

## Psyc 288 Music project 2020

**This land is your land** performed by Sam Hunt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjYowZeQUW0>

Originally written and performed by Wood Guthrie (1945) has lyrics that speak about multicultural diversity and equality.

Sam Hunt performed the song for the film *Bright*, which is about humans and aliens trying to coexist on earth, but the humans treat the aliens with discrimination at a brutal level (Ayer, 2017). The song reflects the ending of the film when humans begin to accept the alien cultural and stop fighting the aliens. The first lyrics of the song start off with “This land is your land, this land is my land”, which speak about multicultural acceptance. The lyrics also say, “This land was made for you and me” (Guthrie, 1945). The lyrics also talk about the land from the west to the east side of the continent of the United States of America or commonly known as the western world. And the meaning behind those lyrics is about someone realizing that the land belongs to everyone not just one person in particular, which is multiculturalism. Multiculturalism leads to a positive social construct and eliminates cultural friction on a political level (Moawad, and Shoura, 2017). The lyrics “I’ve roamed and rambled, I’ve followed my footsteps, to the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts, and all around me a voice was sounding, this land was made for you and me” (Guthrie, 1945), speak about someone realizing the open sky and the great golden valleys are a gift that belongs to no one but is for everyone to share. The western cultures of the world have many subcultures within their Countries (United states, Canada etc.) that accept and have grown to become very diverse by social acceptance and minority representation (Chen and Hamilton, 2015). These countries are low context cultures. This song has deep meaning on cultural and how diversity and multiculturalism is as beautiful as the land that accepts it.

- Ayer, D. (Director). (2017). *Bright* [Film]. Overbrook entertainment (Netflix).
- Chen, J., Hamilton, D. (2015). Understanding Diversity: The Importance of Social Acceptance. *Personality And Social Psychology Bulletin*. Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0146167215573495>
- Guthrie, W. (1945). This land is your land. [Recorded by Hunt S. (Sam Hunt)]. On *Bright* the album. [Film soundtrack]. United States (2017). Netflix Overbrook Entertainment.
- Moawad, N., and Shoura, S. (2017). Toward richer definition of multiculturalism. *International journal of advanced research*. Department of English language and lite

### **Waving Flag by K'NAAN/Young Artists for Haiti**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nB7L1BIDELc>

For me, culture is about coming together in unity. Culture represents community and support in my mind, therefore this song sang by multiple different artists from Canada for Haiti after their massive earthquake was extremely reflective of how I view culture. The music video itself represents organizations and communities coming together to help rebuild Haiti after its massive 2010 earthquake. The lyrics themselves symbolize resilience and a sense of culture through the bonding of communities. The phrase “waving flag” is representative of restoring the broken community of Haiti, and I believe a big part of that healing process comes through sticking close to our culture because it grounds us when things are bad. The beliefs, customs and values around us make it possible to have these traditions and people who support one another in a time of need. Waving flag is a song that illustrates global encouragement and reassurance that this country of Haiti, that was once filled with different aspects that make up their culture is one day be restored to its original state despite the current hardship. Personally, a large element of my culture is about bringing people together to cherish what we love the most, and I think through what this music video represents, Haiti’s culture is also reflective of that as well. The video shows many NGO’s and individuals helping rebuild and repair this community during their time of need.

### **This is America – Childish Gambino**

\*Please be warned if you do watch the video that it is intense and contains gun violence\*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYOjWnS4cMY&feature=youtu.be>

I chose this song because it tells a very powerful story of the history of black oppression in America. While the video should definitely be watched in order to really grasp the power behind this work of art, as it highlights Jim Crowe and present day police brutality, the song itself does send a strong message. I feel this piece is very culturally relevant now and will be always until both racism and gun violence are no longer a virus in North America. There is much work to be done regarding racism, and Donald Glover aka Childish Gambino wrote this song, I believe, with the intention to send a visceral message, to inspire change, to honor those who have suffered.

During an interview with E! Donald Glover said “I just wanted to make, you know, a good song. Something people could play on Fourth of July.”

### **American Idiot by Green Day.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1BS7XnEZqc>

The reason I’ve chosen this song is because it tells the audience to recognize the political climate of America (early 2000’s) and how it was negatively impacting American culture. It is a wake up anthem that captures the politically charged and media driven disenfranchisement of

Muslim/Islamic/Sikh minorities during the Iraq War and the re-election of former President Bush. Between the dissatisfaction with the former President as leader of the United States and racism rising against minorities after the 9/11 attacks, a generation was developing among these tumultuous events. This song criticizes the way the media portrays culture and baits Americans with self-serving, individualistic priorities. "One nation controlled by the media, information age of hysteria" are lyrics that imply the power of corrupt cable tv media dictating which lens Americans perceive each other. Islamophobia increased significantly during the attacks of 9/11 as well as greed for oil and resources but the media targeted consumers to absorb paranoid and biased cable news, which this song heavily criticizes. A wedge was driven between cultures in America living among each other and because of this, xenophobia interfered with people's ability to accept and embrace cultural differences. American Idiot has a loud politically charged narrative frustrated by the dynamics of news media negatively affecting culture in America and disenfranchising minorities.

### **No Geography by The Chemical Brothers.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zxtbwGogyY>

I moved around a lot growing up, and never felt as though I had any roots in any particular place. However, what I did experience was an appreciation for all the different friends from different cultures who I met, who have influenced who I am and who are still part of my heart today. This lyrics "If you ever change your mind about leaving it all behind/ Remember, remember, no geography/ Me, you and me/ Him and her, and them too/ And you, and me too/ I'll take you along with me" resonate with me, and I feel a strong connection to this song

### **I'm Gonna Be (5000 Miles) - The Proclaimers**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbNIMtqrYS0&ab\\_channel=Dig%21](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbNIMtqrYS0&ab_channel=Dig%21)

While the Proclaimers are Scottish, I think this song has a very specific cultural context for Canadians, in connection with Terry Fox and his run across the country. I remember hearing this song every September while my school did our Terry Fox run to raise money for cancer research, and I'm sure there are tons of other Canadian kids who have the same association with it that I do.

### **Black Pumas – Colors**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0G383538qzQ>

For this expressive activity it took me a couple days to find a piece of music that has the right expression of culture or community. The song is a message of togetherness but there's awareness of mortality mixed in amongst. It also has a sense of spirituality or religious quality of how the chorus is sung, like in a gospel church, specifically in these lines: "With all my favourite colours, yes, sir/ All my favourite colours, right on/ My sisters and my brothers/ See 'em like no other." When I first heard this song the first thing that came to my mind was the concept of

coloured skin and race. "All my favorite colors" seems to refer to people of different races or skin tones. Saying that "my sisters and my brothers see them like no others" talks about people seeing them in a literal sense "like no other". Meaning that we are all one people but are also our own individual person. Overall this song makes me think of community and the togetherness a community provides for people.

### **Sohne Lagde (Official Video) Sidhu Moose Wala ft The PropheC**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VGJdP5HtZc&list=RDqFQ\\_MHYKA54&index=6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VGJdP5HtZc&list=RDqFQ_MHYKA54&index=6)

The song that I chose today represents a cultural significance to me because this was one of the first Punjabi songs that I could understand on a deeper level. To further explain, this song talks about love and how sometimes you fall in love with people who aren't the best for you. Even though there are many Punjabi songs that speak about love, this one stood out to me as it talked about realistic situations that actually happen in one's life. I had never related so much to a Punjabi song than this one that I came across. In addition, this song also holds a great significance to me as the artist that sings this song is from the same town that my mom is from back in India. This is important to me as my mom rarely listens to Punjabi love songs, yet she fell in love with this one.

### **"The Lakes" by Taylor Swift**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOHcAc3r2kw>

<https://open.spotify.com/track/65YnIFKuWUCLlqMHAP8TAm>

The song "The Lakes" by Taylor Swift highlights the increasingly common behaviour that social media normalizes, which is people watching and examining the actions of others. 'The Lakes' is Taylor Swift's response on how she wants to be far away from this culture where scrutinizing and criticizing her every move happens on a daily basis. This is culturally significant because being watched and criticized is bizarrely normalized pretty much everywhere that individuals have access to social media. It's something that I think doesn't just apply to celebrities, and non-famous people can understand and relate to.

### **What's up? Four non blondes**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NXnxTNIWkc>

This song was a big part of my childhood. My mom was pretty obsessed with 4 Non-Blondes, so they quickly became a favorite. Why this song is significant to me is that when we were growing up, when my mom was having a rough day, she would blast this song and other ones and we would dance around the house and sing and yell and get it all out in a playful and wild way. It's something that I do now with my son when things are really stressful or we're in a funk and need to get it out. It's become this ritual that's passed down that I really cherish. It's one of the few fond memories of my childhood and one that felt authentically me and spoke to a part of

me that needed that kind of outlet. Now whenever it comes up in my playlist and I hear the song it reminds me of that lesson and my overall connection to music as a way of shifting energy and processing.