

Research Assessment #6

Date: 10/19/2020

Subject: The Journey of Kevin Parker (Tame Impala)

APA Citation:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/16/arts/music/tame-impala-kevin-parker.html>

Pareles, J. (2019, May 16). Tame Impala Makes Music for Loners. But Now Kevin Parker Plays the World's Biggest Stages. Retrieved October 20, 2020, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/16/arts/music/tame-impala-kevin-parker.html>

Assessment:

Kevin Parker, a musician teetering on the cutting edge of rock and techno music, creates music from the darkest parts of his mind (Pareles, 3), and in doing so creates some of the most revolutionary and exciting pieces of today's scene. Parker spends extended periods of time in isolation, during which he has developed his intuitive production process and made record-breaking albums such as *Currents* and *The Slow Rush* (1). What is there to learn from Australia's biggest musician?

As previously mentioned, Parker (better known as Tame Impala) creates his music in isolation. He claims that doing this helps him to concentrate on the process of production and escape "the pressures that I put on myself, the anticipation that other people may have" (1). Parker grew up with music, using it as a way to feel better about himself. Whether it is a good or bad thing, this has not been the case for me. In order to develop my musical style and create music that reflects what I have gone through (like Tame Impala does), I must force myself to spend extended periods of time in isolation with my instruments, computer and my thoughts. However, I think my need for social interaction could also be a contributing factor in bettering myself as a musician. By surrounding myself with musicians and other creative individuals, I can establish an environment that facilitates exploration in my craft and is open to failure. I will do so this year in ISM.

Some of Tame Impala's greatest works, such as songs "Mind Mischief", "Yes I'm Changing", "Love/Paranoia" and "The Less I Know The Better", have arisen from Parker dealing with inner turmoil, an "expanding career" (3) and a "tortuous romance" (3). While perhaps not to the same extent, experiences in my own life over the past few years have led to much mental conflict and personal development. Like Parker, I can channel these complex and difficult emotions into my music. However, this presents some difficulties. As Parker puts it, "being an artist... You have to chop a bit of yourself off and give it to the world, and it's out there" (2). Creating and publishing music will force me to expose my thoughts and emotions to everyone out there. There is not much I can do about this now, other than mentally prepare myself. The time will come!

In conclusion, the upcoming year in my musical journey will be a difficult one. I must force myself to create in isolation and to expose my darkest emotions to everyone that I know. Although, no other thing creates the feeling within me that music does. These risks and challenges are no match for the feeling of joy that a good song brings to me.