

Perhaps, Punk Music is the Best Genre of Music

Transcription by Evernote

Good evening.

Punk music is one of the best forms of music ever conceived. In fact, it may be the absolute very best. It is the type of music I find most comfortable with. It's the type of music I connect with. This type of music really has it done right.

Punk music has a particular attitude which defines it [as observers note]. Punks are known for being brash, angry, defiant, rebellious, independent, even bitter [as observers note]. Some say punk is similar to sticking one's middle finger out at society. Such is a classic metaphor for punk music [as observers note]. Punks don't like to be told what to do [as observers note]. Punks like to express themselves without someone getting in the way [as observers note].

The punk attitude is expressed in punk appearance [as observers note]. Punk hair is very unique [as observers note]. Punks often spike their hair. Often it's spiked in positions that make it very difficult to lie down. You have to wonder how some of these punks sleep. Punks also dye their hair. Sure, lots of people dye their hair, even cosmopolitan glamour readers. There's a key difference: when punks dye their hair, the hair is dyed in unnatural colors [as observers note]. When natural colors are used, the shades of the colors are unnatural. Punks officially dye their hair in:

- Green
- Purple
- Pink
- Dark red
- Dark orange
- Bright yellow [as observers note]

Nobody has this hair color. Punks also dye their hair dark red, dark orange, bright yellow. Lots of people pierce themselves, especially these days. It's not uncommon to see people with earrings. Punks, making their look very raw, will pierce their ears with clothespins. It looks very tough to wear those through your ears.

Punk clothing is very distinct [as observers note]. One of the most common clothing symbols of punk is a black leather jacket [as observers note]. The black leather jacket has long been known as a symbol of toughness, the very image punks want today [as observers note]. Punk dress is generally very casual [as observers note].

The song "9 to 5 World" by the Ramones "is not my place in the 9 to 5 world" [song lyrics]. But punk dress guarantees that there will be no place in the 9 to 5 world for punks. Jeans are often worn, sometimes slashed, sometimes not. There are t-shirts with messages. Sometimes the messages are made by punks themselves. The clothing can be new or it can be old. It can be rugged in appearance. It can be plain. Punks are not abiding by rigid fashion conventions [as observers note].

Over the years, punk has changed; punk music has developed [as observers note]. Thus, there are two main types of punk music: old school punk and new school punk [as observers note].

Old school punk is what is most quintessentially punk [Common Knowledge] The look is a stereotypical punk look: dye hold, leather jackets, spiked hair [Common Knowledge]. The music is very fast, loud, harsh, raw, angr [Common Knowledge] y. There's often not too much melody [Common Knowledge].

But new school punk may be less harsh, less raw, less loud [Common Knowledge]. New school punk may have more of a melody [Common Knowledge]. The lyrics of new school punk may be more sophisticated, certainly not as raw. [as observers note] The look is ever different [Common Knowledge]. New school punks may not look punk at all. Bands such as Bad Religion look like just a bunch of regular dudes, except maybe an occasional leather jacket. In fact, the singer of Bad Religion, Greg Raffin, has taught at the university level [Common Knowledge].

I don't believe old school or new school punk are necessarily better than each other. Each has its time and place. Sometimes I want to listen to old school punk, sometimes new school. Sometimes Sex Pistols or Minor Sometimes old school styles hit the spot right, and other times, bands such as The Offspring or Pennywise hit the spot just right.

One of the best developments in the punk scene has been the development of melodic punk. Melodic punk combines a solid rock melody with the rhythm and beats of punk music [Common Knowledge]. To me, this is one of the greatest combinations in recent American history. It's almost divine. When you combine these two elements, you create truly remarkable quality. It's hard to beat melodic punk. You can hum the melody, but you also have enough drive to really get rockin'.

Bands such as:

- Nerf Herder
- Bad Religion
- No Effects
- Pennywise
- Amazing Transparent Man
- Lagwagon

are some of the top melodic punk bands of our day [Common Knowledge]. Punk exudes very inspirational energy [as observers note]. You are inspired by the performance. You can tell punks are not just going through the motions, but instead are engaging in a labor of love. When you really want something, it's so easy to be good. It's so easy to make it valid. Punks do this all the time. The energy, the passion, motivates us to be good [as observers note]. [It] motivates us to be glorious in heaven. The weather expressed, the live concert through an album is hard to beat. Honest, genuine punk music.

In fact, one record label says, "it just wants hard-working punks." That record label, Springman Records, is to me in many ways the exemplification of the wonderful virtues of the punk rock culture. The record label was started by a young man who wanted an independent label, said the label. The label's not possessive of its bands, but instead is happy for bands to find better deals, greater opportunities elsewhere, said the label.

The record label sounds very cheap, easy. In fact, you can get a compilation of great bands for just \$2 apiece, postage paid. The record label cannot be making much on this.

The record label has a small motto “which is no racists, no sexists, no homophobes.” The label [said it] “will write you back a letter if you write any letters.” This is true, as I have. Done. I've received a letter back in return.

The punk scene contains lots of useful energy [as observers note]. And punks, age doesn't matter as long as you've got what it takes. Some of the respected punk bands are old, some are middle-aged, some are young. All is welcome. It's very punk to be independent with labels [as observers note]. Punks consider themselves true punks when they avoid corporate big labels [as observers note]. In fact, some even go as far as to suggest “when bands sign on to big labels, they are selling out” [as observers note]. Certainly it's great to support small labels whenever possible. These people are struggling to make ends meet. These small labels full of artistic integrity deserve our support. I love to support small labels whenever I can.

The punk scene is awesome in its down-to-earth nature [as observers note]. Punks are not elevated like demigods, but are treated like real people. This two-way connection between the fans and the bands is both unreal and real at the same time [as observers note]. So few others, other music cultures, will do this [as observers note]. There is this strict connection, this strict division [as observers note]. Other bands buy themselves too important. Punk bands rarely have egos because they know what is important [as observers note].

The cost of punk performances is so wonderful. It is not uncommon to find single-digit dollar admission fees for punk [as observers note]. So even in light of a band sometimes, even shows for the preeminent bands of the day [as observers note]. NOFX for one [like my friend Aaron Wallrich and other sources]. Although it is one of the leading punk bands, it's known to have cheap cause of admission fees. Cheap concert admission fees. The guys are probably something or more. We don't want to alienate the fan base who may not be the most wealthy, who doesn't deserve to pay more. Imagine going to a Metallica, Dave Matthews Band, or Britney Spears concert for single digit dollar admission fees. Not on your life.

The other stars were way too big for their own good. They were way too important for their own good. When the course of Congress can afford to pump as a form of entertainment worth every cent of the dollar, then the scene is truly awesome. Just as Springman Records says, “no racism, no sexism, no homophobes”, the punk scene is very tolerant, very open.

For example, the Positive Youth Foundation put out what is called Stop Racism, a compilation. Many bands came together to create an album saying racism is wrong, diversity is right. Great compilation.

Women are welcome in the punk scene. Many bands have punk members. Bands such as Tilt are led by women [Common Knowledge]. Bands such as the Eyeliners and Fabulous Disaster are exclusively female [Common Knowledge]. Homosexuality is also quite okay. Bands such as the Queers and Fabulous Disaster are top punk bands which promote homosexuality [Common Knowledge]. The whole punk scene is beautiful for these reasons. Springman Records is a very visible example of all these virtues.

I can't help but be attracted to punk women. Women can be punk in appearance, attitude. Some women are merely punk in the way they look. This is not as deep as one would like it to be, though your eyes are tempted. Other women are punk all the way through. It's interesting because personally, I don't green and dye my hair. I don't look punk. In fact, I look like another subculture. Punk women are just some of the most attractive women out there. Along with women who skate, punk women are a major turn on.

For much of my life, I did not know what fishnet stockings were. In fact, I just recently really found out. I did not know they even existed. I think they are way cool for women to wear. It would be better if someday I could hook up with a punk woman. What a beautiful thought.

Some punk fans play a central role on politics. Bands such as the Dead Kennedys, Propagandhi, Anti-Flag, Black Flag, DOA, have as a central mission its political agenda.

Propagandhi, in an interview, even said, "its lyrics are more important than its music". He described his song, "Less Talk More Love," as being a slam against individuals who listen to music just for the beat, even when the lyrics may be something they're totally against. The song is directed towards jocks who [as observers say like] loud, fast music. The song has pro-homosexuality lyrics, which many of these jocks would naturally not like.

Other bands dabble in politics here and there. NOFX, said "that it's not known for being a political band", said "maybe that should change" [in an interview. The band has become more political as of late

[<https://fatwreck.com>.] The recent album, "The War on Terrorism," makes many political statements specifically about the Bush administration [<https://fatwreck.com>]. Fat Mike of NOFX and Fat Records put together two CD compilations, "Rock Against Bush, 1 and 2."

[[<https://fatwreck.com>.] Many bands from Fat Records and other labels came together in these efforts in order to protest the policies of the Bush administration over change [<https://fatwreck.com>]. Fat Mike also created an initiative known as PunkVoter.com [<https://www.punkvoter.com/>]. PunkVoter.com strives to get punk involved in politics. Observers realize many young people don't vote [<https://www.punkvoter.com/>].

Thus, efforts to get young people involved are admirable. Punks have a great audience in their fans. PunkVoter.com really wanted to beat George W. Bush. It wanted John Kerry to be the next president. Fat Mike said, "Yes, the Democrats suck, but the Republicans [suck more], therefore, we should vote for them." [<https://www.punkvoter.com/>] Fat Mike's solution, he said "was to register green and vote Democrat." [<https://www.punkvoter.com/>]

Voting Democrat, especially for John Kerry, is in my mind something punks did not do. John Kerry is not in any way, shape, or form punk. He does not embody the great values and virtues which truly make punk excellent.

It is not punk to vote for either of the two parties. It's punk to vote for third parties. The Green Party is not the only third party. In fact, I don't even consider it the best one. You should vote for other third parties. We don't have to be left either. The main true punk would transcend leftism, but it does not often do.

Pop punk is considered applaudable, horrific to some punks. Pop punk is a softer type of punk, which involves some elements of punk along with elements of pop music [Common Knowledge]. It is often at a slower pace that's very catchy [Common Knowledge]. The lyrics often deal with less serious matters, even love and romance [Common Knowledge]. Some believe punk should not be dealing with these.

I personally like pop punk music. I wouldn't want to listen to exclusively pop punk, but it's nice. PopPunk.com has a deal where you can grab a CD

for just \$5. [<http://poppunk.com/>] It takes a little time to get to you. For some reason it takes a while. But it's a good deal.

Also, it has a CD compilation called Pop Punk Fever. For \$6, you get exposed to some of the top pop punk bands of the day [<http://poppunk.com/>]. Nice Guy Records also has a CD compilation, Nice Guys Finish Last [<https://www.niceguyrecords.com/>]. I recommend both of these for anyone interested in pop punk music. I have both of these in my CD collection.

Pop punk is something to keep. We should believe it's the only type of punk music, though it's the most accessible. We should believe it is a nice addition.

There's a slogan that defines punk music: **DIY**, do it yourself [Common Knowledge]. The punks wanted to produce music full of what they wanted to express [Common Knowledge]. The style they wanted [Common Knowledge]. They don't just wait for a major label to accept them [Common Knowledge]. It essentially never happens. It will take a long time to happen. Punks would rather create their own independent label, do it themselves, be true to what they believe in, than have some major label take control [Common Knowledge]. Do it the way corporate world wants it done. Punks would rather punk being a form of art rather than a commodity [Common Knowledge]. Punks say that.

Yet Dead Kennedys have a great song called *Anarchy for Sale*, which the band says others think is a slam on the commercialization of punk.

The punk fans want to write about the music, write about shows, write about albums, write about the bands they love. They don't wait for some publishing house to create some slick and glossy magazine [Common Knowledge]. Punks do it themselves [Common Knowledge]. The appearance may be more raw, but like most of punk, the content, the message, the heart is more important than the appearance [Common Knowledge].

Zines are a great art form. Jella Biafra says [on one of his spoken word albums] he really likes them because “it's everyday people expressing themselves, rather than big shots.” So we have to believe there's special realness in everyday people expressing themselves.

I have long written zines. It's wonderful. I much prefer to publish myself rather than have a big publisher publish. I love the control. Although it may look better, you may have better distribution channels with major publishers [like zinesters say]. To me, the true punk essence is publishing yourself [like zinesters say]. When you photocopy your zines, refusing to have big publishers publish them, you are making a profound statement [like zinesters say].

Punks also don't wait for clothing manufacturers to manufacture clothing to their liking [as observers note]. Punks create their own fashion [as observers note].

Sometimes punks will wear work shirts. Work shirts are often worn by mechanics, say, Lou or Jim, are frequent. But punks have made such clothing a style [as observers note].

Punks also love to put patches on their clothing, on jackets or on shirts made of pants. Sometimes the patches are of punk bands, other times their message is with punk subgroups. One of my shirts, which... The message is with Punk's approval. One of my shirts, which I still sometimes wear today, has one patch. It has another patch with a swastika with a line through it. Punks will even get a white shirt with black marker and create wonderful messages [as observers note].

I have made shirts like these for myself and others. I have written:

- Legalize freedom.
- Straight edge messages.
- Even anti-Shriner messages.

For my friend, I made a shirt making fun of Lou Rockwell, a libertarian pundit. I made one which said "Boycott Urination". I made a message on a shirt which said "My Flyers Like the Elite." Messages can be profound political statements, breaking...