

# ***Music on Aspects of Love***

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# ***Table Of Contents***

- Page 1 -Title Page
- Page 2 -Table Of Contents
- Page 3 - Introduction
- Page 4 - The Process
- Page 8 - Analysis
- Page 10 - Conclusion
- Page 11 -Bibliography

**Introduction:**

My personal project was a very musically based project. My goal was to try and bring out completely different aspects of one emotion/feeling through music. I thought about doing this after what I first had planned seemed to not be working out. One of my friends suggested to me about music and since I have a passion for music and guitar I thought that this would be a great idea for me. The emotion I decided to go with was love because it had a wide range of categories that come under it. I planned to write these different aspects by first writing lyrics. Then I would later fit in music into how the mood of the song was. My AOI focus was completely based on Human Ingenuity. It was linked to Human Ingenuity because I was trying to make something that seemed very hard for me to do. So by deciding to create this product I was pushing myself to be thinking in a totally different angle. Only by doing that I would be able to succeed in fulfilling my Guiding Question. This also helped me to grow as a musician. My Guiding Question was “How can I bring out different aspects of the same emotion or feeling in my music”. Human Ingenuity is also all about why and how do we create. I have created something and the reason why I created it is because it was something that I want to do and it is my passion. How I created this was by using my talents in music and then record the music that I was able to make. So that’s why Human Ingenuity is my personal project AOI focus. Another area of interaction that came for me was Approaches To Learning because it was a learning experience for me. I learnt best when I did hands on work. When trying to learn the scale modes I wasn’t able to learn it just by reading it but rather sitting down with the guitar and trying it for myself. Also while I was researching and learning guitar and music theory I wasn’t able to get it until I did it for myself. Because I was able to understand much better with hands on work I know that is how I learn best. I communicate my understanding of what I have learnt by using it.

## **The Process:**

The process of making my product was very difficult and had taken many long hours and hours of work.

### **Step 1/5**

I started out first by recording and writing down all my ideas. These ideas had consisted of many things such as guitar riffs, guitar licks, chord progressions, themes, lyrics and more. Everyday I would sit down with my guitar thinking of the emotion that I had picked. I picked love and so I thought it should be sounding more in a major than a minor sound. So I would sit there and play something that would bring out what aspects of love I was thinking of. Or I would write lyrics about something that meant a lot to me. What I would write wouldn't be exactly the same but the main idea was what I would look for. I also experimented with many different aspects because there is such a wide range of aspects that come under love. But soon I felt like I was stuck in a certain box which was limiting me to play only a few things. This problem wasn't for lyrics but mainly for the guitar parts. So I went to a bunch of websites searching for some information about what I wanted to know. The information I was basically looking for was some music theory. I was curious as in how to extend my ideas into something deeper and something with a lot more emotional content. Finally I found what I was looking for and it unlocked my little box that kept me locked from a whole new world of music. I had hit the jackpot and opened the door to a new dimension of music which was "Modes". Modes are basically scales with a few notes that vary or change. It might have just been one note but that one note could change the entire mood and feel. Because of the modes I would play something that would normally sound very awkward to my ears and make it sound normal. So I continued recording and finally had about 25 minutes of ideas recorded down.

### **Step 2/5**

After I thought I had got enough ideas down I had started putting bits and pieces together. I would go through all my ideas that I had gotten so far and start saying "Well, ok... this riff really goes well with that small solo" or "This sounds really cool and I can go more in depth with this". When I hit something that would tell me a story about love I would start working on it and would let it grow. I would write some lyrics for that piece of music or would try to use different modes to bring out different feels of it. Soon my bits and pieces I was putting together started becoming bigger, however, fewer in number. Cutting out a lot of the things that I recorded before was also very common for me because when I wrote those things I might have thought that it somehow brought out my emotions, but later I wouldn't feel the same way. Soon those bigger pieces of music started to become two songs without lyrics.

### **Step 3/5**

After I got the main outline for the two songs I started polishing things up. I put them in order and did a rough record of each song to start writing more lyrics. These songs sounded completely different from each other. One of them came out as a heavy metal song while the other sounded more of a very soft rock song. I still had remembered

the aspect of love for each one and so I started writing more lyrics in that direction. The heavy metal song had an aspect of being lied to, while in a relationship of love. The soft rock one had an aspect of love that was a little sadder and not aggressive at all. This aspect was a person leaving his loved one. Writing lyrics at first was a little difficult but as I kept thinking of what I was bringing out while writing the guitar part it became really easy. It was like translating what my music was saying and writing it down as English words. As I finished writing down all the lyrics the songs names came to me. The heavy metal song would be called “Lies” and the soft rock one would be called “I Have To Go”. “Lies” had three verses, a chorus and a bridge whereas “I Have To Go” only had two verses and a chorus. These are the lyrics that I wrote.

### ***“Lies”***

Chorus- All I can think about is you and your lies  
Feeding me everyday with more and more  
What you said and what you thought were opposites  
Each lie you said was killing me a little bit more

Verse 1- You said you’ll be there everynight  
Holding me close and hugging me tight  
Walk with me everywhere I go  
That was a lie I can take no more

Verse 2- Every time you walked with me  
Telling me that we could be  
Together for real this time  
But it was a lie that left me blind

Verse 3- You said you’ll never turn away  
Love me now and everyday  
Lied again straight to my face  
It was a crime you can’t erase

Bridge- It was a lie, that left me timeless  
It was a lie, that left me blinded  
It was a lie, that left me crying  
It was a lie, that left me dying!

### ***“I Have To Go”***

Chorus- One last time again I kiss you  
Hold your hands to say I’ll miss you  
Hug you gently as I cry and say goodbye  
You know I love you  
You know I need you  
But I have to go

And I'm never coming home

Verse 1-        Driving slowly, coming back home so late  
                  With a ticket in my hand and nothing left to say  
                  As you stare in my eyes and know I have to go  
                  You give me a look, that seems to be shouting no!

Verse 2-        As we lie awake in bed all night  
                  And try to figure a way, to make this right  
                  I whisper in your ears, it'll be ok  
                  Knowing deep down inside it's never going to be that way!

### **Step 4/5-**

The next step was to start recording the songs. Since I had to use a drum machine I decided to program the drum parts before recording any of the guitars, vocals and other things. With out the drums programmed to the right tempos and beats all the other things wouldn't be able to fit in. So I worked on the drum track of "Lies" first. It took me about two days to complete the drum track. It took really long because I had to play the whole song each time I added one pattern. It was also a process that got me really frustrated every time I made a small mistake because I soon got tired of play the whole song over and over again. Then I went and started setting things up for recording with my friend Dong Yub. I started laying down the rhythm guitar track and it took almost 30 to 40 takes before I actually did one properly. Then my friend Dong Yub who is a bass player recording the bass part for me. I left that song for a while after I recorded the drum, rhythm guitar and bass tracks. After that I started working on the drum track for "I Have To Go". After doing the drum track of the other song it wasn't so hard anymore, however, it was very time consuming because I would miss something out and would have to keeping going back and adding it. Even while doing this drum track I became very frustrated just like doing the other one. Finally after I was done with this drum track I started recoding one of the electric guitar parts. It only took me about 10 takes and so It finished quite fast and Dong Yub was able to record the bass part on the same day and finish it. After that I did the acoustic guitar track and that also took me about 5 to 10 takes and therefore finished fairly quickly. By then I had gotten the main outline for both the songs and was beginning writing the solos and other lead guitar parts. I found a really nice 'outro' to the song and began working on the other lead guitar parts based around this 'outro' melody. It took about four or five days for me to actually make a solo that wasn't just really fast and sounded cool but rather something that was conveying the emotional content I wanted and tried to bring out. Finally I had created a solo that had its share of emotional content and at the same time had its own fast little runs. This made the solo be the most emotional part of the song "I Have To Go" because I was able to bring out what words couldn't say, through the guitar. After doing the entire guitar solo it was time to start doing the vocals of "I Have To Go". For me I guess doing the vocals was a really tough part of recording because it just never sounded right to me. I had to make a new effect that would make it sound a little better which was very time consuming because I didn't know how to edit the effect. Once I figured it out however I managed to get something that was a little better that the built in effect. After recording the vocals of

“I Have To Go” I started recording leftover guitar parts for “Lies” which finished in about a day. After that I had to start the vocals for that one too. Doing vocals on this one was much easier because I had gotten an idea of how to sing through the recording device. So while recording the vocals of this one I was able to finish things of much faster than before. After those vocals I had both the songs recorded but yet to be mastered.

### **Step 5/5-**

The last step of my process of recording was mastering all the tracks and songs. Before mastering all the tracks I had to get all the EQ levels and REVERB levels of each track right. Doing this was somewhat easy yet in many ways very difficult. While doing this I needed other people’s opinions on each track. I guess that was the really hard part because none of my friends were around to give their opinions and thoughts about it all. Without other people’s opinions on these things it was hard for me to set levels right and doing all the small editing. Finally after about 2 days of hard work on levels and other things I got the first song which was “I Have To Go” all on right levels. Then I had to start working on the levels of “Lies”. “Lies” for me was always easier to do than that of “I Have To Go” because it was always the second while doing anything. I would always do the guitar parts, vocals, mixing and other things on “I Have To Go” first and then would do the same for “Lies”. Like every other thing that I had done, the mixing and setting levels of EQ and REVERB was much easier than before. When I was done with all of the mixing I knew I was at the last step of my musical production. This last step of mastering went easy on both the songs because there was nothing much left to do. This was because I did a few things that I should’ve done during the mastering, but did it during mixing instead. Now after all the hard work I had finished mastering both the songs and was able to put it straight onto a computer. I had actually finished my product!

## **Analysis**

During the process of making my product I had a lot of inspiration, research, and influences that guided me through my work. I had to make many decisions along the way about how I should do things. When I look back now I think almost all of the decisions I made were very good except for about one or two. Good decisions that I made include my choice between the two guiding questions I had. Other examples of good decisions I made include ones during the writing and recording process of my product. So looking back now I know I made really good decisions. I also feel that I have achieved my goal on my guiding question “How can I bring out different aspects of the same emotion or feeling in my music”. I came across a few problems while writing and recording but I was able to get through them. Problems such as not being able to get the right sound on my guitar and vocals. But I was able to get through those problems by spending time editing the effects I was using. Another problem I came across was getting my emotions to stand strong during the guitar solo and I was able to overcome this problem by researching and finding modes. Phrasing of my lyrics not fitting in the music was also a problem at one point but I just edited the lyrics a bit and was able to fix it. My product came out really well and I feel really good about it. I also think that I learned a lot from it. Another thing that this project did was that it took me further in my musical journey. It has given me a lot of experiences and made me think in new ways and angles. This unlocked a whole new world of creativity and music for me. To me the product was very successful. I used many new techniques and skills that I learned to help me. I learned about editing and about mastering. I also learned a new technique on how to create songs with different aspects of one emotion/feeling. While I was working on the project I got a much better understanding of Human Ingenuity, the area of interaction that my project was based on. Writing a regular process journal helped me realize and understand it better because it shows my train of thought clearer. I was also able to see how I finally got to where I am now, step by step.

## **Inspiration**

I was interested in music since 8<sup>th</sup> grade when I first picked up a guitar by following my sister who started first. Ever since then music was a really big part of my life. One of my friends actually first suggested to me to do my personal project on music and then I was also inspired to do my personal project on making music when I saw videos of “Dream Theater” writing their own music. This really made me want to write my own music and show my emotions and feeling through it. Music is also my passion and hobby and therefore it was the perfect choice for me. One of the other main things that inspired me to write my own music was my friends and the rest of my band.

Inspiration was also a really big part of my whole product because without it I would not have been able to write the two songs that I did. When it came to inspiration for me I tried looking for some but didn’t get any at first. Later on I would just get inspired from small little things. Things such as seeing a really happy person were one of the small little things that would inspire me in a bright way. However, I would also have these really big things that inspire me. I got a lot of inspiration for “Lies” when one of my friends was telling me about how they were lied to during a relationship. These really big things that inspired me were more of a deep thing than just being a general. Also the song “I Have To Go” was a song in which I had some really deep inspiration. I was actually

talking to another one of my friends and he told me about how he had to leave everyone to come to Kodaikanal. He told me about how he felt then and that really inspired me deeply. Other than being inspired by people and events that have happened I was also inspired when I listened to music that other people have wrote. Music was also a really big part of my inspiration especially when I watched a DVD called “Score” which is a live performance of my favorite band “Dream Theater”. All of these things that inspired me made my music go in the direction in which it did. It also was a very big part of writing lyrics for me.

### **Research**

Doing research had quite an impact on my product. Research was what helped me through out my whole process of making my product. Most of the research I had done was mainly on music theory and on recording. Other research I did was on guitar sounds and how to make it sound good on the final mix. I used many websites and one or two books for researching on the information I needed. My research was very effective in ways especially when I was researching on song writing. It also helped me in lots of places during the process of recording. Recording the guitars were mainly done after doing a lot of research on phrasing and about how to get everything to sound good together in the final mix of things. Vocal recordings also used a lot of research on how to get good vocal effects while recording. Writing the solo of the song “I Have To Go” also included a lot of research to get it to sound like it did on the recording. I used different modes to get that right feel out of the songs and it worked really well. I think the research I did really gave a shape to my product. Even though I did quite a lot of research that had helped a lot , I feel that writing music is more based on creativity and imagination. So I should say more than research my passion for music, creativity and skills in music guiding me a lot more.

### **Influences**

My product was influenced by a lot of music especially “Dream Theater”. I was also influenced by a lot of other bands like “Metallica” while writing the song “Lies”. “I Have To Go” had a very wide range of influences but I still feel that the biggest influence for me was Dream Theater. Another thing that influenced my product was my sister, who actually got me into music. All these influences guiding my work to go the direction that it did and I guess they were good influences in the end.

## **Conclusion**

My goal while doing my product was to bring out completely different aspects of one emotion or feeling through my music. My area of interaction was Human Ingenuity because I was creating something. However since it was also a learning experience for me it also relates to Approaches To Learning. I learnt many new things about music and all these things have made me a much better musician. One of the most important things I learnt during this project was how to express emotions through music even without words. During the solos I was able to convey the emotion for each song very well because I learnt how to use modes in the right context. I also learnt the art of writing and recording music well by doing it for myself. While doing my project I was able to work on my goal and also achieve it. My product is the two songs "Lies" and "I Have To Go". These two songs are both based on love but they have got two entirely different aspects of it. This project was really great and I enjoyed doing it. It was really meaningful to me because of the time and hard work I put into it. It is also my passion and therefore it was like a dream project to have. I did however have some trouble during some times, but, I was able to overcome them and move ahead. I feel that I did a good job and was able to achieve my goal. There were a few questions that emerged when I did this project. One of the questions that came to me after doing this project was "How does music impact and/or effect people's lives?" Another question that came up was "How does music make people act differently and change?" These questions came to me while I was thinking about how other people would relate to the music I made. If I were to do this same project again I would definitely try and answer those two questions and then base my songs in the right direction. I would also want to learn more about mixing and recording and then do it.

**WORD COUNT – 3646 (lyrics and headings excluded)**

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