

“Music as Rhetoric – Ara and Marlee”

Transcript

0:03 Crystal (off camera): That’s interesting that you started with the music. Were they songs you knew already?

0:07 Ara: Yeah. When I was doing the video, I felt like the music was the most important part to me. So most of the songs I knew already, or I had in mind what kind of songs that I had. I felt like in the video, I got a lot of different aspects of Armenian music, or Americanized music that represents Armenian culture. I felt like I got a very wide variety representing that culture.

0:34 [Ara’s video plays] So the first song I picked in the video was more of a solemn song. It’s called “Deli Ahman,” which is an Armenian folk song played on the *duduk*, which is like an Armenian clarinet. The second song I chose, after “Deli Ahman”, was “Aerials” by System of a Down. I chose this song because System of a Down is actually an Armenian group, and they incorporate in the background of their music, a lot of Armenian relevant themes, topics, or even sometimes music in the background as well. Also, the version of “Aerials” I used was an extended version from their album, and at the end of the song, they have an extended part towards it, it’s called “Der Voghormya.” Which actually is a church song that we play at the Armenian apostolic church, but they edit it to be more rockish version.

1:27 The last song that I used was [song title] which is an Armenian revolutionary song, which says, “where have you been Oh Fedayi?”, which means, *Fedayi* in Armenian is freedom fighter, so it’s a revolutionary song, saying that the Fedayi, the freedom fighter, where have you been, we’ve lost our country. It’s more of like an exile song, so.

1:54 Crystal (off camera): Tell me about the three different songs you used.

1:56 Marlee: They were, I used “Home” by Edward Sharp and the Magnetic Zeros, “Paradise” by Cold Play, and then another song called “Home” by Phil Philips. [Marlee’s video plays.] “Home” by Phil Philips was a song that, or the two different “Homes” actually, we listened to at camp. We didn’t have any radio or cell phone service, so nobody could download whatever was cool on iTunes, and we couldn’t listen to the radio when we were driving to our hikes. So someone had them on their iPod, and played them all the time, and they were like, it was like a camp song. It became a nice memory. So those were some that I considered going in just because I remembered them.

2:37 For me, because they were talking about home, camp becomes a home away from home. And then I had this theme of *you make all these great friends, it’s something you’ll never forget*. And the way the artist writes that music does give this comfortable, relaxed, but fun vibe, I guess [laughs]. [Marlee’s video continues to play along with “Home.”]