

MUSIC ALIVE!

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The Banjo's Journey Through History

1. The banjo originates from West Africa.
2. The banjo was initially crafted from a hollowed-out gourd covered with animal skin, using strings made from animal gut or plant materials.
3. The banjo became an integral part of African American culture, capable of expressing a wide range of emotions and fitting various musical styles.
4. Minstrel shows, while perpetuating racial stereotypes, introduced the banjo to a wider audience.
5. Earl Scruggs, Béla Fleck, or Pete Seeger.
6. In the 20th century, the banjo found its way into jazz, blues, country, and even rock.
7. The banjo has bridged gaps between different communities and cultures, bringing people together through shared musical experiences.
8. One etymological claim for "banjo" is from the Mandinka language, which gives the name of Banjul, capital of The Gambia.
9. Through the banjo, African Americans have expressed their joy, sorrow, and hope, using music as a form of communication and connection.
10. The banjo's influence can be seen in the music of Appalachia, the Caribbean, and even parts of Europe.

The Lives and Times of Studio Musicians

1. The invention of electronic recordings and their reproduction led to the creation of studio musicians.
2. Musicians transitioned from live performances in theaters to pre-recording music for synchronization with films.
3. The ability to sight-read music and play various styles quickly and correctly are two key skills for studio musicians.
4. An arranger, record producer, artist, or a combination of all three typically supervises studio musicians' work.
5. Being a producer's "first call" means you're their preferred player on a particular instrument and the first one they contact for a session.
6. The most emphasized rule is to never be late for a recording session.
7. Some musicians choose studio work for stable income, health insurance benefits, pension contributions, and the ability to be home with family.
8. House bands were regular groups of musicians used by specific producers, record labels, or independent recording studios.
9. The Wrecking Crew was a famous house band associated with producers like Phil Spector in Los Angeles.
10. With the rise of home recording technology, studio musicians have had to adapt to new recording methods and potentially expand their skill sets.

"From the Start" by Laufey

1. Laufey has Icelandic and Chinese heritage.
2. Laufey received classical training in cello.
3. Laufey gained a significant following on TikTok during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Laufey blends jazz, classical, and contemporary pop in her music.
5. Laufey's melodies often evoke the Great American Songbook era.
6. "From the Start" is in the key of F major.
7. Piano, upright bass, and drums are heard in "From the Start".
8. The first verse of "From the Start" begins at bar 9.
9. Laufey's classical background contributes to her sophisticated chord progressions and melodic choices.
10. Laufey incorporates modern production techniques into her vintage-inspired sound.

The Sound of Music

1. "The Sound of Music" was written by Rodgers and Hammerstein and premiered on Broadway in 1959.
2. The musical is set in Austria on the eve of World War II.
3. Love, resilience, and the power of music to bring people together are main themes explored in the musical.
4. "Edelweiss" is a poignant and patriotic song that symbolizes Captain von Trapp's farewell to his beloved homeland, Austria.
5. "Do-Re-Mi" is an educational song where Maria teaches the children the basics of music, emphasizing her ability to bring the family together through song.
6. The Mother Abbess sings "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," encouraging Maria to follow her dreams and find her true calling.
7. The score combines elements of traditional European folk music with American musical theatre, creating a unique and timeless sound.
8. The 1965 film adaptation, starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer, solidified the show's place in history, with its soundtrack becoming one of the best-selling albums of all time.
9. Two songs mentioned in the article are "The Sound of Music" and "My Favorite Things."
10. The article describes the music from "The Sound of Music" as a timeless masterpiece that continues to resonate with audiences of all ages, capturing the essence of joy, love, and resilience.