



Transcript

Joe Sample - Is Rap Music?

Sample: I heard, uh, recently here in New York...um, I was walking down the street the other day and these six, uh, young African-American men, uh, suddenly came out of this restaurant and I found I was walking side by side with them. And we got to the light, we stopped. We must've walked like this for at least two blocks, at least two red, reb lots, red lights. And I heard them having fun reciting the rap from a record. And I heard their conversation, and they were saying, oh, man, I like his music. And I heard them rapping in unison. [Recites a rhythmical variation of "ba-ba-ba."] They didn't sing one note. They were not singing. There were no notes involved. It was not music—it was poetry in rhythm.

You can't call that music. [Hums.] They were not doing that at all. But it was, it was so strange for me to hear them describing what they are doing. They didn't say that they were singing. They were talking about this song and that song. And I said, "That's not a song. You have to [word not clear]...is calling that a song. It's a work of poetry. It's not a song." They have no idea what songs are or what music is.

A melody has the power to allow you to create in your mind what you wanted to say. Uh, lyrics and words...When the words become outdated because language has changed, then I wonder what their power is going to be. Well, the slang that I used in high school, the young kids today would never dream of using that. Will the young kids of tomorrow want to use the slang that the young kids are using today? How meaningful is that? Will it survive the test of time? And if it doesn't, then it, then it is not spiritual in nature. It, there...it won't be around for two centuries.

End of video.