

Column by Renzo van Riemsdijk (Masterenzo):

The urge of a record

Why is it that some recordings are so good, so engaging and so intense?

The short answer: those recordings tell a story.

Well, this concludes my final column of this decade. Let's head into the *roaring twenties!*

But since every short answer has its longer version, I give you the long answer in this column. The long answer as to why some records are so darn good.

To answer this question we should ask ourselves another question first: why would an artist or band want to record an album or EP anyway?

Imagine a starting band. All members of the band practice for hours a day and together they write some beautiful songs in their too small rehearsal space, accompanied by that typical sweaty band odor.

But beware: there's something beautiful happening here!

After three months the doors of the rehearsal space open and we're about to witness the birth of 12 rock songs. Twelve pieces of music about love, happiness and grief including head and tail and some power riffs. And of course: those songs are asking to be recorded, mixed, mastered and released into the great wide open!

But what is it that causes an artist to feel the need to capture his or her songs onto a recording?

It's actually a kind of flaunting with yourself. You want to show the world that you know how to play your instrument, that you know how to write beautiful songs or you want to prove that you as a band are able to get this all done.

And how cool is it to share this with the outside world? Just open Spotify, browse your name, click the play button and there you go: your very own songs stream right into the great wide world! A more intense feeling of satisfaction hardly exists.

Besides that a physical release has the advantage of cover art (vinyl!) and when you play live shows you can sell your albums after the show. And when you sign your records or CD's they might even be worth a lot of money afterwards.

So, now let's go back to the initial question: "Why are some records so good?"

When you write a song, it (hopefully) is about something. In that "something" lies the answer. You've been through something and you feel the urge to share this with humanity by writing a song about it. It's like therapy: for once you don't share your experience with your therapist but with anyone willing to hear your song about it. And it's this sharing that gives you a feeling of both pride and relief.

The more intense your shared experience, the more intense the song. It's that simple and this explains why some records are so intensely good and had to be made.

Of course, there are other factors that play a role in this but it's a starting point and the tone is literally set.

An example: those of you who know me a bit know that I have a thing for "Rumours" by Fleetwood Mac which was released in 1977. The story behind this -by the way brilliantly sounding- record is a story of multiple relations within a band, including accompanying perils and breakups.

All this made “Rumours” more or less inevitable. The record had to be made and released since all 11 songs on the album tell a piece of this immersive story.

So, do you have a thing or two to tell? Tell it with a song or with an EP, or take the high road and tell it with an entire album. Whatever it takes to get things off your chest, make your recording inevitable and to write the best song(s) of your life.

Renzo

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More info about mastering and about Masterenzo can be found on his [website](#).

*FLAC: Free Lossless Audio Codec. An audio codec to play music, just like AAC (Apple Music) and Ogg which is used by Spotify, without any loss of quality (lossless). AAC and Ogg are compressed (lossy, less quality) audio codecs like mp3. Codec stands for **coding** and **decoding**.