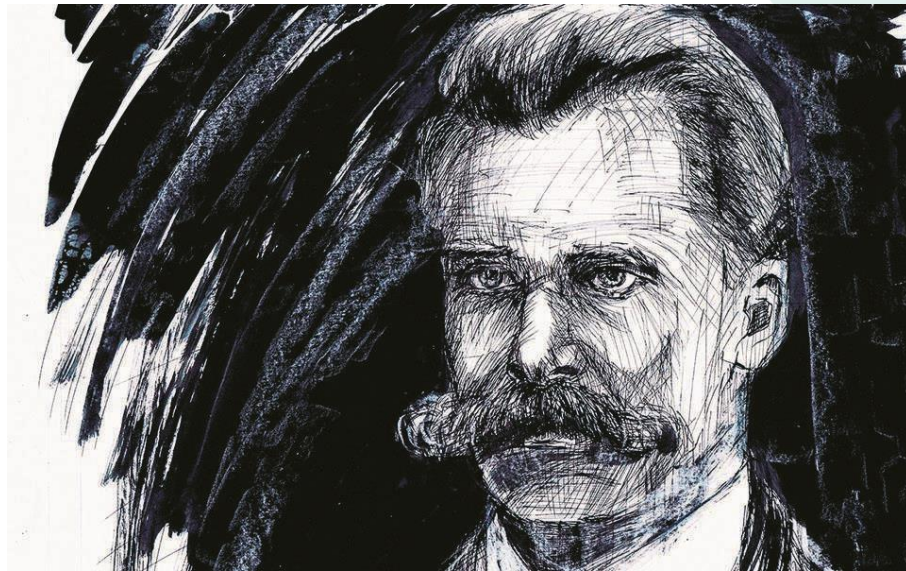




Without music, life would be a mistake!

A story influenced by the philosophy of Nietzsche Friedrich



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Narrator: *The bell rings and the pupils run out to the schoolyard for the break. The four friends head to their favorite bench.*

Tom: Finally, the dreaded Ancient Greek class is finished. What is our next lesson?

Liza: Philosophy.

Tom: Oh, boring!

Narrator: *Liza is taken aback by her classmate's disregard for the value of their lessons and confronts Tom verbally.*

Liza: Come to your senses Tom. You find one lesson dreadful and the other one boring. Well, what do you want?

Tom: My dear friend, I vote for the break. What about you? If you had to pick between Ancient Greek and a break, what would you choose?



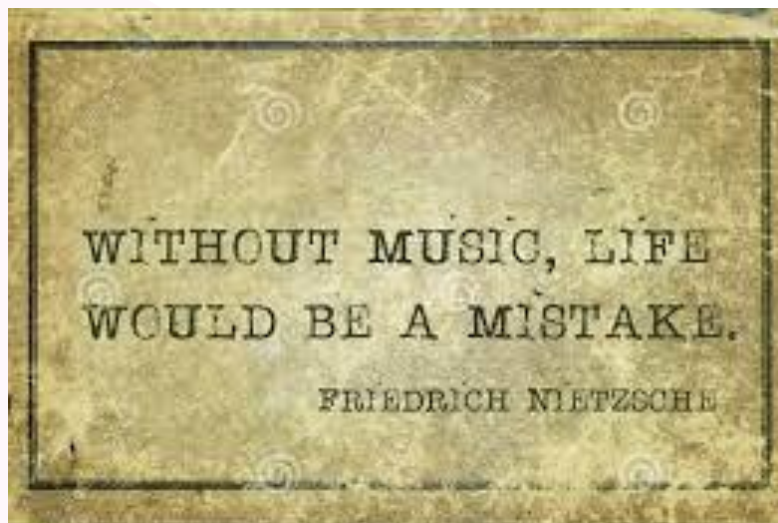
Narrator: *Before Liza could answer, John, who had been sitting quiet and sad, not participating in the discussion until then, joined in. Tom's last phrase had stirred him, prompting an outburst.*

John: I, for one, would choose MUSIC. Yes, my friends, I vote for MUSIC.

Mary: Finally, the kid speaks! (*Mary says playfully*).

John: Mary, why are you teasing me? Haven't you ever felt that music accompanies important moments of your life? Haven't you ever found refuge in notes and lyrics for your emotions? Music greatly affects our mood and how we perceive everything around us. Do you believe that Nietzsche the philosopher was wrong when he said that without music this world would be a mistake?

Mary: No, he certainly wasn't wrong. I understand what you are saying. However, what I am really sensing is how much you love music. So, what's making you so sad?



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Narrator: *The friends had been watching John's emotional outburst with a mixture of surprise and anticipation, eager to see what would happen next.*



John: I had a rough afternoon yesterday. I was in my room playing a piece of music on my guitar when my father came in and started yelling at me. He told me I was neglecting my studies and spending all my time strumming the guitar

Narrator: *John's narrative continued, his tone easing but still deep in thought.*

John: Why doesn't he understand me? I never neglected my studies; I have always been consistent with my homework. However, music means something different to me. Do you want to know why? Well, I believe that music holds equal value to subjects like ancient Greek and maths. It plays a role in our personal development. It develops emotion management and self-discipline skills. It strengthens sociability and responsibility. It builds imagination and intellectual curiosity. In other words, it teaches people how to lead happier lives..

Tom: My friend, I would also like to add that music has a magical way of bringing people together, dissolving conflicts, combating loneliness and isolation, and fostering friendships. I recall the tale of the friendship between the German philosopher Nietzsche with Wagner, that the philosophy teacher told us about. What formed this close bond was Nietzsche's admiration for Wagner's musical art. See, I am not against philosophy after all.

Liza: I totally agree with both of you. I recently came across online studies that highlight how dedicating time to music and the arts doesn't have a negative impact on children's learning. Instead, it enhances education and helps shape better individuals. It improves students' self-esteem and helps their progress. Moreover, it also contributes to their emotional growth; students who engage in music tend to be more empathetic, open-minded and confident.



John: Any chance you could talk to my father about this? Perhaps he will finally understand that my involvement with music is actually positive for me.

Narrator: *The group realized that their little philosophical discussion was having a comforting effect on John. Then Mary, who was holding the philosophy book, felt the urge to speak, considering that they had a philosophy class scheduled for the next hour.*



Available on: <https://www.koutipandoras.gr/article/frinrix-nitse-xwris-th-moysikh-aytos-o-kosmos-oa-htan-ena-laos/>

Mary: John to persuade your father about the importance of music you should read him a passage from our philosophy book on Nietzsche's views on music and in particular, the part where he argues that music is not just another form of an art; it is the most elevated expression of life.

John: You are right. This is where philosophy comes in, helping people perceive the world with a different perspective, maybe a more open-minded and liberated way of thinking. This might be what Nietzsche meant when he wrote that music combines different qualities and features. It has the power to bring us happiness, unsettle us, and even soften the toughest of hearts with its gentle, melancholic tones.



Liza: And what was the philosopher thinking when he said that music speaks where words fall short? It talks about pain, sadness, loss, joy, passion, emotion. Our dreams live in music. Music is the rhythm that takes us to the core of existence. What do you think? I challenge you, my fellow philosophers.

Narrator: *Liza sparked another intriguing philosophical notion, keeping the conversation alive.*

John: To me, it means that music is like a refuge for people, when life turns bleak, when friends leave them and loneliness sets in. In those moments, music turns into love, joy, companionship; a form of magic that lets people soar, just as Nietzsche said.

Mary: Plato's idea that music brings life to the universe and fuels the mind and imagination fits well here.

Liza: Everything you are saying reminds me of the story of the ancient philosopher Socrates. When he was in prison and shortly before drinking the hemlock, he asked to hear flute music. This was intriguing, as he had previously dismissed the power of art and music, emphasizing the importance of correct speech. This shocked Nietzsche who interpreted Socrates' request during his final days as a regret for a life dominated by logic in his philosophy.

Tom: It appears that this is why the German philosopher wrote about Socrates "feeling emptiness, deficiency, almost regret, and perhaps a neglected duty towards art". Finally, in prison, he chose to embrace music to ease his conscience.

John: So the power of music brought peace to Socrates' soul just before he died. See, what I was saying? Music, as an art, has the power to mend the cracks in our hearts. Just as Nietzsche said, it directs our minds towards higher ideals, uplifting us and causing us to look upwards.



Narrator: *As the four friends engage in inner reflection and philosophical contemplation, the sound of the bell brings them back to reality, signaling the start of their next lesson.*