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ARE YOU AN EMPIRICAL LISTENER?

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RESEARCH-BACKED INDUSTRY INSIGHT

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ABSTRACT

THIS PAPER EXPLORES EMPIRICAL MUSIC LISTENING, WHERE LISTENERS FOCUS ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MUSIC. IT DISCUSSES THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE LISTENERS, THEIR PREFERENCES FOR COMPLEX MUSIC, AND THE ROLE OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN FOSTERING THIS APPROACH.

INTRODUCTION

MUSIC IS ENJOYED IN MANY WAYS, BUT SOME PEOPLE LISTEN TO IT MORE ANALYTICALLY. THIS PAPER EXAMINES EMPIRICAL MUSIC LISTENERS—INDIVIDUALS WHO FOCUS ON THE STRUCTURE, RHYTHM, AND HARMONY OF MUSIC TO UNDERSTAND ITS COMPLEXITIES.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF EMPIRICAL LISTENERS

ANALYTICAL APPROACH

EMPIRICAL LISTENERS:

- DISSECT MUSIC INTO COMPONENTS LIKE MELODY, RHYTHM, AND HARMONY.
- FOCUS ON HOW THESE ELEMENTS INTERACT TO FORM THE OVERALL SOUND.
- ENGAGE THE BRAIN'S ANALYTICAL REGIONS DURING LISTENING (SCHUBERT, 2020).

PREFERENCE FOR COMPLEX GENRES

EMPIRICAL LISTENERS OFTEN PREFER:

- **CLASSICAL MUSIC:** KNOWN FOR ITS INTRICATE STRUCTURE.
- **JAZZ:** OFFERS COMPLEX IMPROVISATIONS AND HARMONIES.
- **AMAPIANO:** A SOUTH AFRICAN GENRE THAT BLENDS DEEP HOUSE, JAZZ, AND LOUNGE MUSIC, CHARACTERIZED BY ITS RICH BASSLINES, COMPLEX RHYTHMS, AND LAYERED MELODIES.
- **PROGRESSIVE ROCK:** FEATURES UNCONVENTIONAL TIME SIGNATURES AND COMPOSITIONS (RENTFROW, 2019).

INFLUENCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

MUSIC EDUCATION PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN FOSTERING EMPIRICAL LISTENING:

- **FORMAL TRAINING:** INDIVIDUALS WITH MUSIC EDUCATION ARE MORE LIKELY TO ANALYZE MUSIC.
- **TECHNICAL APPRECIATION:** THEY TEND TO APPRECIATE THE CRAFTSMANSHIP INVOLVED IN MUSIC COMPOSITION (FIEDLER & AUST, 2021).

CONCLUSION

EMPIRICAL MUSIC LISTENING EMPHASIZES TECHNICAL ANALYSIS, OFTEN APPEALING TO THOSE WITH FORMAL MUSIC EDUCATION. THIS APPROACH IS APPLIED ACROSS VARIOUS GENRES, INCLUDING AMAPIANO, WHERE LISTENERS APPRECIATE THE COMPLEX RHYTHMS AND RICH SOUNDSCAPES. UNDERSTANDING EMPIRICAL LISTENING CAN ENHANCE MUSIC APPRECIATION BY BALANCING ANALYTICAL AND EMOTIONAL LISTENING.

REFERENCE LIST

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