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Light Into Ashes

What was it about the vibration of the Grateful Dead that drew beings together from all walks of life together in unity? Were they potentially the greatest sound healers in rock and roll? Some came for freedom, inspiration, drugs, spiritual experiences; others came to spin in circles. The one thing that made Grateful Dead concerts so unique was not just the band but the fans. Most fans would agree it was a place they felt safe to be themselves and that the music healed some part of their consciousness they needed. Without the fans the Grateful Dead would not have been able to pull off what they did musically. Often times they were feeding off the crowd energetically, like one big mirror. Jerry Garcia once said "We still feel that our function is as a dance band. We like to play with dancers...nothing improves your time like having somebody dance. It pulls the whole thing together, and is also a nice little feedback thing". By creating this environment for the fans to feel freedom they were able to advance in their musical explorations themselves and feel freedom on a stage. This was revolutionary time period to be alive. During their birth of a band they were one of the least popular San Francisco bands getting zero media attention. Immerging from the scene were bands like Jefferson Airplane and Quicksilver Messenger Service, this was a beautiful time period to be a band, it was almost impossible not to have inspiration everywhere you looked. There was a communal music scene evolving that is still affecting the music today. With the help of the legendary free thinker and song writer Robert Hunter they put powerful intentions into their music. One might argue from an intention stand point they were the best sound healers in Rock and Roll. The Grateful Dead at the time was a forming of musicians from different backgrounds such as bluegrass, folk, jazz, and classical. I put together researched list of songs and jams that are available for free online with one easy google search that I found useful for various listening intentions. During my experiences of being a huge listener of their music and someone who has toured with the remaining member I found these specific jams, lyrics, and songs to be powerful for releasing stuck emotions, grounding, opening different chakras, feeling compassion, releasing sadness, feeling joy, feeling love. Having played their music all around the world including the pyramids in Egypt I decided to pick only songs that were played in San Francisco to show case the beauty that has come from this city !

Chakra Journey

Mountains of the Moon > Darkstar live at The Fillmore West- San Francisco 2/27/1969

Healing Potential "A journey of insight through the heart into space"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4uOhfjU8ig>

This was a beautiful transition of mystical lyrics starting off the long journey with the track "Mountains of the Moon". The Grateful Dead were not only of music but also, of things such as marketing, sound recording of a live concert, and song writers. The song starts off with a beautiful acoustic Celtic melody sure to make you smile, telling an entirely lyrically journey that are open to interpretation with such lines as "The earth will see you through this time"- Robert Hunter. The chord changes along with the lyrics give this song an entirely unique feel. The song starts off primarily with an acoustic guitar and a 60s Hammond B-3 organ and appears to be just an average folk at first tune then transitions smoothly to an electric jazz feel when the drums come in with a samba beat. While keeping a primarily mellow groove the electric guitar begins to lead you on a sacral chakra journey feel into the tune. One thing is true of both of these songs is a mystical-science fiction-astronomy aura not only the lyrics but the jams. The electric guitar cuts in with purpose every note this is struck leading you on a dark journey to the beginning lyrics of the tune "Darkstar". "Darkstar crashes pouring its light into ashes, reason tatters, the forces tear loose from the axis"-Robert Hunter. The music and lyrics go hand and hand as the lyrics then follow "Shall we go you and I while we can through the transitive nightfall of diamonds". Accompanying these lyrics are a use of the gong drum and various shakers by Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann. Breaking up energy and starting a journey into the unknown. Then begins descending scales of the organ, bass, and piano creating tension a dark liquid jazz formation. Although "Darkstar" was never an actual in the way the Beatles wrote songs but more of a vehicle for improvisation to take you into the unknown.

The outer space it brings into the cosmos and back key of A. The tempo increases and the improvisation between Phil Lesh on Bass and Jerry Garcia on lead guitar become increasingly more in sync and free. The end of this jam comes to an end with the use of a gong drum and shaker accompanying vocal harmonies of the band.

The Grateful Dead – Eyes of the World 10-19-74 Winterland Arena – San Francisco, CA

Full Version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcTSP35RUWI>

Healing Intention: Self Love and Freedom.

The lyrics at the time when written in the early 70s were believe it or not considered “hippy dippy” or quite woo-woo. For example; “Wake now discover that you are the song that the morning brings”- Robert Hunter. Today the lyrics are cherished and printed all over the fans art work and celebrated. The song begins in the key of E major 7th one of the most relaxing guitar riffs in their history accompanying the lyrics “You ain’t got time to call your soul a critic no”. The song and lyrics progress. About 8 minutes into the song Phil Lesh does an incredible bass solo on his 6 string bass grounding you and lifting you at the same time. Quickly changing keys and tempo it goes into a fast paced groove then back into the jam. Quite notable here is the funky rhythm kept on guitar by Bob Weir during the bass solo they go through this cycle quite a few times giving the piano player tons of freedom leading you into a place of bliss. Jerry Garcia implementing the mixolydian scale quite throughout this song leading you into the dream realms. At 14 minutes they’re notable riff that is played bringing the jam between the musicians back together. There is an unseen amount of telepathy going on between every member of the band at this point. Towards the end of song the energy increases and band ends it on a high note holding this tune for 18 minutes.

The Grateful Dead – Terrapin Station – 6/9/1977 Winterland Arena- San Francisco, CA

Full Version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYNeNuZRfuY>

Healing Intention: Ascension

This song could be a conversation topic of its own. With complete genius lyrics written by Robert Hunter at "The Cliffhouse" a restaraunt overlooking the Bay in San Francisco. The intro riff of the song is in a relaxing down tempo key of Fmaj7. The first verse of the song beginning with the powerful words “Let my inspiration flow “and a change in key. This song tells a beautiful story of three 4 characters; the soldier, lady with a fan, the story teller, and the sailor. This song to me speaks words of the process of ascension into the higher realms of consciousness, although they are still open to interpretation and others might have a different point of view on the words, this is the meaning I have gathered so far. After the verses there is a change in pace and a haunting vocal harmony done by lead singer Jerry Garcia and Donna Jean Godchaux “Since the end is never told we paid the teller off in gold in hopes he will come back for he cannot be bought or sold”. Then Jerry Garcia creates a riff he plays creating tension for the listener eventually leading them to a state of bliss with the words “Inspiration move me brightly, light the song with sense and color hold away despair“. The lyrics then take you through dimensions of time and space. Leading you to an eventual place of ascension with words like “Crickets and cicadas sing a rare in different tune” possibly talking about the healing sounds of nature in the early morning or setting sun. With the lyrics ending the song goes on a further journey of its own into a heavy outro with grounding drums and fills played throughout the end. The volume of the song goes down and the tempo is very relaxing yet provoking at the same time taking you to a possible home you have never known before.

The Music Never Stopped 6/9/1977 Winterland Arena- San Francisco, CA

Full Version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWI9ac1QFbY>

Sound Healing Potential: Lifting one out of a Depression

This song captures the powerful voice of Bob Weir and Donna Jean Godchaux. The song having many parts and different chords creates a funky dance feel sure to get you moving or lift you out of a depression. Powerful lyrics written by Robert Hunter “Greet the morning with a song”. This song will keep you shaking for a solid 7 minutes