

Ears!

Simon: Hello, Simon! I understand you've been listening to lots of music recently, after a long period of rest?

Simon: Yes, I had a bit of ear trouble for a few months caused by loud wind whilst bike riding, but I'm almost completely better now.

Simon: Eh?

Simon: The wind rushing past me, when cycling. It was very loud. It deafened me. Whilst I wore earplugs.

Simon: I don't believe you.

Simon: Neither do I. I think I imagined it. Right, intro over! First up, I'll talk about my new Satan's Empire CD. I like the music, but my God it's corny.

Simon: How so?

Simon: Look at these lyrics from the intro song, cheesily named 'Warrior'... It goes 'Riding through armies with blades flashing steel. Slicing and cutting the foes. Destruction and chaos on the battle field.' It's not every day you hear lyrics that are ALL cheesy. Sure a word or two, but not this.

Simon: Are you sure they're the lyrics?

Simon: I'm mostly sure. I couldn't hear all of them properly, but I'm 99% sure about them. I'll tell you what I do know, this album isn't a concept album. Some lyrics are about Roman armies, others are about motorcycle riding.

Simon: It could be a concept album. It could be a time travelling adventure.

Simon: No I don't think so. The album's tone is quite serious. (Well serious-ish). You seem to think the music is a comedy.

Simon: Not necessarily.

Simon: Oh come on. Music about how badass it is being an ancient soldier, then how badass it is having a motorbike. That doesn't sound silly to you?

Simon: Fair point.

Simon: Other lyrics go 'Who can I talk to, this music is driving me insane. I can remember when metal ruled the waves'. That's not the kind of stuff you want to blast out loud in an inner city area.

Simon: Yes, hip-hop lovers could easily take offense to that.

Simon: 'Enemies of metal, your death is our reward' by 3 Inches of Blood is pretty bad, too.

Simon: A crazy person could be thinking up an interesting playlist, right now.

Simon: No, don't.

Simon: It's interesting how heavy metal often attacks other genres. You never hear pop artists saying metal is crap.

Simon: That would probably lead to a full scale war. And a dumb war at that.

Simon: The epic keyboard warrior war. Would you take a side?

Simon: Na. I like some pop music. My role as a 'musical soldier' would be very complex if things got physical. I wouldn't make a great soldier anyway, but a soldier who doesn't even know who to fight for? Nightmare.

Simon: Imagine a soldier running across the battlefield attacking both sides.

Simon: Right, that would me. I presume I wouldn't survive long. Last thing: Satan's Empire call themselves a NWOBHM (New Wave of British Heavy Metal) band, but that genre has been around since the late 70s. Needless to say, hardly new. They need to think more in general.

Simon: Excellent stuff. Anything else on your mind?

Simon: Yes. It's interesting how failing and upset students are asking for their exams to be marked again. You never hear of people who say 'I didn't work hard enough. Why did I get straight A's?'

Simon: I wonder if law students wanting to be judges ever say they've been treated too kindly. Their whole profession is based on honesty, isn't it? A sneaky examiner could say 'Well done on your test! Do you think I've been fair?' Then when the student goes 'Yep... I studied hard' nervously, the examiner goes 'Trick question! Now you're going to jail for public safety!'

Simon: Harsh but understandable. I hope I don't make law students reading this anxious, but I guess be on your toes?

Simon: That sounds fair enough to me.

Simon: I wonder if creative English writing students get encouraged to argue their cases to improve their grades, even if they clearly failed...

Simon: Hm...

Simon: What if you study English and law? What if you want to be the most linguistically skilled judge of all time?

Simon: A very complicated issue. No wonder computers are used to help the marking process.

Simon: I'm glad I studied music. That's straightforward to grade. As is driving. At least I think it is.

Simon: Relax. Driving tests are NEVER philosophical. There really is no need for them to be. At least you shouldn't need to take any kinds of tests again.

Simon: Pheew.

Simon: Anything else on your mind?

Simon: No, I think that's it.

Simon: Sure you don't want to pad this out? You've done some pretty epic interviews, recently?

Simon: Hm. I guess I'm chewing on chewing gum...

Simon: Actually, just leave it.

Simon: No, no, no, it could be good.

Simon: ...

Simon: They're strawberry flavoured.

Simon: Well we both have things to do...

Simon: Very chewy.

Simon: They would be.

Simon: Flavour's starting to go, though...

Simon: SIMON!

Simon: :(

Simon: BYE!