

Music as Creative Activism: A Theoretical Framework

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Music has been known over the years as a force that easily influences various populations under challenging contexts. As a singer-songwriter and creative activist, I felt an urgent need to fully conceptualize it, as it continues to define my life in unprecedented ways. Therefore, this thesis is a theoretical framework around why music is effective as creative activism. I found that music is both practical and powerful as an agent of social change due to its physical, psychological, and socio-cultural effects. I offer four case studies to explore different dynamics of music activism within social movements: Woodstock 1969, The Civil Rights Movement, Puerto Rico's #RickyRenuncia, and the current COVID-19 crisis. Using my own experience touring for human rights in Taiwan, I've aimed to create both a creative nonfiction work and an extensive body of research that reveals the possibilities of non-historically academically-recognized forms of self-expression, like music, that can create new solutions to cultural and socio-political unrest.

Album

1. Speak Up
2. Myself Is Who I Am
3. Peace Through the Ocean
4. Empieza A Soñar
5. My Brother, Big Brother
6. We're All Human