

## 1991 was the best year for music

13th April, 2020



Many of us have an opinion on what was the best year for music. Some people say it was 1824. This is when the composer Ludwig van Beethoven first performed his Symphony No. 9. Other people say the best year was 1969 because of hit songs by

The Beatles, David Bowie and Elvis Presley. The UK radio station Radio X recently conducted a survey and found the best year for music was 1991. This is because of the success of bands like the Red Hot Chili Peppers, R.E.M., Stone Roses and Nirvana. The reason for 1991 being the Radio X survey's best year for music could be the average age of the listeners of the station. Many of the listeners were teenagers in 1991 and have great memories of that year.

A psychologist believes people tend to stick to the songs they heard when they were teenagers. Dr Catherine Loveday told the BBC why we like songs we first heard in our teens throughout our life. She said: "It is during these [developmental] years that we make many crucial life-changing decisions. We start significant long-term relationships and establish the cultural and political beliefs which form our identity." She added that: "Music has an intrinsic capacity to regulate emotions [so] these songs naturally become embedded in our important memories, both positive and negative." She said: "People in their 80s and 90s show a better memory for things that they first experienced between the ages of 10 and 30."

Sources: [radiox.co.uk](http://radiox.co.uk) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk)

### Writing

The year 1991 was definitely the best for music. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

opinion / music / composer / Beethoven / radio / survey / success / average age / psychologist / teenagers / developmental / political / beliefs / memories / positive

### True / False

- a) The article says we all have an opinion on the best year for music. T / F
- b) Beethoven finished composing Symphony No. 9 in 1842. T / F
- c) The UK's Radio Z conducted a survey on the best year for music. T / F
- d) A radio station said the average age of listeners affected the best year. T / F
- e) A psychologist said music we hear as teenagers stick with us. T / F
- f) The psychologist says we make life-changing decisions in our teens. T / F
- g) The psychologist said music can regulate our emotions. T / F
- h) Ninety-year-olds can remember things they experienced as teens. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>opinion</b>      | a. questionnaire    |
| 2. <b>performed</b>    | b. not long ago     |
| 3. <b>recently</b>     | c. encountered      |
| 4. <b>survey</b>       | d. for the whole of |
| 5. <b>memories</b>     | e. belief           |
| 6. <b>believes</b>     | f. key              |
| 7. <b>throughout</b>   | g. recollections    |
| 8. <b>crucial</b>      | h. implanted        |
| 9. <b>embedded</b>     | i. presented        |
| 10. <b>experienced</b> | j. thinks           |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of music?
- b) What do you think was the greatest year for music?
- c) What do you think of this year's music?
- d) What do you think of Beethoven?
- e) Do you have a favourite classical composer?
- f) What do you think of listening to the radio?
- g) What do you think of the music you listened to as a teenager?
- h) What was the best decade for music?

## Phrase Match

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Many of us have an opinion | a. success of bands      |
| 2. recently conducted         | b. 80s and 90s           |
| 3. This is because of the     | c. of that year          |
| 4. the average age of         | d. to stick to the songs |
| 5. have great memories        | e. a survey              |
| 6. people tend                | f. our life              |
| 7. throughout                 | g. on what was the best  |
| 8. make many crucial life-    | h. beliefs               |
| 9. cultural and political     | i. the listeners         |
| 10. People in their           | j. changing decisions    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is music?
- How important was music when you were a teenager?
- What big decisions did you make when you were a teenager?
- How does music change your emotions?
- What do you think of the music your parents like?
- What is your favourite song and why?
- What questions would you like to ask the psychologist?

## Spelling

- Many of us have an inoiopn
- the eosprcmo Ludwig van Beethoven
- Radio X recently conducted a eyvsru
- because of the scecsus of bands
- the agveera age of the listeners
- have great merosmei of that year
- A pgysoolcsiht believes people tend to
- heard when they were eentergas
- htougoruth our life
- crucial life-changing eoscisndi
- cultural and political ibfseel
- both positive and gviatnee

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. b	4. a	5. g
6. j	7. d	8. f	9. h	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Rock

You think rock is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, hip-hop or jazz.

### Role B – Classical

You think classical is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock, hip-hop or jazz.

### Role C – Hip-Hop

You think hip-hop is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, rock or jazz.

### Role D – Jazz

You think jazz is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, hip-hop or rock.

## Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best music genre at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| • electro | • rock      |
| • reggae  | • classical |
| • jazz    | • folk      |
| • opera   | • hip-hop   |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.