



Fig.034 Screenshot of my phone taken while replaying some nostalgic cartoon songs from my youth to my children. I mostly sing these songs myself and only at times play the actual theme songs to them. Growing up in the 1980s, I was predominantly exposed to Japanese cartoons but the Italian theme songs that were composed for these cartoons had far more of an impact on my generation.

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To some extent also this work of annotating the songs I hear throughout my life marks the end of songs. By conducting this work I have in fact noticed how songs in the digital paradigm have transformed into mere beats and loops without any lyrical evolution, without a melodic climax almost as if they were stuck into the bits of the very computer medium that has generated them. Either way any melodic or lyrical crescendo in this new realm would sound most awkward and it would certainly not be welcome. Contemporary music in itself has come to reflect the sort of predictable and almost computer generated lives of robot-like individuals with their neurotic frustrations and a new kind of music acting as some sort of sedative to their inability to evolve their humanes at least with their artificial confinement.

The singing out of any melody in contemporary music is thus as challenging as the ability of undertaking a life experience in its fullness. As in a Wim Wender movie the youth is absorbed in their own representation and the representation of others, they

focus on their personal cults and from it they cannot unlock and spend a considerable amount of time without looking at themselves in the electric mirror. Music in my humble opinion has also become a form or representation rather than a medium to convey some in depth poetic emotions or storytell about an authentic struggle. The emotion is a mere narcissism unable to penetrate the surface of the mirror and the struggle is a soft one, the struggle of being incapable to mature and live as autonomous beings in a world that is too technological and bureaucratic and saturated with information.

Growing up with singers such as Lucio Battisti and Francesco De Gregori and learning their beautiful songs by heart, I have noticed particularly how the lyrical tradition in my native Italy has degenerated to songs that cannot be easily memorized and consists of tunes copied and pasted using digital technology. In this respect my work is nostalgic of the pre-digital era, nostalgic of the analogue time in which folk songwriters used a guitar, their voice and their experience to storytell their emotions without so much pretension. The work is then an ultimate nostalgic attempt to preserve a certain lost heritage. Nonetheless the shortness with which the lyrics are recomposed in the resulting musical notations echoes somewhat the repetitive and redundant songs of a bad quality musical toy initiating today's new human offspring.

It is also true however that the very fact that I have undertaken this project broke the robot inside me. I have developed such a compassion for humanity as a whole, for its dreadful destiny under a power fomenting machine that if I only would apply myself I could literally be able to storytell this tragedy I feel so heavy inside me. From storytelling my words could become a lyric which would only need some simple arrangements to accompany it. The poems I composed as a young man are but rubbish. I had no empathy whatsoever then, I just wanted to apply myself as young people today apply themselves in the creation of music or poetry or prose.

What I missed and what probably a lot of the young musicians and poets of today miss is the experience of a story. Again it is almost unthinkable to live a life-story in today's world. Personal stories are pretty much frozen and channeled within a highly pre-established mainstream tailored by the system. What I can convey to people, or better what my project can convey to people is right this: give yourself a mission, adhere to it and right because you adhere to it the story of your life will inevitably

emerge and you will be able to have something worth telling, something worth singing something with a deeper meaning that can also influence others. This reasoning sounds very plain and banal but think about it. The system wants people to pursue their careers, compete with one another, put social credits away and forget about their natural destinies.

By putting an existential goal in mind one cannot but come to conflict with these standard procedures in which any young person will have to sooner or later fall into. The friction that emerges in such a determination to fulfill one's own mission is already in itself a real struggle, the struggle of trying to exist and trying to maintain a certain will autonomously from a system that instead turns this will into greediness over our fellow citizens and the environment. The more we are determined and in fact pursue a mission, the more we become outcasts and the more interesting the story gets, not so much for those who have accepted their lives as loyal collaborators of the system, but for those who still retain some doubts to fully conform to it.

If I was to make a song, the song based on my experience would leverage on this very doubt, the donut that after all the way society has evolved in its industrial and highly hierarchical configuration is an impediment of life and that. Even so, my lyric perhaps would turn out into a rap song of condemnation rather than seeking to celebrate and exalt a natural dimension of love and harmony that is forever gone. My song however would be clear about one thing, the necessity for people to suspend themselves out of the system in order to recover themselves and once this recovery has been effected the necessity to think of a different future for human society and the environment without such an artificial construct. By signing this and only reaching this conclusion I think that a beautiful melody would spontaneously come out of my mouth and with that the rebirth of music.