

## Time in music

For a lot of people, listening to music is a more intense experience than, say, looking at a painting or a sculpture. This is certainly the case for me and I have often wondered why. One might think that the reason can be found in the spatial properties of sound, i.e. the fact that sound is all around us, literally surrounding us, while a painting or a sculpture is not.

Although this is no doubt true, I think it is only part of the explanation.

In my opinion, the main part of the explanation lies in the temporal properties of music. Music does not just exist in space, it exists in time. This is of course trivially true of paintings and sculptures as well, but unlike a painting, music does not just EXIST in time, but it actively shapes our perception of time.

In this sense listening to music can be very involving. A good piece of music can quite literally take control of your experience, shaping not just the sound itself, but also the way in which you experience it. For the duration of the piece, your only point of reference is the music itself. There is no sound outside the music, no space outside the sound and there is no time before or after it.

Mind you, it does take a pretty good song to achieve this...

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