



## Historical examples

### “Protest music” as mean to send social messages

Is music a way to bring social changes?

The answer is yes!

From decades music has given power to social movements and a voice to the people.

Music has done this for so many years and in so many ways that the so called “Protest Music” was born.

In fact, protest music is a term that has been coined to refers to that music that wants to make changes and send social messages.

This kind of music is often associated with a particular movement for social change or with other current social and political events.

It is a music that aims to give voice to feelings of protest about some social or political injustice.

Thus, ‘protest music’ or ‘the music of resistance’ is a music category, encompassing the use of music in politics and as politics. During periods of social upheaval, songs of discontent are born, some are created specifically as shouts of protest to gather support for a specific cause or to complain about something, whereas others express or describe conditions in society that breed discontent.

Songs against war, songs to support civil and human rights movements, songs against some political government, songs against the violation of rights; there are a lot of historical examples of artist that used music in this way or that specifically wrote “protest songs”.

Among these examples, some famous examples are the following:

#### Bob Marley - “Get Up Stand Up” (1973)

There is no clear and certain evidence, but it is said that Bob Marley wrote this song after a visit to Haiti during which he saw the great poverty faced by the people of the island. Whatever its origin, over the years it has become an international human rights anthem. (listen the song [here](#); to know more click [here](#))

*“You can fool some people sometimes, but you can’t fool all the people all the time. So now we see the light! We gonna stand up for our rights!”*

### Rage Against the machine – “Killing in the name of” (1992)

The very name of the group evokes its political stance, a push against injustice and socio-political inequalities; in particular, this song was written against racism of the police, underlined with the sentence (listen to the song [here](#); to know more click [here](#))

” Those who died are justified, for wearing the badge, they’re the chosen whites...  
You justify those that died by wearing the badge, they’re the chosen whites”

### U2 – “Sunday bloody Sunday” (1983)

This song is about the Bloody Sunday, the day in 1972 when British troops shot and killed unarmed civilian protesters in Derry, Northern Ireland. The song is specifically about the turmoil in Northern Ireland, anyway, the lyrics have become an anthem for an end to violence in general. (listen to the song [here](#); to know more click [here](#))

“And the battle's just begun... There's many lost, but tell me who has won.”

These are only a few examples, but more and more can be found [here](#).

#### **Sources:**

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