



The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature

By Daniel J. Levitin

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The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature By Daniel J. Levitin

The author of the *New York Times* bestseller *This Is Your Brain on Music* reveals music's role in the evolution of human culture-and "will leave you awestruck" (*The New York Times*)

Daniel J. Levitin's astounding debut bestseller, *This Is Your Brain on Music*, enthralled and delighted readers as it transformed our understanding of how music gets in our heads and stays there. Now in his second *New York Times* bestseller, his genius for combining science and art reveals how music shaped humanity across cultures and throughout history.

Dr. Levitin identifies six fundamental song functions or types-friendship, joy, comfort, religion, knowledge, and love-then shows how each in its own way has enabled the social bonding necessary for human culture and society to evolve. He shows, in effect, how these "six songs" work in our brains to preserve the emotional history of our lives and species.

Dr. Levitin combines cutting-edge scientific research from his music cognition lab at McGill University and work in an array of related fields; his own sometimes hilarious experiences in the music business; and illuminating interviews with musicians such as Sting and David Byrne, as well as conductors, anthropologists, and evolutionary biologists. *The World in Six Songs* is, ultimately, a revolution in our understanding of how human nature evolved-right up to the iPod.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Charles Darwin meets the Beatles in this attempt to blend neuroscience and evolutionary biology to explain why music is such a powerful force. In this rewarding though often repetitious study by bestselling author Levitin (*This Is Your Brain on Music*), a rock musician turned neuroscientist, argues that music is a core element of human identity, paving the way for language, cooperative work projects and the recording of our lives and history. Through his studies, Levitin has identified six kinds of songs that help us achieve these goals: songs of friendship, joy, comfort, knowledge, religion and love. He cites lyrics ranging from the songs of Johnny Cash to work songs, which, he says, promote feelings of togetherness. According to Levitin, evolution may have selected individuals who were able to use nonviolent means like dance and music to settle disputes. Songs also serve as memory-aids, as records of our lives and legends. Some may find Levitin's evolutionary explanations reductionist, but he lightens the science with personal anecdotes and chats with Sting and others, offering an intriguing explanation for the power of music in our lives as individuals and as a society. (Aug.)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Fans that have read *This Is Your Brain on Music* are in for another treat; newcomers to Levitin will still find much to enjoy in this consideration of music and human civilization. Levitin writes with both knowledge of neuroscience and evolutionary biology and a deep appreciation for the musician's craft—one that will resound loudly with musicophiles. The *New York Times Book Review*, however, questioned some of Levitin's "unprovable" scientific claims, and others faulted him for taking a reductionist view of evolution, shamelessly namedropping, cherry-picking songs from a select era, and failing to edit a verbose tome. Despite such flaws, most readers will find something to connect with in the book—even if it's just one song. Copyright 2008 Bookmarks Publishing LLC

Review

"A must-read. . .A literary, poetic, scientific, and musical treat."
-*Seattle Times*

"An exemplary mix of scientist and artist, student and teacher, performer and listener."
-*Library Journal*, starred review

"A fantastic ride."
-*New Scientist*

"Leading researchers in music cognition are already singing its praises."
-*Evolutionary Psychology*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rebecca Shadwick:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature. Try to face the book The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature as your good friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you experience alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Holly Flynn:

The ability that you get from The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature could be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by anyone who read that because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature instantly.

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