

- Fast forward to today – with the diversity of human cultures, ethnic groups – it is often said that “music is a universal language” – understood/appreciated/enjoyed by all humans, of all ages – the very young and very old, and by all cultures. The broad diversity that exists in our music today – the many different genres of traditional and new music – because of the enhanced technological capabilities that we have developed to communicate and interact with each other, can now be appreciated, enjoyed on a **much** larger scale than at any time in the past. Hip hop, which originated here in the U.S. not that long ago, is now literally a planetary-wide phenomenon, very popular amongst the young adults in many cultures around the world...
- Even though music is a universal language, what each of us individually interpret/understand /think about/experience while we are actively listening to a specific piece of music may be **very** different than what others interpret/understand /think about/experience while actively listening to the exact same piece of music. Music creates images and specific sensations in each of our own minds. But the images and sensations are **not** precisely the same (or even close to being the same) for all listeners. Still, music “speaks” to **all** of us in a manner that **is** difficult for us to communicate effectively to each other precisely what we are instantaneously experiencing, using conventional human **language**. Why is **this** so?
- Increasingly so in recent years, collaborations of small groups of musicians from widely different cultural and/or ethnic backgrounds have been getting together to experiment with creating new kinds of music, new sounds, new rhythms, and new musical rules.
- Because music **is** a universal language to all humans living on this planet, music has the intrinsic power to greatly facilitate a planetary-wide celebration of our cultural and ethnic diversity, and improve our understanding of each other’s respective cultures, and enhance social-bonding between cultures.
- The growth and evolution of the internet and telecommunications in general have enabled great strides in improving and enhancing intercultural interactions in myriads of ways in the past ~ decade, and doubtless will continue to do so in the future. We have also seen dramatic changes in the music “industry” as a consequence of these technological advances in this same time period... will this result in enhanced musical creativity in the future?
- Along with the musical celebration of our cultural and ethnic diversity in today’s technologically-advanced world, this **should** go hand-in-hand with the **remembrance** and **understanding** of how we as a species got here from our humble beginnings – and the important role music apparently played in this process in the many millennia since then!
- As one can see, there are many, many **extremely** fascinating questions about our ancient history to ponder, **and** to pursue. Doubtless, more **will be** learned collectively about these issues in the future – many researchers **are** actively seeking answers to these and related questions!