



# WILL HODGKINSON

I believe that when music really touches you, it touches a spiritual core. The realities of daily life take us away from spirituality. Practical necessities like earning a living, keeping our homes in some sort of order, and so on, can divorce us from soul-consciousness. The most effective way of getting back to a state of soul-consciousness is meditation, but in place of that, the non-verbal communication of music can also have a spiritual significance. This works for different people in different ways. A lot of ancient music, from Indian devotional to traditional English folk, uses the drone as a way of reminding us of the eternal nature of the soul: a single note produced by a tampura or dulcimer played underneath a melody is rather like the spiritual core of a person that cannot be created or destroyed, and remains throughout the chaos and ever-changing situations of a lifetime. But the ear-bleeding noise of a Heavy Metal concert can also give someone the opportunity to transcend their material reality. Ultimately, I would say that we like music because we are spiritual beings. Music is tied up with identity, self-image, aspiration, taste, and self worth, but music's true value lies in its ability to remind us that the one thing that really matters in life is the existence of the soul.



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*"SONG MAN: A MELODIC ADVENTURE,  
OR, MY SINGLE-MINDED APPROACH TO SONGWRITING"*