

## Assignment #1

### MUSIC, IDENTITY, and BELONGING

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once famously said that music is the universal language of mankind. As we have discussed in our first meeting, music is an innately human expression that has existed in every culture from every period. Music is also integral to our own lives. Certain musical work evokes a special memory from our childhood, for example, or a meaningful moment in our lives.

#### THE ASSIGNMENT:

The purpose of this assignment is for you to explore your own identity through music.

1. Select a musical work from any genre that has a special meaning for you. This work can be a musical work that resonates with you deeply, a work that is tied to a particular memory, or a song that you listened to as a child, etc.
2. Once you have identified the work, you will give a 8-10 minute oral presentation:
  - Describe the work. Be sure to include a brief discussion of the genre, the artist/s as well as its history
  - Discuss the meaning of the work. Why was it written? Consider analyzing the lyrics, if any.
  - How and why does this music speak to you? What is the significance of the selected work as it relates to your identity and experience?
3. Presentations will take place on September 6, 13, and 20.