

Music and Emotion.

The connection between music and emotion is very strong. Some might even go so far as to say that music IS emotion. I am quite sympathetic to this point of view. It is hard to imagine music without emotion. Indeed, 'devoid of emotion' seems to be one of the worst criticisms a piece of music could receive.

I would however like to make a point about the different ways in which music can be considered emotional. There is a difference between enforcing emotion and evoking emotion. This is a subtle but important difference. On the one hand, there is music that effectively says "feel sad now" or "be happy now". I call this enforcing emotion, and although there is nothing wrong with that, it is in my view not the most interesting kind of music.

What we have tried to do with Slowdisk, is to make music that evokes emotion rather than enforcing it. The music creates an atmosphere of intimacy, of rest, of space. Within this space there is room for the music to suggest emotions, to invite the listener to share these emotions and to discover and express their own. This also leaves room for different and more complex emotions. I don't think that there is a song on 'Love when we are' that expresses or invites one singular emotion.

A song like 'In silence between sad words' for example has, as the title suggests, an element of sadness. But there is also the implication of fond memories. We see the end of the song as hopeful, ecstatic even.

This idea of evoking emotion instead of enforcing it may seem less involving, but in fact the opposite is true. It presupposes a willingness on the part of the listener to participate in what the music is trying to achieve. We leave a lot of room within the music, but we ask something in return: we ask you to join us there.

If you would like to share your thoughts on this subject, or comment on ours, please email us at info@slowdisk.com