

tavares don't take away the music

tavares don't take away the music: An In-Depth Exploration of the Iconic Song and Its Cultural Impact

Introduction

Music has always been a powerful force that unites, inspires, and consoles people across the globe. Among the many timeless songs that have left an indelible mark on listeners, "Don't Take Away the Music" by Tavares stands out as a quintessential example of soulful R&B that continues to resonate today. Released in 1979, this song not only showcases Tavares' remarkable vocal talent but also embodies a universal plea for the preservation of music as a vital part of human expression. In this article, we will delve into the origins of "Don't Take Away the Music," its lyrical themes, its impact on the music industry, and its enduring legacy.

Background and Origins of "Don't Take Away the Music"

The Band: Tavares

Tavares, an American R&B, funk, and soul group formed in the early 1970s, hails from New Bedford, Massachusetts. Comprising brothers and cousins, the group gained fame with hits like "Heaven Must Be Missing an Angel," "More Than a Woman," and "Whodunit." Known for their smooth harmonies and soulful delivery, Tavares became prominent figures in the late '70s and early '80s.

The Creation of the Song

"Don't Take Away the Music" was written by the legendary songwriting duo Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, who are renowned for their work with Philadelphia International Records. The song was produced by MFSB (Mother Father Sister Brother), a pool of soul and disco musicians also associated with Gamble and Huff.

Released in 1979 as part of the album of the same name, "Don't Take Away the Music" was crafted with the intention of capturing the emotional essence of the importance of music in everyday life. Its soulful melodies and heartfelt lyrics quickly gained popularity, becoming a staple on dance floors and radio stations.

Lyric Analysis and Thematic Significance

The Core Message

At its heart, "Don't Take Away the Music" is a plea for the preservation and appreciation of music as a fundamental human experience. The lyrics express a sense of vulnerability and a desire not to lose the joy and comfort that music provides.

Sample lyrics include:

> "Don't take away the music / Don't take away the love / Don't take away the rhythm / That keeps me going."

These lines emphasize the essential role of music and rhythm in maintaining emotional well-being.

The Themes Explored

- The Power of Music: Celebrates music as a source of solace and happiness.
- Emotional Vulnerability: Expresses fears of losing something deeply cherished.
- Unity and Connection: Highlights music's ability to bring people together regardless of background.
- Cultural Significance: Reflects the importance of preserving musical heritage and identity.

The Musical Composition and Style

Instrumentation and Arrangement

"Don't Take Away the Music" features a lush arrangement characteristic of the Philadelphia soul sound, with:

- Rich orchestral strings
- Funk-inspired basslines
- Groove-heavy drum patterns
- Smooth, melodic horns
- The soulful vocals of Tavares

The combination creates a warm, inviting atmosphere that complements the song's emotional lyrics.

Vocal Performance

The members of Tavares deliver impassioned vocals that convey sincerity and vulnerability. Their harmonies add depth, making the song both a heartfelt ballad and an infectious dance tune.

Impact and Reception

Chart Performance

"Don't Take Away the Music" was a commercial success, charting highly on various music charts:

- Reached number 11 on the Billboard Hot 100
- Peaked at number 7 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart
- Achieved significant success in dance clubs, becoming a popular disco anthem

Critical Acclaim

Music critics praised the song for its soulful melody, lyrical depth, and production quality. It was recognized as a standout track of the late '70s and solidified Tavares' reputation in the music industry.

Influence on the Music Scene

The song's fusion of soulful vocals and danceable rhythms influenced numerous artists and producers. Its message and style contributed to the evolution of disco and R&B music, inspiring future generations.

The Cultural and Social Legacy

Symbol of the Disco Era

"Don't Take Away the Music" epitomized the disco era's celebration of dance, love, and unity. Its infectious groove made it a dancefloor favorite, symbolizing a period when music was a unifying force amid social change.

Enduring Message in Contemporary Context

Decades later, the song's plea to preserve music resonates in a world where digital streaming and music piracy threaten artists' livelihoods. Its message underscores the importance of respecting and valuing musical artistry.

Cover Versions and Usage in Media

Over the years, "Don't Take Away the Music" has been covered by various artists and featured in films, commercials, and television shows, further cementing its place in popular culture.

Why "Don't Take Away the Music" Remains Relevant Today

The Universal Appeal

The song's themes of emotional vulnerability, unity, and the importance of music are universal, allowing it to transcend generations and cultural boundaries.

Inspiration for Artists and Fans

Many musicians cite the song as an influence, and fans connect with its heartfelt message, reminding us of music's vital role in our lives.

The Resurgence of Classic Hits

In an era where nostalgia plays a significant role in popular culture, "Don't Take Away the Music" continues to find new audiences through streaming platforms and remixes.

Conclusion

"Don't Take Away the Music" by Tavares is more than just a hit song from the late 1970s; it is a powerful anthem that celebrates the essence of music as an indispensable part of human life. Its soulful melodies, heartfelt lyrics, and universal message ensure that it remains relevant and cherished today. Whether on dance floors, in heartfelt playlists, or as a reminder of music's enduring power, this song continues to inspire and unite listeners around the world. As we navigate a rapidly changing musical landscape, the plea embedded in "Don't Take Away the Music" serves as a timeless reminder of why we must cherish and protect the art that moves our souls.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the meaning behind Tavares' song 'Don't Take Away The Music'?

'Don't Take Away The Music' by Tavares is a heartfelt plea to preserve the joy and power of music, emphasizing its importance in bringing people together and providing comfort.

When was 'Don't Take Away The Music' released and how was it received?

The song was released in 1976 and became a major hit, reaching the top of the charts and earning praise for its soulful melody and emotive lyrics.

What genre does 'Don't Take Away The Music' belong to, and what are its musical influences?

It is primarily a disco and R&B track with influences from soul music, characterized by lush harmonies, rhythmic basslines, and expressive vocals.

How has 'Don't Take Away The Music' influenced modern music or artists?

The song's enduring melody and message have inspired many artists in the soul and disco genres, and it remains a popular sample and cover choice, showcasing its lasting impact.

Are there notable covers or versions of 'Don't Take Away The Music' by other artists?

Yes, several artists have covered the song over the years, and it has been featured in various tribute compilations, highlighting its influence across generations.

What is the cultural significance of 'Don't Take Away The Music' in the context of 1970s music?

The song epitomizes the disco era's themes of unity, dance, and emotional expression, capturing the spirit of the 1970s dance and soul movements.

Why did Tavares' 'Don't Take Away The Music' remain relevant over the decades?

Its universal message about the importance of music, combined with timeless melodies and soulful vocals, has helped it stay relevant and appreciated by new audiences over the years.

Additional Resources

Tavares Don't Take Away the Music: A Deep Dive into a Classic Soul Anthem

Introduction: The Enduring Power of "Don't Take Away the Music"

When discussing timeless soul and R&B classics, few songs resonate as profoundly as Tavares' "Don't Take Away the Music." Released in 1976, this track not only exemplifies the smooth, heartfelt style of the band but also captures universal themes of love, longing, and the importance of emotional expression. As a staple in the genre, the song has transcended decades, influencing artists and captivating listeners across generations.

In this comprehensive review, we will dissect the song's musical composition, lyrical depth, historical significance, and cultural impact. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to Tavares' catalog, this exploration aims to deepen your appreciation for "Don't Take Away the Music" and its place within the pantheon of classic soul.

Background and Historical Context

The Rise of Tavares

Formed in the early 1970s in New York, Tavares originally consisted of brothers and cousins, including Ralph, Pooch, and Chubby Tavares. Known for their harmonious vocals and polished production, they quickly gained recognition with hits like "Heaven Must Be Missing an Angel" and "More Than a Woman." Their style blended soulful melodies with sophisticated arrangements, appealing to both R&B purists and mainstream audiences.

The Release of "Don't Take Away the Music"

In 1976, amidst the disco era's peak, Tavares released "Don't Take Away the Music" as a part of their album Love Storm. The song was written by the band members along with Motown's legendary songwriting team Holland-Dozier-Holland, which contributed to its polished, infectious sound. The track was a commercial success, reaching the top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 and securing a prominent position on dance and R&B charts.

Cultural and Musical Landscape

The mid-1970s was a period marked by genre-crossing experimentation, with disco, soul, and pop intertwining. Tavares' "Don't Take Away the Music" fits seamlessly into this landscape, embodying the soulful richness and rhythmic vitality that defined the era. Its themes of emotional vulnerability and the plea to preserve love struck a chord with audiences navigating complex relationships in a rapidly changing social climate.

Musical Composition and Arrangement

Key Musical Elements

"Don't Take Away the Music" is characterized by its lush arrangements, compelling rhythm, and vocal harmony. Let's delve into its core musical elements:

- **Chord Progression:** The song employs a sophisticated harmonic structure, featuring a progression that underpins its emotional depth. It hinges on minor chords that evoke longing and major chords that provide uplift.
- **Rhythm and Groove:** Anchored by a steady, danceable beat, the track incorporates a disco-influenced groove with a prominent bassline, syncopated drums, and percussion that invites movement.
- **Instrumentation:**
 - **Rhythm Section:** Bass, drums, and percussion drive the song's infectious pulse.
 - **Strings and Synths:** Strings add lushness, while synthesizers provide a contemporary (for the time) texture.
 - **Guitar and Keyboard:** Rich chords and melodic fills enhance the harmonic fabric.
- **Vocal Arrangement:**
 - Tavares' members deliver intricate harmonies, especially notable in the chorus and bridge.
 - The lead vocals are soulful, expressive, and imbued with emotion, supported by layered background vocals that elevate the song's richness.

Production Quality

Produced by Skipper Lee Frazier, the track exemplifies high-quality production standards of the 1970s. The mix balances clarity with warmth, ensuring each instrument and vocal part is distinctly heard yet cohesive. The polished production allows the emotional intensity of the lyrics to shine through, making it both a radio-friendly hit and a dancefloor favorite.

Lyrical Analysis: Themes and Emotional Impact

Central Message

At its core, "Don't Take Away the Music" is a heartfelt plea to preserve love and emotional expression. The lyrics emphasize the importance of music as a metaphor for love, passion, and personal freedom.

Key Lyrics and Their Significance

- "Don't take away the music, don't take away the song": Repeated throughout, this line underscores the desire to hold onto what brings joy and emotional release.
- "You can take away my money but you can't take away my soul": Highlights that material possessions are fleeting, but inner feelings and identity remain intact.
- "Music is the key, it's the reason I sing": Affirms music's essential role in the singer's life, representing love, hope, and resilience.

Emotional Themes Explored

- Love and Vulnerability: The song portrays love as something fragile, worth fighting for, and deeply intertwined with personal identity.
- Loss and Preservation: The lyrics reflect a fear of losing what is meaningful—be it love, passion, or personal expression—and a plea to safeguard these elements.
- Unity and Hope: The uplifting chorus and harmonies foster a sense of collective strength and optimism.

Vocal Performance and Artistic Style

Tavares' Vocal Delivery

The band's vocal execution is a standout feature. Their voices blend seamlessly, creating a warm, inviting sound that resonates emotionally. The lead vocals are soulful and expressive, capturing both vulnerability and strength.

Harmonies and Layering

The background harmonies are meticulously arranged, adding depth and richness. Their layered vocals create a choir-like effect that enhances the song's emotional fabric.

Influence of Disco and Soul

While rooted in soul, the song also bears the influence of disco's rhythmic vitality and danceability. The fusion of these genres helped it appeal to a broad audience, from soulful listeners to dancefloor enthusiasts.

Cultural and Artistic Impact

Chart Performance and Commercial Reception

"Don't Take Away the Music" achieved significant commercial success:

- Peaked at 10 on Billboard Hot 100
- Reached 2 on the Hot Soul Singles chart
- Gained popularity in dance clubs, becoming a staple in disco playlists

Influence on Other Artists and Genres

The song's blend of soulful vocals with danceable rhythm set a precedent for many artists in the late 70s and early 80s. Its message and musical style influenced:

- R&B ballads emphasizing emotional expression
- Disco and dance music production
- Cover versions by various artists across genres

Notable Covers and Remixes

Over the years, "Don't Take Away the Music" has been covered and remixed, demonstrating its lasting appeal. Notable examples include:

- Reinterpretations by contemporary R&B artists
- Disco remixes that re-energize the track for modern dancefloors

Legacy and Critical Reception

Critical Acclaim

critics have lauded "Don't Take Away the Music" for its heartfelt lyrics, engaging melody, and production quality. Its ability to balance emotional depth with danceability makes it a quintessential example of 70s soul.

Enduring Popularity

Decades after its release, the song continues to be featured in:

- Classic soul and disco compilations
- Films and television soundtracks
- Live performances and tribute concerts

Cultural Significance

It symbolizes a period when music was seen as a vital form of emotional expression and social connection. The song's universal message about preserving love and passion remains relevant today.

Final Thoughts: Why "Don't Take Away the Music" Continues to Resonate

"Don't Take Away the Music" by Tavares stands as a testament to the power of soulful music to express universal emotions. Its masterful blend of lush arrangements, heartfelt lyrics, and compelling vocals has cemented its place in the annals of classic R&B and disco.

Whether viewed as a dance floor hit or a soulful ballad, its message about holding onto what matters most—love, passion, and self-expression—resonates across generations. Its influence can be seen in countless artists who have built upon its foundation, and its enduring popularity underscores its timeless appeal.

In essence, Tavares' "Don't Take Away the Music" is more than just a song; it's a cultural artifact that reminds us of the importance of music as a vital, life-affirming force. Its legacy continues to inspire those who seek to preserve the emotional core of their art and their lives.

In summary, this track exemplifies the artistry of Tavares and the broader spirit of 70s soul and disco. Its musical sophistication, lyrical depth, and cultural resonance ensure that it remains a beloved classic—one that continues to move hearts and bodies alike.

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promoters, journalists, and dance crowds that fueled dance music's tireless engine. *Love Saves the Day* includes material from over three hundred original interviews with the scene's most influential players, including David Mancuso, Nicky Siano, Tom Moulton, Loleatta Holloway, Giorgio Moroder, Francis Grasso, Frankie Knuckles, and Earl Young. It incorporates more than twenty special dj discographies—listing the favorite records of the most important spinners of the disco decade—and a more general discography cataloging some six hundred releases. *Love Saves the Day* also contains a unique collection of more than seventy rare photos.

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rhythm guitarist with Suede. The group announced they were to disband in 2001.

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Smokey Robinson. To view a 90 second promotional video, [click here](#)

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City of Tavares In Tavares we believe true economic development is helping our existing businesses to grow and prosper and to help new businesses to be successful. In addition to a "get it done" attitude, we [Tavares, FL - Official Website | Official Website](#)

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