

Simon: Hello, Simon! Anything on your mind today?

Simon: Nope.

Simon: Not a problem, I do have something I want to discuss!

Simon: Go on...

Simon: I understand you studied music? Would you recommend others study it?

Simon: Music IS a lot of fun, but you must be warned, it's very difficult and confusing...

Simon: How so?

Simon: Here's one example: The Neapolitan major scale isn't a major scale, it's minor...

Simon: Ah we're in reverse world in Naples. So the Neapolitan minor scale is a major scale?

Simon: Nope, that's minor too.

Simon: Ok...

Simon: Are major scales always minor?

Simon: No.

Simon: Oh dear.

Simon: It gets worse: Augmented and diminished chords have exactly the same amount of notes in them.

Simon: I see...

Simon: It gets worse: One ate, two ate, three ate, etc., have nothing to do with eating, they're time signatures.

Simon: I can get my head round that. Seems to me like you've got the words 'ate' and 'eight' confused...

Simon: Ok, fair enough. But the cycle of fifths has nothing to do with cycling.

Simon: That's too far.

Simon: Could be worse though, it could be called the bicycle of fifths. That would be confusing.

Simon: Why would the bicycle of fifths have nothing to do with cycling?

Simon: Exactly my thoughts.

Simon: Are they the only confusing parts of music theory?

Simon: God no! In the key of C major, for example, the second note of the scale is D, as is the ninth.

Simon: I see. So you can use the words 'second' and 'ninth' interchangeably?

Simon: No.

Simon: So what's the point of studying music???

Simon: Beats me. It's like getting taught how to drive and getting told left can also mean right.

Simon: Or getting told 'Shoot that man! He's a robber and he's getting away!' When the guy gets shot the same cop goes 'Why did you shoot him?? I meant let him go, he's innocent!'

Simon: Yet, that kind of thing's fine in the world of music.

Simon: Any ideas why?

Simon: Well music is an art isn't it? Anything goes in art, quite literally.

Simon: I suppose you're right. There are whole artistic movements where nothing makes sense.

Simon: But music is often compared to maths, that's the thing.

Simon: Maths is famous for being logical...

Simon: Did you know the whole tone scale, doesn't include all the tones?

Simon: How many notes does it have?

Simon: Half! That's six!

Simon: So the half-whole scale has three notes?

Simon: No, it has eight!

Simon: Is that the kind of stuff that's get taught first?

Simon: Not exactly. Though to be fair, I remember studying bitonality in music class when I was about 13 or 14. I thought that was strange considering music in one key is complex enough.

Simon: Bitonality sounds horrible, anyway.

Simon: Right. I don't mean to sound arrogant, but the secondary school music program is more or less random a lot of the time. But by the time I got into the 10th year, the teaching did start to make sense, and key and time signatures were discussed. No wacky stuff.

Simon: Can you think of a reason bitonality was taught?

Simon: I mean... not really.

Simon: Can you try?

Simon: I was trying. It makes no sense. As I said, it's baffling and sounds terrible. Like forcing a child to paint Cubism. Just get him to draw a nice smiley stick drawing of his family. Everyone can enjoy that. And it doesn't even have to mean anything, other than everyone looks happy.

Simon: Anything else on your mind?

Simon: Ummm. Let's see. I've kinda had writer's block for the last hour or so. Mind if we completely change subjects?

Simon: Do you like watching Coronation Street?

Simon: I did for a while, but I had to stop because I was worried one of the characters was based on me. There's only so much I could take. :(

Simon: That must have been scary.

Simon: Yes, it was scary. The character left a while ago, so I could start watching it again, but I've missed so much of the program the stories aren't going to make any kind of sense. As far as I can tell, everyone's just arguing with each other.

Simon: Why did you think the character was based on you?

Simon: I don't know. She just acted like me.

Simon: It was a girl?

Simon: I don't want to talk about it.

Simon: Do you still think she was based on you?

Simon: There's a well known word out there called 'coincidence'. I wish I fully understood it at the time. Basic for most people, but elusive to me.

Simon: Do you act like a girl?

Simon: No it's not like that, she reminded me of me because she was clearly mental.

When she was described in the same way and had the same nickname for exactly the same reason, it got a bit much. As I said, I don't want to talk about it. Still... I've upped the word count!

Simon: Want to talk about something else?

Simon: Let's just end things, here...

Simon: I have to be honest, I want some more similar anecdotes...

Simon: Not going to happen. (Sniffles).

Simon: Errr... Byesybyebye.