

This time I'm reviewing just a song (or rather a 'song'), not an album. In particular the completely silent '4'33' by John Cage. Why am I doing this? I'll explain. You may have noticed I haven't added an album review to my site for a while now, and that's because I seem to have damaged my hearing by riding my bike too much in lockdown. Even though I was wearing ear plugs, the sound of the traffic and the wind rushing past me has made lots of things sound kind of fuzzy and distorted. Needless to say, as I'm a huge music fan, this is a bit of an upsetting situation for me. However, as explained earlier, my hearing has gotten better before so that's what I'm expecting to happen now that gyms will be reopening soon and I don't have to cycle to get exercise. For now, reviewing silence shouldn't be a problem. Unless my ears are far worse than I thought.

Here goes: First of all, watching the thing live must be very disappointing. I studied music at university, and I was taught the value of practicing and above all, the importance of playing notes. Some of the time, I had to play quite a few hundred in the form of badass guitar shredding. Sure I winged it a little when I played on the djembe drums, and basically just played anything but at least I tried. Doing absolutely nothing in an assignment would get an extremely low grade. To me, John Cage sounds like a cocky good for nothing punk who deliberately wastes the teacher's time and says 'I was being different'. It's incredible to think he got anywhere with life. I'm glad I didn't spend my hard earned cash going to a theatre and watching a posh version of Johnny Rotten metaphorically spitting in my face, and rightly so. At least the singer admitted to being antisocial. Cage on the other hand could be more compared to a con artist. Both in terms of fraud and in entertainment value.

Anyway, I did find a Youtube performance. The pianist lifting and shutting the key cover (or whatever you call it) during it every now and then really did nothing for me. To be quite frank I was thinking 'I don't give a damn. Do you really think I'm entertained by people lifting things?' If people were, bin men for example would be treated as performing arts heroes. As in 'Oh look, the bin men are here! Not only that, they're going to tour this entire street!' People who pick up litter would be treated as Gods, as would removal men, brick layers, etc. And think how arrogant people would be when they realise they can lift things for themselves. Actually, that would be pretty pathetic. But to be clear, that's what happened. It was actually a highlight of the gig.

There's even a so called professor on Youtube discussing whether 4'33 is a piece of music. Is that all it takes to be a professor nowadays? Does it make me a professor when I say 'No. You have to be able to hear music'. I mean if you didn't, there would be much less of a problem being deaf. And if you can imagine music, why can't you just imagine what it sounds like to hear people talking? And if you raise that question to parliament, the funding of treatments for the condition would be reduced quite a bit. See how damaging ignorance could be. The entire deaf community would have a deep-rooted grudge against the professor if other people listened to his dumb theories. Fortunately however, I didn't. I didn't even watch a second of him. Call me ignorant. I think I'm going to watch more performances. At least then I will be thinking for myself.

Would you believe there's a death metal cover of the song? Rather disappointingly,

nothing gets lifted up. Not during the performance, anyway. And I thought things couldn't get any worse. A more typical version of the piece was 'performed' by William Marx. He opens and shuts the piano lid, too! When it comes to choosing things to lift, I have to admit, Cage is a genius. The idea really is growing on me. It's made me think about all the things I could lift! I think I'm going to become a bin man! I'm going to be a local legend! But what if everyone else wants the job? So many people are ahead of me already. I really spend most of time typing. Sure I lift the odd pizza slice every now and then, but until Cage writes that the food should be lifted in a new song, I won't know for certain if the idea is good or not. He knows what he should and shouldn't lift. (Oh, I've just found out he's dead). And on that respectful note... Bye!