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### Interview Paper

1.) Lisa is from Fort Washington, Maryland right outside the capitol, DC. She comes from a middle class family, with a stay at home mom and her father worked for the fire department. Between the years 1982 and 1987, where rock superstars began to emerge, Lisa was between the ages of fourteen and nineteen. When asked what she consider a mainstream teenager, she replied that “most teenagers of the eighties loved John Hugh or dancing movies, big hair, loud neon, and ugly fingerless lace gloves.” However, Lisa did not consider herself a mainstream teen and did not feel the need to conform. She did embrace the big hair, but everything else she saw as very corny. Lisa described that the only thing she conformed to that was not to her person preference was the new love for the star Madonna. Lisa did not like Madonna’s music or attitude, but her friends loved and embraced everything Madonna. As a result she had to sit through some Madonna concerts, but she states “nothing compared to the fun, rowdy, pot smoking scene of an ACDC concert.”

2.) Lisa’s parents listened mostly to doowop and Motown. Even in the eighties they embraced the pop songs of their generation of teenagers. However, Lisa did not mind the listening to older music, she actually loved it. She enjoyed listening the music in her house or in the car, and even when she hears the songs today, she thinks back to being a young teenager and spending quality time with her parents. She described the music her parents listened to as very romantic. Even today, she listens to Sam Cooke, who was also her favorite back then. Her favorite is “ You send me.” In the text, Motown was inspired by Tin Pan Alley and rock and roll. However, Berry Gordy Jr. wanted to produce pop music that was created by African American and sell to the

most widespread audience he could. Motown was not created only for African Americans, but the business behind it helped “cut across divisions of race, region, and class (pg 97).” In addition to many Motown hit being rock and roll, it also continued to influence rock and roll as a whole. Sam Cooke was a soul singer who helped influence rock and roll. He had many pop songs that made him popular, but he also addressed civil rights issues, like in “A Change is Gonna Come.” Although Sam Cooke’s songs were mainly pop and soul him commenting on society and politics helped influence soul and rock music, especially the lyrical content (pg86).

3.) Lisa’s mother, Mary, did not have an opinion on the music she listened to. However, her dad would often sing along and found rock music very fun and often was silly with it. He found it very humorous the attitude the rockers had in the eighties compared to the artist of his day like Ray Charles and Smokey Robinson.

4.) Although MTV was huge during the eighties and very influential in pop culture, Lisa preferred to listen to popular music on the radio or on cassette tapes. It allowed her the option to discover new pop songs, choose a station that played older seventies rock, or listen to the doowop she grew up on as a child. In addition, Lisa mentioned that the settings or how she listened to the music did not usually make a difference on her perception of the song. However, she said that the artist can exemplify their meaning or story more with music videos, and that often clarified the meaning or inspiration behind song.

5.) In Lisa’s pre-teen years, she was introduced to rock bands like Queen and new mainstream artist like Michael Jackson from her cousins. She remembers them coming over and making everyone listen and dance to the new songs. However, when she became an active music consumer in her teen years, she was mainly rock. She described it as, “not dance music, but something that you get pumped to and makes you have energy.” She believes songs like “Back

in Black” by ACDC and “Whole lotta Love” by Led Zeppelin accurately represent the lyrics, musical elements, and attitude of rock music. Between the ages of seventeen and nineteen, Lisa had attended four ACDC concerts. She states that “ they are some of the most captivating concerts she has ever experienced.”

6.) Lisa really enjoyed Michael Jackson, she said his style was fresh and new, and he brought swag to the eighties. She said that “his music always made her want to move her feet.” The textbook explains Michael Jackson’s versatility helped him dominate the pop scene. It is not surprising that Lisa would be a fan of Jackson because of his relation to Motown music.

Originally, Jackson was a part of the Jackson Five, a Motown group, however after he became a solo artist he still used his experience and aimed at creating African American pop music that would hit the mainstream head on (pg. 258). Lisa described Queen as an edgy rock band that took risk. She said they definitely changed over time, but she preferred their rock anthems such as “We Will Rock You.” The band queen is best known for their creations with the style of stadium rock. In the text stadium rock can be classified as rock that was performed on a large scale or had elements of “grandiosity” in every detail of production (pg198-199). Lisa’s love for hard rock truly came from the bands ACDC and Led Zeppelin. She describes them as songs that are not only fun, but make her want to get out of her seat. She loves the electric guitar and the simple rhythm of hard rock. In the book, hard rock was given birth by the influences of urban blues, psychedelia, and heavy textures of previous rock songs. With extremely loud volume, high tenor voices, heavy metal drumming, and guitar focused music hard rock became very popular, and produced timeless hits like “Stairway to Heaven” and “Fool in the Rain.” (pg 195)

7.) Lisa stated that “she could not stand club music.” She did not prefer the techno sound and repetitive beat. Groups like the Eurythmics, were to corny for Lisa’s taste, and she could not

take the artist seriously. Especially with her growing up on such influential artist in rock music. In addition the New Wave trend was so against her environment. Growing up right outside of D.C. she often listened to Go-Go music and hip hop. She remember them performing at her high school at night or in her neighborhood when she was a teenager. After listening to hip hop artist, it was hard to not see the New Wave movement as too experimental or far-fetched, especially when there was something new developing in her backyard.

8.) Currently, Lisa occasionally listens to music from her past. She often uses satellite radio or pandora to access her music. Honestly, she prefers the methods now of listening to and accessing music because it is easier. She loves that she can pick a genre of time period on Pandora and she is instantly transported back in time. Her favorites consist of early two thousands music and the doowop channel on Satellite radio, and the Sam Cooke station on Pandora.

9.) After recording the answers from the interview and reflecting, I have realized that my experience with music is very similar to Lisa's. Growing up , I listened to a lot of the music my parents favored as young adults. For example, I listened to a lot of ACDC because of my dad. He loved their album "Back in Black" and often today I occasionally listen to my favorites such as "Shoot to Thrill" and "Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution." In addition, I do not consider myself a mainstream teenager of the 2010's. I rarely listen to rap music by choice or popular pop artist like Ariana Grande, Selena Gomez, or Shawn Mendes. I prefer indie alternative music. However, I believe modern indie alternative music is nowhere near as popular as eighties rock. Often it is difficult finding people who also listen to The Walkers or The Paper Kites.

Writing this paper has helped solidify almost everything we have learned in this class. After reviewing the connection between Lisa's parents music and the atmosphere of Fort

Washington it is easy to see how they influenced her personal taste in music. Therefore, I have recognized more clearly that the formulation of rock has come from the different hybridizations of music that came before, and music that was developing at the time. Therefore, rock music can not be defined by one particular time period, song, or genre because there are too many categories due to its unique evolution. The most interesting thing to me, is the influence of different elements to form rock. For example, as a result of Tin Pan Alley, many artists had to look to alternative ways of producing music, and twelve bar blues became more popular than the basic, overused AABA format. Also, instruments such as the electric guitar helped create a new sound that caught many artists' attention. For example Bob Dylan, this was the spark to folk Rock in the 1960s. In addition, the Beatles would not have been as popular if they did not experiment with new sounds that helped pave the way for the psychedelic scene. Songs like "Strawberry Fields" and "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" fed the new craze and San Francisco scene. As a result of the psychedelic movement, many artists wanted to get back to music that could be performed live in the 1970s. Thus creating more hybridizations such as "Stadium Rock," and the different forms are still evolving today.

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