

Why Live Music Is Better Than Recorded Music

In today's world, it is commonplace to see teenagers with their earbuds in, nonchalantly gazing at the mundane world that surrounds them, as their downloaded music continuously streams them with coordinated, synthesized notes and rhythms. However, their engagement with the music is very limited, almost as if it is not worthy of their full attention, and the music was just background sound around them. It is as if they don't fully grasp the extent of the effort and delicate beauty poured into every last measure. However, I believe that live music widens the spectrum of engagement overall because it exposes the listener to a variety of new perspectives.

Music is a channel through which one has the opportunity to express themselves with no fear, causing a surging passion to blossom in every note. It is a soulful process of expression and beauty, one which is evident in the way the performer tends to each note, providing each one with stunning, individual grace. The story every person who played that piece has told has been different. One believed it to be a delicate masterpiece, and another, a tragic tale of sorrow. The sole way a listener can experience the amount of intense wonder flowing through is if they are present at a live performance. In the heat of the moment, the performer is not concerned with a recording or the possible annoyance of other studio members because they are focused on the story they strive to share with the audience and the emotions they desire the audience to feel. In recordings, although pieces of ambition certainly shine through, the notes and rhythms are the main attraction. When musicians play, they are opening up *their* story to you, so I refuse to believe that notes are all that they want you to hear. However, when one listens to live performances, the way the performer pulls the notes out of each string with intense elegance is visible in the moment, even allowing you to connect with the performer on a personal level.

Overall, live music is a completely different experience because of the vast variance in the ability to express musical ideas and stronger connections with the performer.