# Music Love Story

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One of the biggest influences of people's perception on what love is and how it's suppose to "work" is the media. There are several forms of media that influence us, television, movies, books, magazines, and music. Of all the forms of media the one that reaches the most people is music. Not everyone watches television or reads magazines, but most everyone listens to some form of music. For some people music is a big part of their life and for others it's a simple distraction, but nonetheless it has an influence on the individual.

Now there are all sorts of genres of music. There's classical, rock, country, metal, punk, R&B, jazz, pop, and new age just to name a few. As each person is different so is their taste in music. The thing that I want to focus on and address is how music influences our perception of what love is and how it's suppose to happen. Now there are thousands of love songs out there, and there's no way that we could address them all. Music being the way it is, it could never address the whole subject of love. No matter what the song it can only capture a part of the "love story." Whether it's the good part, the bad part, the magic, the hard part, or the idea of love it never gives the full love story.

In general there are two ways to depict love companionate or passionate. Companionate love is the harmonious love between best friends/companions. Passionate love is the magical part of love, the feelings and emotional part of love. I picked five different songs to compare, all from different artist and all depicting a different part of the love story. The five songs are: My Best Friend by Tim McGraw, Life After You by Daughtry, Love Story by Taylor Swift, You Don't Bring Me Flowers by Neil Diamond, and Fields of Gold by Sting.

| | Companionate | Passionate |
|---|---|---|
| My Best Friend | X | X |
| Life After You | X | |
| Love Story | | X |
| You Don't Bring Me Flowers | X | X |
| Fields of Gold | | X |

"My Best Friend" depicts love in both categories of companionate and passionate. In it he sings about that she's more than a lover, she's his best friend, which depicts the companionate side of love. Then he also sings about the magic of her touch and feeling close to her which brings in the passionate side of love. I believe this song does depict a realistic view of love. Two people that are in love and may even be married should be best friends. They should be the one person you always look to and depend on when times are rough. Is this always the case, no, but I think it's something a couple should work for if they are serious about their relationship. (Tim McGraw 1999)

"Life After You" definitely depicts the companionate side of love. He sings how all that he is after is a life that is full of laughter, but that he only wants the laughter with her, the one special one. He's sings about a life that isn't complete without that companion that he can laugh with. Is this a realistic view of love? Yes and no. It is in the fact that the person that you love should

make you happy or laugh, but it's not in the fact that you won't always be happy and laughing in your marriage or relationship. There are going to be hard times and sad times, but the important part is that you work through it together. (Daughtry 2009)

"Love Story" depicts love 100% passionate. It's about a magical love story of how a girl and a boy come together. In the song she even refers to "Romeo and Juliette" and a prince and princess. Its all very magical and passionate. This song definitely doesn't realistically depict love. Although love has it's magical moments and can be almost a fantasy, very seldom does it work perfectly in the like in the story books. (Taylor Swift 2008)

"You Don't Bring Me Flowers" depicts both sides of love, the companionate and passionate sides. They sing about the magical side of love of bring flowers and love notes, and they also sing about hating being apart at times. Sadly this song is about a relationship ending and falling apart but it still addresses love in a very realistic way. It talks about the good times and the bad times. It addresses the magical parts of love and then hard parts of love. The reality is that love has it's ups and it's downs, and unfortunately it doesn't always work out. (Neil Diamond and Barbara Streisand 1978)

"Fields of Gold" depicts love in a passionate way. It compares love to "walking in fields of gold." Very magical and emotional depiction of love and how it is. Although the song is almost a fantasy of how love is, it also has some realism to it. He sings about promises that are made and promises that are broken. In love it's not always going to be perfect and yes there will be promises that are fulfilled but there will also be promises that are broken and it's up to the couple to work through that and put it behind them.

As depicted by these five songs, love has many different aspects to it, and there's no way one song can address them all. The beautiful thing about music is it can depict and evoke emotion, so I do feel that people can get a sense of the emotions that love brings. Unfortunately love is different to everyone and people perceive it differently, it's a very personal thing. Love is like a language, each person speaks it differently and each person understands it differently. This is where the media fails in educating us about love. No two people love exactly the same, nor do they perceive love the same. One person may feel love through receiving gifts and another person may feel love through personal affection. Each person needs to find out how they interpret love and how their partner interprets it, because it's always different. Love is something that people need to experience in order to fully understand it. It's not something that can be fully comprehended by listening to a song, by reading a book or watching a show. It's personal and needs to be experienced as such.

No matter what the media will always influence us and try and evoke certain emotions in us, but it will never depict the full story. It will never give you the full picture, especially on a subject as big as love. People would be doing themselves a great injustice if they solely relied on the media to define what love is and how it is suppose to work. The Love Story is constantly being rewritten and constantly evolving. It changes from chapter to chapter, or from song to song.

My Best Friend

Life After You

Love Story

You Don’t Bring Me Flowers

Fields of Gold