Donovan Valle

ENG 2420- Science Fiction

Project 2

Reflection

Dear Prof. Belli,

I found the process of this project to be both very challenging and very gratifying. Unlike the first project, I enjoyed the open-ended feeling that this one had. I also enjoyed being able to choose a topic that interested me, which was music. After I was able to choose my idea, I started to think about so many things that could be incorporated into the project. As I began to do my research for the first proposal, I started to see a variety of different ways I could go with this project. This was the most difficult part for me. I thought about early science fiction soundtracks, evolution of early electronic music, the influence of electronic music on popular music from the past and in the present. I also wanted to discuss the first commercial artists who chose to experiment with electronic instruments in their music. It was no coincidence that these albums also had concepts of science fiction within their lyrics and album artwork.

The challenge now was to try and make this into a concise piece in which I could explore and analyze a handful of topics and make my own conclusion. As a result, I began to look deeper into the connection between science fiction film and electronic music. By reading certain scientific papers and articles, I concluded that there was enough to focus solely on sci-fi and electronic music in the scores. As I revised my write-ups, I decided to briefly include some of the influence that science fiction had on popular music in the 60’s and 70’s. By then, synthesizers were becoming more portable and artists could use it in a variety of ways. What was interesting was that many of these breakthrough albums that experimented with electronic sounds also had traces of science fiction in their lyrics, live shows, and album presentation (artwork and conceptualization).

In the end, I feel that my in class discussion during lab time was probably the most beneficial thing for me. Through our short conversation, I was able to streamline my idea so that I could focus in on only a few topics. I also really enjoyed using the online database to look for sources. The sources also helped me streamline my paper because I could see there was enough to talk about with just film and music. For the presentation, I used Prezi because it’s a great software to quickly get your ideas into a presentation form. After that, I just tried to put the main points in the presentation and give some clips and visuals to keep the audience engaged. All in all, it was a great and challenging process.

-Donovan Valle