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    The important thing about growing up in New York is the sounds of live music coming across your ears, it varies through hip hop and Latin music. Growing up in Brooklyn New York the majority of the time hip hop was the center of attention, I heard “ It was all a dream, I used to read Word Up magazine” Biggie was always playing from my block to the block around the corner, even if he was not physically there Brooklyn never seemed to let go of his iconic raps. I was inspired by how much happiness music had brought to my neighbors and to the homeless people that were living down the block. The greatest thing about music is that there is a whole variety my parents being Hispanic always listened to salsa, and as much as it bothered me waking me up every Saturday morning, I can’t say I don’t miss those times. My dad had his tv with the “big butt” in the back (that’s what he used to call it) he slid in his CDs and started off his day cleaning the house dancing across the room to some Oscar De Leon. There it was again the smile that just brushes upon his face.

    When I hit six years old I started getting into Daddy Yankee and let me tell you that was a very explicit type of music. I would see MTV videos of Daddy Yankee being around these crazy girls that are half naked with small booty shorts and him just being in the middle of everything rapping about drugs and sex. I know what you’re thinking why would parents of a six-year-old girl have her allow around this music. Honestly I myself put it on and even though couldn’t exactly understand what he said, I still fell in the hands of music and how it can brighten up your aura. I remember my mom just walking in one day and I was trying to dance like one of the girls and I swear I almost lost my legs that day because of that sexuality women were being exploited during the early 2000s. Daddy Yankee was for sure a game-changer for the Latin music I heard him in every city from New York to New Jersey all the way to Cali. I’m kinda glad to say that I was born in the millennium era because the music was just full of life and the way it changed people’s life because they really loved the artist was something I feel like you can’t get to know with today’s music it also sounds generically the same and it’s honestly very repetitive and boring.

    When it comes to my music taste I really only listen to hip hop and old school reggaeton, so with that being said obviously I have to put my favorite rapper his name is G Herbo, he is aka Herbert Randall Wright he comes from Chicago, Illinois. He had a very troubled past as a youngin from Chicago he dropped out of school at 16 he started to be in the stress more and having to deal with gang-like activity, made him see the world very differently at such a young age. The street life caused him to later get diagnosed with PTSD he experienced losses from his close friends to his brothers getting killed right in front of him at the age of being nine. He came out with his album recently called “ 25’ album. This album was named after him finally turning 25 years old he stated,” the reason why I call my album 25 is because I’m thankful for God to have blessed me to see this year knowing damn well if I was still in the hood I would have been 5 feet in the ground”. That’s deep coming from a rapper himself he took this joy but yet the pain of knowing his other relatives couldn’t make it this far and turned it into a masterpiece. My favorite song from him has to be “ Stand the Rain” the song starts with women in the background vocalizing and he just starts rapping crazy it sounds like he is about to go in. That smiled that was talking about earlier came upon my face when I first heard that song because I already knew his intentions.

[G Herbo - Stand The Rain (Mad Max) [Official Audio]](https://youtu.be/1Yk-oX-UAeE)

    When it came to old school reggaeton I always listen to this song even to this day it’s called “Down” by RKM & Ken-Y they were a duo formed in 2003. Their actual names are Jose Nieves and Kenny Vaquez. They literally owned the Latin music world at this point and were the first to successfully come to mainstream pop music with the reggaeton street rhythm of Puerto Rico. It’s clear to say that I was really exposed to the music scene early as a child but I’m so glad I did because I wouldn’t know who these people are, I wouldn’t even listen to them because they are “outdated” but that doesn’t change the fact that every time I play this song my nostalgia appears. It’s almost like a bittersweet moment having because the joy of hearing feels like the first time it has ever come out on the radio but bitter because I know we are not going to ever get this music again in our music industry. After all this fame that they got they started to collab with other artists and that for sure brought them to be this iconic duo.

[R.K.M, Ken-Y - Down](https://youtu.be/iFnwmTeSlAQ)

    Lastly, if we want to end this essay with a banger I have to say my favorite song of all time is “Gasolina” by Daddy Yankee know if you don’t know who he is I really don’t know what to say but to go pick up a phone and listen to him because once he came out he was known to start this genre of music. He was known to be this bad boy from San Juan Puerto Rico. He was out in the streets the majority of his life with a mom that abused drugs and prostituted herself as he was growing up, there was a point where he was also homeless fending for himself.  Once he gave this music career a go the whole of Puerto Rico was hooked on to him you saw the girls going wild, you saw people wanting to jump on him once he came on stage, and most importantly he was one of the hottest guys to make it out they called him “ El Papi de Puerto Rico”. I really don’t want to say how it was my first experience listening to Gasolina because I don’t know if I’m going to be looked at crazy, but I really don’t care. I was in my parents’ room I turned the tv on went to the radio station and pretended I was on a stripper pole dancing to this man. His music was sexualized I know but I was a kid and what did I know about it, this just once again proves to show you what music can really do it can make you want to go party or make you sit home and think about it whatever went wrong with your life. But the point is music is a free choice you might not like what you like but others can see the potential or relate to it.

[Gasolina](https://youtu.be/3tw2P65wv5E)

As I finish writing about how I grew up listening to music and what it made me feel like. I also want to take into account how much of positive route music can take you too. A lot of people forget to understand the people who write these songs are human beings just like us they feel just like we feel they want us to feel happiness an understanding of the connection they can bring. Even if the song can’t bring enjoyment to you you will still feel a connection to you and someone else that has gone through what you have. That is what is important for the artist to connect with the fans and I think that is what makes music to myself so therapeutical because I can be in my thoughts even understanding myself in why I think the way I do and it just makes me feel better as a person.