

GLOBAL TALK

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■ “It’s Music to My Ears ” by Richie Gill

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音楽はわたしたちの生活を豊かにしてくれる欠かせないものですね。
今回は盛岡校、Richie先生の音楽に関するエッセイです。

"Hi everyone, hear is a topic that I am sure everybody is familiar with, popular music! We hear it everywhere and it is part of our lives. Having worked as a musician and music teacher there is a lot I have learned about the roots of the music we commonly hear today.

How many genres can you think of in one minute? Probably quite a few, and they are forever increasing. But how did all these diverse styles develop? Musicians created them of course but, whether or not they are aware of it, they have always had strong influences. The music we hear in childhood can have a profound affect on the way we interpret what we hear as adults.

I was born in the late sixties so naturally I grew up hearing popular music from the sixties and seventies on the radio and television. In those days popular music was still in its early stages of development. Many bands from that era like the Beatles became so famous and were so influential that they are still household names even forty years later.

Such bands created new trends in pop music that have lasted to this very day. Their influences go back to the fifties when artists like Elvis were just starting to combine the traditional blues with other styles to create the very first rock'n'roll sounds.

In the sixties and seventies everything was analog, there was no digital equipment and there were no computers either. This meant recording technology was still new and recording techniques were very simple, basically a microphone and a giant reel-to-reel tape recorder. They couldn't afford to make mistakes during the recording process since nothing could be corrected, therefore, often what was heard on the record was exactly how it was heard live.

Nowadays, however, every sound can be recorded in bits, altered and then pieced together on a computer resulting in an artificial, super clean recording, making the possibilities endless. Unfortunately this means that vocalists in particular don't



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sound nearly as perfect live as they do on the recordings. But no matter how imperfect, live music continues to be extremely popular worldwide.

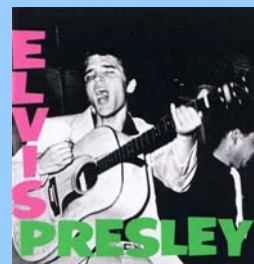
Although advances in recording and sound-making technology have enabled musicians to have unlimited access to a vast array of sounds with infinite possibilities, little has changed in the structure of pop music today. The basic three elements still exist, a catchy melody, a strong back beat and simple, repetitive chord progressions, just as popular songs did back when Elvis was singing them half a century ago. So now when you listen to your favorite pop music you are, in fact, experiencing decades of pop music history!

読み解きのヒント

profound 重要な **vast array** 莫大な
household name よく知られている名前 **century** 100年
influence 影響 **infinite** 無限の **decades** 長年の
combine 結合させる **chord progressions** コード進行
reel 録音テープなどを巻き取るための枠
piece together 部分などをつなぎ合わせて完成させる

【 Recommended Historical Albums 】

Elvis Presley / Elvis Presley



This 1956 album is Elvis's first, and the first ever Rock 'n' Roll album to make it to number 1 in the charts (for 10 weeks, even), as well as the first from the genre to sell over 1 million copies.

Please Please Me / The Beatles



The Beatles' first album, Please Please Me, was released on March 22, 1963. It featured 8 original songs, including The Beatles first single "Love Me Do" and 6 cover songs (written by other artists) including "Twist and Shout".

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