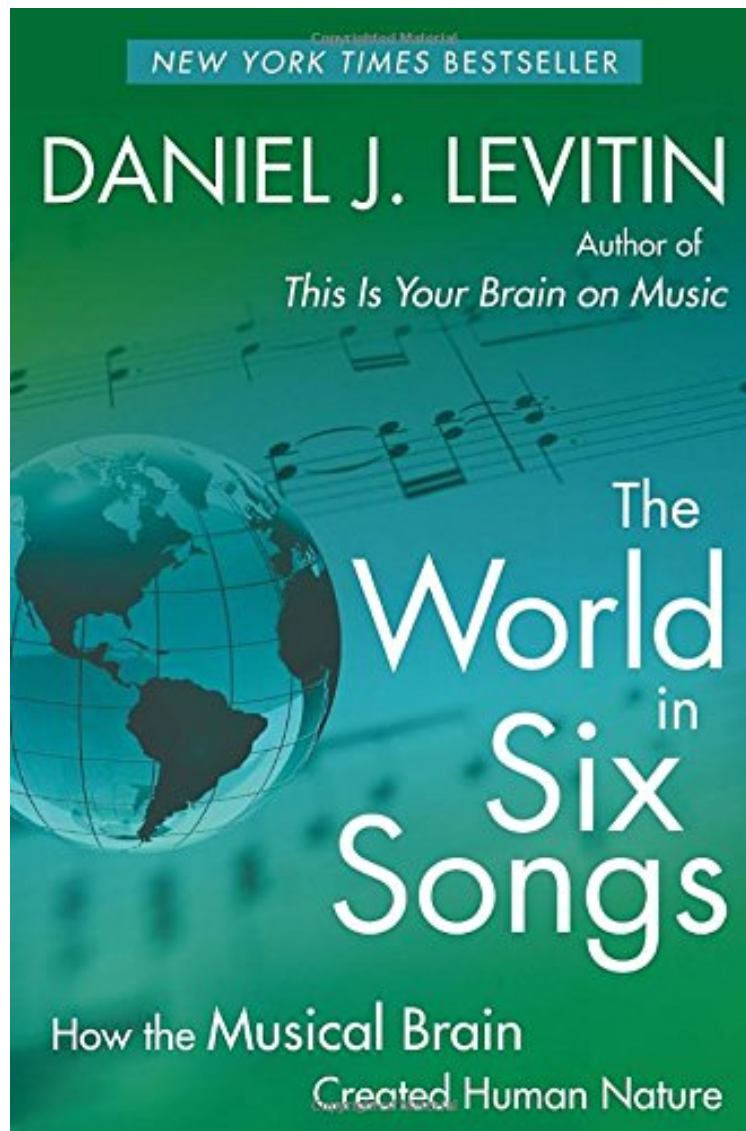


(Download pdf ebook) The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature

The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature

Daniel J. Levitin

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#339851 in Books Daniel J Levitin 2009-07-28 2009-07-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .83 x 5.291, .65 #File Name: 0452295483384 pages Paperback in colors of green and white lettering. | File size: 23.Mb

Daniel J. Levitin : The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The World in Six Songs, by Daniel Levitin By A2900 This is an

enjoyable, very interesting and thought-provoking book by someone who knows music from both the commercial/industry and scientific sides. Levitin advances a number of ideas, based largely on science, but which really amount to conjecture -- he doesn't posit them, but he repeats them often enough that it is clear that he really believes them. I found a number of these ideas to be plausible but not necessarily convincing. This is not a criticism, but rather to say that I have other ideas and/or am not so sure that his conjectures are right. Indeed, some of these ideas seem downright simplistic. More of a criticism -- though this may be a criticism of me, not Levitin -- is that he extensively makes references to contemporary popular music and musicians to give examples of what he is writing. Being raised on classical music, I found most of these examples useless. I haven't read it, but, from what I have heard, another of Levitin's books, "This Is Your Brain on Music," sounds like a better and more scientifically based book. I intend to read it next.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not much of a sequel
By Customer I loved Levitin's first book "This is Your Brain on Music". The "name-dropper" claim from some reviewers was unfair, because scientists instinctively cite every idea that was not original to them (I would know, I am one). Levitin clearly loves his new career and wants to share his enthusiasm with a wider audience. However, this book is thin on content and full of annoyances that most readers will catch. For example, he waxes nostalgically about the anti-Viet Nam War music and how it influenced political life in the Sixties and later. However, Levitin was still playing with toys in the Sixties! His views of the impact of music on the Viet Nam War are second-hand sentimentality. He also tries to comment on religion without being offensive. He suggests religion was displaced by technology and then quickly changes topic. I am sure most of his colleagues believe that, but they need to get out more. Most of all, you realize quickly that very few people had much input when he researched this book. He quotes Sting constantly, probably because Sting was one of the few people that agreed to be interviewed. I do not want to trash the book completely. His idea that music influenced brain development in Homo sapiens is original and clever. There will probably prove to be some truth to it, but clearly the cart is (at least partially) in front of the horse. It is still a thoughtful and entertaining book, but it pales in comparison to Levitin's first book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By WILLIAM E. CARNES great for music lovers

The author of the New York Times bestseller *This Is Your Brain on Music* reveals music's role in the evolution of human culture in this thought-provoking book that will leave you awestruck (The New York Times). Daniel J. Levitin's astounding debut bestseller, *This Is Your Brain on Music*, enthralled and delighted readers as it transformed our understanding of how music gets in our heads and stays there. Now in his second New York Times bestseller, his genius for combining science and art reveals how music shaped humanity across cultures and throughout history. Here he identifies six fundamental song functions or types: friendship, joy, comfort, religion, knowledge, and love, then shows how each in its own way has enabled the social bonding necessary for human culture and society to evolve. He shows, in effect, how these six songs work in our brains to preserve the emotional history of our lives and species. Dr. Levitin combines cutting-edge scientific research from his music cognition lab at McGill University and work in an array of related fields; his own sometimes hilarious experiences in the music business; and illuminating interviews with musicians such as Sting and David Byrne, as well as conductors, anthropologists, and evolutionary biologists. *The World in Six Songs* is, ultimately, a revolution in our understanding of how human nature evolved right up to the iPod.

From Publishers Weekly
Charles Darwin meets the Beatles in this attempt to blend neuroscience and evolutionary biology to explain why music is such a powerful force. In this rewarding though often repetitious study by bestselling author Levitin (*This Is Your Brain on Music*), a rock musician turned neuroscientist, argues that music is a core element of human identity, paving the way for language, cooperative work projects and the recording of our lives and history. Through his studies, Levitin has identified six kinds of songs that help us achieve these goals: songs of friendship, joy, comfort, knowledge, religion and love. He cites lyrics ranging from the songs of Johnny Cash to work songs, which, he says, promote feelings of togetherness. According to Levitin, evolution may have selected individuals who were able to use nonviolent means like dance and music to settle disputes. Songs also serve as memory-aids, as records of our lives and legends. Some may find Levitin's evolutionary explanations reductionist, but he lightens the science with personal anecdotes and chats with Sting and others, offering an intriguing explanation for the power of music in our lives as individuals and as a society. (Aug.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Bookmarks Magazine
Fans that have read *This Is Your Brain on Music* are in for another treat; newcomers to Levitin will still find much to enjoy in this consideration of music and human civilization. Levitin writes with both knowledge of neuroscience and evolutionary biology and a deep appreciation for the musicians' craft that will resound loudly with musicophiles. The New York Times Book Review, however, questioned some of Levitin's unprovable scientific claims, and others faulted him for taking a reductionist view of evolution, shamelessly name-dropping, cherry-picking songs from a select era, and failing to edit a verbose tome. Despite such flaws, most readers will find something to connect with in the book even if it's just one song. Copyright 2008 Bookmarks Publishing LLC A must-read... A literary, poetic, scientific, and musical treat. Seattle Times Masterful... Eminently enjoyable. Los Angeles Times Why can a song make you cry in a matter of seconds? Six

Songs is the only book that explains why. Bobby McFerrin, ten-time Grammy Award-winning artist (Don't Worry, Be Happy) A fantastic ride. New Scientist Leading researchers in music cognition are already singing its praises. Evolutionary Psychology Exquisitely well-written and easy to read, serving up a great deal of scientific information in a gentle way for those of us who are or just think we are a bit science-phobic. Huffington Post Fascinating. Provides a biological explanation for why we might tap our feet or bob our heads in time with a favorite song, how singing might soothe a baby, and how music emboldens soldiers or athletes preparing for conflict. Associated Press An exemplary mix of scientist and artist, student and teacher, performer and listener. Library Journal (starred review)