

The Power of a Song

Music is a form of art that can affect people in ways unknown. It has the possibility to move people in various ways. Fans of music can also be heavily influenced by the musicians they know and love. These artists have the talents and abilities to create the music that their fans appreciate, thus having an impact on these fans. How they act, who they surround themselves with, and especially what they create and present in their music is displayed to the public. When these musicians perform songs regarding the issues surrounding our world today, their fan base often listens and take it to heart even more so. Through their music, I feel that musicians have made an impact on our world by discussing issues surrounding society, such as racism, acceptance of sexual orientation, and poverty.

Racism creates hatred and strips people of justice and love. On July 6, 2003, the Black Eyed Peas released soon to-be hit song: "Where is the Love?". The song discusses racism and discrimination that creates a lack of love and happiness in our world. It states the reality of how people behave and treat others, even if it is harsh. It calls out many cruel and unkind tendencies of some aspects of society, such as racism. However, the song is not all negative. It is calling on its listeners to make a change: "...And to discriminate only generates hate....Take control of your mind and meditate, Let your soul gravitate to the love, y'all, and y'all." Even though discrimination and racism is in our world, it does not mean we cannot put a stop to it. We have the opportunity to make a change if we put our minds and hearts to it. The way we treat other sets the scene for the rest of society. A child is not born a racist, but can be raised one. If we raise our children in our world that acts in ways of hate instead of

love, then our world will reflect this. I believe by creating this song, the Black Eyed Peas were doing their part to make a change, while asking their fans to do so as well.

Such a simple act of dedicating a song to asking others to act with love can make such a difference.

Another topic on the rise is sexual orientation. The LGBT community has made tremendous progress in legalizing marriage, as well as being accepted into society, but the group still faces discrimination. Macklemore and Ryan Lewis featuring Mary Lambert created the song "Same Love", which is about accepting others, and who they love: no matter what gender. During the song, Macklemore gives listeners an idea behind the motive of his song: "We press play don't press pause, Progress march on....Until the day my uncles can be united by law". It is now evident that he has gay family members, giving him passion and inspiration to create this song. Also having gay uncles myself, when I heard this line it filled me with joy and hope. The fact that Macklemore made a song about such a controversial topic also inspired me. Doing this was an effort to find equality for his uncles, but it also encouraged the acceptance from all members of society. Not only was his family touched, but all those in the LGBT community, and its supporters. Hearing this song made me want to make a difference and fight for this cause, and I am sure many others share this feeling with me. Still one of my favorite songs, "Same Love" will forever push me to continue loving and helping others.

Poverty is a lack of money and resources that affects many countries in our nation. In 2010, an earthquake hit Haiti, one that destroyed many lives, homes, and families. The country was previously considered a "third -world country", and after this

catastrophe the country and its people were left in absolute shambles. Something else happened in 2010. In February, 57 of the most current and popular musicians came together to form a new rendition of Michael Jackson's "We are the World". The new version was called "We are the World 25 for Haiti", and was dedicated to the victims of the Haiti crisis. The song called on all of us to help the cause: "Oh, and its time to lend a hand to life, the greatest gift of all". Haiti was in total and complete disaster, a time in which they needed the help of others. This piece of the song reminds us that we are all human, and need each other. No matter who we are, where we come from, or how much money we have, we all have one thing in common: we are part of humanity. Sometimes crisis strikes, and we need each others help. That is exactly what the song is asking for, help. The music video included a link to a website in which you could directly donate money to the cause. Donations made after the video aired soared. This is yet another example of what these powerful artists can do when they come together for a purpose.

Singers and songwriters can make a difference in our world through what their songs convey. Issues that surround racism, sexual orientation and poverty have been discussed, and because of this positive changes have been made. The power of an artist and their song can make a huge impact on society. Whether it prompts someone to do something for a cause, or even just gets them talking about it, it has made a difference. Musicians have a huge influence on their fan base, and a power to impact them with their songs. This immense power musician's hold within themselves and their songs can make positive changes in the world, and are truly inspiring.

Bibliography

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