

The Sound of a City: A Study of the Phenomenon Through the Example of the Minneapolis Sound

The sound of a city is a cultural phenomenon based on the characteristic relationship between music and cultural specificity of a given urban area. It occurs when artists from a region create music, which is so unique, it becomes indisputably linked with its place of origin in the public discourse. The link becomes so strong, phenomenon's name derives from the name of the city. There were numerous examples of such sounds in popular music history, including the Nashville Sound, the San Francisco Sound, the Seattle Sound, and many others.

The Minneapolis Sound is one of the best illustrations of such phenomenon, originating in the 1980s by a group of Minneapolitan musicians under the direction of Prince. Using the method of discourse analysis and tools provided by cultural studies and music geography, the dissertation comprehensively researches the case study of the Minneapolis Sound, studying its history from the mid-20th century to the present day, examining its relationship with local culture and identities. The factors allowing the phenomenon to occur are also analyzed and emphasized. Ultimately, the research leads to a definition of the sound of a city, and develops tools, which can be used to extend the research to other examples of the phenomenon.