



The Anatomy of a Song

A song isn't full alive until it is played, sung or listened to

You are a song, whether catchy novelty tune or elaborate sonata, and this is the story of your experiences as you grace a myriad of venues, mediums, and people - changing as you go.

Where will you go next?

The Anatomy of the Song is a Lost and Found game, based on the Lost and Found SRD (<https://lostandfound.games/>).

It is inspired by Artefact and the Lost and Found Jam, and by the experience of finding a familiar song being played in a mall or midway through an action movie.

In this solo journalling game, you chart out the life of a piece of music, from creation and various performance occasions up to its eventual fate.

Prompt questions are provided to guide your journalling, and it is encouraged that you bring a playlist along for the ride - I recommend one consisting of old songs and their modern covers.

This game may touch on themes of loneliness and self-perception being changed by the projections of others. If this causes discomfort, feel free to take a breather or edit the prompts to remove the discomfitting issue

▶ What's in a Song?

A song has come into the world - answer the prompts below to decide your form and your creator

- What type of song are you?
- What genre are you from or inspired by?
- What emotions do you express?
- What was the intent of your creator? Did you have a distinct purpose beyond entertainment?
- Where was the first place you were performed?

◀ The First Occasion

- Was this a performance by your creator or a new person?
- Your first audience, how did they feel? Did they see you or were you misconstrued?
- Which song genres were popular during your debut?
- Was your function fulfilled? Was it all you expected?
- Why did you leave their repertoire?

The Occasions to Follow

Now, you are released into the vagaries of the world - choose from the six occasions below and answer the prompts to see how your meaning changes through (sometimes incredibly compressed) time. You may choose as many occasions as you wish.

A Time of Comedy

- You have become inexplicably amusing - was it a mistranslation or a testament to continued resonance?
- You are featured in upbeat entertainment - is this jarring to you, a lyrical dissonance even?

A Time of Love

- People swear eternal love to your tune - is this a fad or is this an enduring meaning?
- You are listened to on repeat, people request your presence as a comfort - is it something about you or them?

A Time of Consumption

- You are performed as part of ambience in a commercial setting? How does being part of this feel?
- You are performed by the obsessed - they subsume a part of their identity into you, which part?

A Time of Despair

- You accompany an outpouring of grief - is any part of your changed or is this apropos?
- Played in a wake of a parting, are you a comfort or are you a familiar pain?

A Time of Purpose

- You are sung for a message, to uplift people in a unity of purpose - was it glorious?
- You were used in misunderstanding - what was confused and did it surpass your original meaning?

A Time of Surprise

- Snippets and snatches of you rise to surface of memory - which are these?
- You reawaken a forgotten memory - what about you causes it?

The Restful Seasons

There are times when you leave the airwaves behind and your continued beat is temporarily stilled.

After every occasion, you have a period for rest and reflection - choose between timespans, scaling up the period length per span

- days (30 seconds)
- a week (1 min)
- a month (2 min),
- a year (3 min)
- decades (4 min)
- centuries (5 mins)

Take this time to gather your thoughts (play some music if you prefer) and ponder what changes with the passing of time.

Times They are a' Changing

Music is remade ad infinitum - when it is performed, when it is listened, when it is hummed in remembrance,

The prompts below are for reflection on how you have changed and on the march of time - you may use these during the rest periods or as supplementary questions during an occasion

- Do your occasions leave a mark on you?
- Some of your lyrics are not as acceptable for your next occasion. What is removed or replaced?
- The instrument that accompanied you - their form has changed again? Are they still your stalwart partner?
- The performer has new intent - your meter, tune, or emotional feel has been altered
- The audience has given you new meaning, perhaps they wept or cheered or chanted, was it?
- In your absence, what does the world think of you - are you a fleeting hit now unpopular or forgotten near-completely?
- There are new musical tastes - are you changed in response or do you remain a relic?
- Your creator - are they remembered with you or do you transcend them?

● An Eulogy for Rhythm

Once you have completed a satisfactory number of occasions and rests (perhaps 3 occasions), it is time to consider the season of endings.

Your performance rings out into dead air

Discover your fate via the prompts below

Form

- How much remains of the original song? Are you more a new incarnation of yourself?
- Were the changes made to the core of you or were they more embellishments?

Function

- Have you found a new purpose? Was it imposed or accepted gladly?
- Which was the purpose you enjoyed most?

Future

- Are you entered into a musical canon?
- Is there enough of you to continue, in the remembered choruses and trills?
- Do you fade in quiet obscurity?

THANK YOU

to

Lost & Found Creator - Jack Harrison

**Cambridge University Tabletop Roleplaying Society
Discord**

Everyone who was subject to my random music thoughts

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You, the player - I hope the experience was enjoyable