

M (is for Music)

Experiencing the best and most exhilarating art sets the imagination in motion. Art inspires us to seek. It inspires us to look closely – to see delicate minutia even as they exist within panoramic, towering landscapes. The best art provokes us to listen to the whispers of intense introspection. It allows us in the next instant to set loose full-throated roars of our own wild expression. Great art will touch the senses with soothing silence and jangling cacophony, allowing the full range of its various volumes to roll over us.

M (is for Music) will be this contributor's periodic post handle. Music is my indispensable, most frequently indulged art of choice. I cannot imagine living without listening to music. When music works best it is for me a form of time travel. Sometimes music is thrilling and disorienting as exploration of an unknown time and place – a journey to an exotic land or even another planet. Sometimes music is comforting as returning to a warm familiar place – welcoming as a homecoming. Conjuring reminders of romance, anguish, and pure joy, songs allow us to re-inhabit our old selves, to relive stories from half a lifetime past or longer. Songs can also help us to imagine lives we might have lived or stories we may have been a part of. If only.

Music can take us back – it can help us hear the future. Time travel.

