

Please PIPEDOWN

The source for news about the campaign for freedom from piped music.



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Ruth Schiedermayer, editor

Hello Pipedown Supporters

As always, I want to encourage readers to please continue to ask for the music to be turned down or off. Practice asking for the music to be turned off does come in handy sometimes.

Just recently I had the opportunity to ask a taxi driver not to turn on the music. The driver was courteous and friendly. Since it was quite late at night and it was just me alone traveling by cab, he told me I had a choice whether to sit in the back or in the front. I chose the front passenger seat as I like the view from there better than the back seat.

As we started on the trip, the driver asked me if I would care to listen to the radio. My response was quick, polished, and cordial – he did give me a choice after all. I told him that it had been a long, hectic, and noisy day and that I would much rather sit in quiet.

It being a quiet taxi ride, small talk came easy. I had a nice chat with the driver as he took me to my destination. He also got a very nice tip as well, hopefully proving that giving riders some choice is the always the best approach.

I took away from this the comfort that practicing asking for no music does sometimes have its rewards. Practice sometimes makes it easier to influence keeping the music to a minimum.

Comments on Society:

I am amazed to continue seeing and hearing references to music preferences as well as program audio in popular media. An episode of MONK aired on local television recently in Indianapolis. The episode was “Mr. Monk meets the Godfather.”

A short conversation about Sharona’s car repair starts the episode. During the discussion with the mechanic, Mr. Monk says to his assistant, Sharona: “Tell him about that noise your radio keeps making.” Sharona replies: “That’s my music.”

Sure, this pokes fun at Mr. Monk’s many obsessions, but still it underlines the difference in tastes we all have when it comes to music. Not everyone likes the same type of music and it may be hard to predict exactly what type of music someone may prefer.

A current Chase Sapphire credit card commercial shows a couple on vacation who do not wish to stay at a hotel with a loud party going on. Their credit card support allowed them to find a quieter hotel where a member of that staff asks them if the music is low enough for them. This points out again that not all people like it loud.

Comment Cards

Comments cards are always available to help when asking businesses to please turn down the music. I also have cards that can be used to invite others to join the campaign against piped-music. Please send a SASE.

News from readers

This has been a quiet summer for news from readers. I've received word of many news articles concerning noise in general from a few people active in several anti-noise organizations out there. The many noise sources that intrude on people's activities continue to be a problem globally.

A couple of people have forwarded copies of their complaint letters. Writing letters or email is useful because then it is possible print copies of the complaint might actually be read by a person who may be in a position to do something about a company's policies. A primary focus of many of the complaint letters I have seen is the financial impact of keeping the loud music. If enough people wrote to say they would refuse to spend money in retail environments where the program audio is too loud, then perhaps companies may be inclined to turn it down.

Advice:

My advice, as always, is to continue practicing asking for the music to be pleased turned off. The efforts you make may eventually impact those people who ultimately control the source.

The focus of this newsletter has been to encourage people to communicate, especially in a cordial way, about the too-loud music in businesses. It is difficult to maintain courtesy when met with responses that are less than courteous, I know. Only by trying to persuade businesses open to the public that the excess noise is not needed or wanted, can change occur.

Quote:

From "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen R. Covey, 1989,

Chapter: Habit 7 - Sharpen the Saw

"Immersion in great literature or great music can provide a similar renewal of the spirit for some. There are others who find it in the way they communicate with nature. Nature bequeaths its own blessing on those who immerse themselves in it. When you're able to leave the noise and the discord of the city and give yourself up to the harmony and rhythm of nature, you come back renewed. For a time, you're undisturbable, almost unflappable, until gradually the noise and the discord from outside start to invade that sense of inner peace."

Although not directly addressing the pounding of program audio, much of the unwanted sound around us comes from that noisy intrusion in particular.

Bibliography:

"You are Not a Gadget" by Jaron Lanier, 2010, Alfred A. Knopf. 192 p. ISBN 978-0-307-26964-5 Hardcover, list price: \$ 24.95

1. Information technology – social aspects 2. Technological innovations – social aspects. 3. Technology – social aspects

Again this author does not directly address program audio in particular. The author makes several criticisms about current music in general that make some interesting reading.