

Uptown or Universal

Sometime during my college days, Billy Joel produced the song, "Uptown Girl". If you don't recall the tune, it has a 1950's style "doo-wop" style and, combine it with video, and you get the street dancing and basic warm-filling that everything is cool and love is in the air.

Like many songs of this era (the 1950's), "Uptown Girl" is a somewhat "expression of humanity" in that it reflects the desire of a young guy on "one side of the railroad tracks" to find or date a girl on the other side. It's a classic case of class differences that may be overcome when love (or at least romance) enters the relationship. Why such relationships can work is perhaps credited to love? But if desire and determination means anything, then the Billy Joel type is well on his way to moving uptown.

What is very simple about the song is that it makes most of us want to get up and dance, grab a microphone – or something to represent it – and combination sing and hum our way through the chorus. As though we are part of his back-up, the intent is the share in his desire that, amid the daily grind, is the youthful bliss of finding love – no matter the town or part of it...

"I think music is in itself healing. It is an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music."

- Billy Joel

Is music healing? Yes, I think it helps change our mood. Just the other day, I was reading about The Blues; how it developed as a coping mechanism or outlet for the plight of the poor in the south. Music is most-definitely a way or means to bring joy to the heart – whether a whistle, vocal or instrumental. It is poetry put to sound.

Not only is music helpful, but it is universal. Just days ago, while watching a program on Africa, this beautiful harmony of tribal music played in the background; and though I did not understand the words, the harmony and vocal was so beautiful...that it brought warmth to my soul. I could not see the musicians and, again, did not understand the words, but I felt their passion just the same.

Whether uptown or elsewhere, music is universal...

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