

Music is a peacemaker. This idea has been around for years, and has been utilized by great musicians of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, such as Jimi Hendrix, The Beatles, and many more. The music of these great artists spread themes of love and togetherness throughout the world. The idea of music as a peacemaker is different for everyone. For some, music can be a way to channel anger, or it can be a way to relieve stress. For me, listening to and making music has been an excellent source of relief from all of the stress of living in an imperfect world as a high school student. The relief that I find in the music tends to come from the worlds that the music creates, and the stories that are told in these worlds through sound, texture, and sampling. Electronic and experimental music is great for this purpose as it is interpretable, and there is no set of rules that define the genre. Without many lyrics, listeners are left to interpret the sounds in their own way, creating a unique story for every listener. A great example of this for me is the debut album of experimental producer Sakuraburst, entitled *deconstructing nature*. On this album, Sakuraburst uses samples and textures to contrast harsh, abrasive glitch sounds with beautiful ambiences, nature sounds, and pianos to create a distorted, glitchy version of nature, fitting for the title of the album. This concept is used in many of the albums that I enjoy, and I even use it in my own music. For me, I feel that music is the most expressive form of art, as it is the best representation of any feelings I am having. Making music softens my anger, relieves my stress and puts me in a peace of mind. Most importantly to me, my music creates a representation of a world I have in my head, which is a world I want to share with everyone. In my own music, I try to represent that world using textures and samples that remind me of video games, movies, and other forms of media that I enjoyed in my childhood. This takes me back to times of innocence in my past, and helps me tell a story I have in my head. All of these aspects give music a very therapeutic quality for me, that does not exist in any other

art form. Music is a peacemaker in my life because it is the way I forget about everything bad in my life. Whether it be listening to music or making my own, music can always get me out of a bad spot.

-By Will Tinsley