

The Experience of Music
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1. A good listener knows what to listen for in music. He concentrates on what the sounds are doing, how they relate to one another, and how they create a series of events moving through points of tension, relaxation, stress, release, expectation, and fulfillment.
2. A good listener is able to concentrate on the music. He puts non-musical matters out of his mind for a while, giving the music his undivided attention. He knows that he is not supposed to go off to dreamland but that he is to be prepared to attend to the sounds and what they are doing.
3. A good listener feels as the music makes him feel. His investment in listening includes his feelings as well as his mind. He opens himself to the experience wholeheartedly, entering into the relation with music as a concerned partner.
4. A good listener adds something of himself to the experience, taking responsibility for an active encounter with the music. He is willing to give in order to get, the giving being an approach to listening that is creative as well as receptive.
5. A good listener will try to hear more in a piece of music each time he listens to it. He will not be content with the obvious but will try to get deeper into the music and absorb more of its significance at every opportunity.
6. A good listener is open to new musical adventures. Recognizing that every significant listening experience is an exploration in the realm of feeling, he seeks out challenging experiences as well as comfortable ones. He is unafraid of fresh encounters with musical feeling, regarding them as opportunities rather than threats.
7. A good listener is less concerned with liking music than experiencing music. He does not bank on simple pleasures—liking—as the only payoff of listening. Instead, he tries to hear more and feel more from every piece of music, valuing those experiences which challenge his hearing and expand his feelings.
8. A good listener does not prejudge music. He tries to put aside attitudes that might prejudice the experience, allowing the music to speak for itself openly and honestly. Judgments about a piece can be made after the piece has been given a chance to be heard and felt, although a good listener has no need always to judge music. He is often willing to share music freely and not worry about whether the music is good or bad. When he makes judgments, he makes them thoughtfully and makes them on the basis of several experiences in listening to the piece.
9. Finally, a good listener is willing to make some effort in improving his ability to share music. He cherishes musical experience enough and so understands the nature of music that he knows that everyone can get better at listening if he tries. He may not intend to devote his life to music; nevertheless, he recognizes the contribution it can make to his life and therefore does what he can to take advantage of opportunities to learn.