helps to breed creativity as well. To create a new music, you would have to be very creative and open minded. It would help to make people think outside of the box. Always people are trying to express themselves and bring their individuality forward and I believe music is the best way to do so. Successful musical products, whether compositions, performances, or improvisations, are precious for the benefits they offer to people. Often a particularly excellent musical product or body of work is considered a cultural treasure, representing the highest achievement of which humans in that culture are capable. It can be also be an identification of an individual trying show people his true philosophies and beliefs, culture like the 'mangal dhun' of the Newars which signifies celebration, country like the national anthem or anything that they want to.

Music can also be a lethal weapon if put forward properly. It is the real weapon of mass destruction. Some of the masters of this art of using this weapon are Bob Marley, Michael Jackson and Pink Floyd. Bob Marley raised many issues such as racial discrimination, slavery and the injustice done the police with some soulful numbers like 'Buffalo soldier' and 'I shot the sheriff'. Michael Jackson too put forward many issues like the racial discrimination, the human's wrong doing environmentally and socially as well as the governments unawareness with his hit numbers like 'heal the world', 'black or white' and 'they don't really care about us'. Pink Floyd had sung 'another brick in the wall' which raised a huge question mark on the educational system and made the government rethink its policies. There have been other songs as well protesting war like 'imagine' by John Lennon and other issues as well. This used to be the way to tell and make people aware of the wrong doings of the government when freedom of speech and freedom of journalism didn't exist. There are some songs which deal with these thoughts as well. Music has the power to start a revolution.

Music is immortal. There is no stopping the willingness of humans to create and explore new genres of music. As long as there is human civilization there is bound to be music. Even after human civilization is long gone, the animals will still be creating music. This is an indestructible force that will only get stronger with time.
