PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT FOR THE DATABASES AND WEB DESIGN LAB EXAM

WHEN THE MUSIC SPEAKS
DATABASES AND WEB DESIGN LAB
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INTRODUCTION

Music and literature have always had a very close relationship between each others. Music get inspired by the events and feelings of ordinary life, and the same can be said for literature. There's always been a relationship of mutual influence and inspiration between literature and music. However writing a song is not like writing a book. Anyway getting inspired by a great novel to create a song can be a good start point and an exciting challenge. Besides musicians and artists remain fascinated by a book like everyone else and, like everyone else, they can *fall in love* with a literacy character, reflecting themselves in them so that they can escape from the monotony and the concerns of ordinary life.

OBJECTIVE

This project wants to show how much this long-time relation between these two art forms is tangible.
Furthermore this project can help everyone who wants to know which author is the most inspiring for artists and musicians (for example, if the users had to do a research or a thesis about this particular subject, here they could find what they are looking for).

STATE OF ART

Around the Net, there are no websites which compares songs to literature. This particular subject has been faced by mostly reviews and books, without a specific web application.

ARCHITECTURE AND FORMATION

This website is composed by 5 pages:

WHAT DOES *WHEN THE MUSIC SPEAKS* MEAN?

Music and Literature have always maintained close relations, creating mutual expressive and linguistic solicitations.
Poetry, theater, but also (mostly between XIX and XX century) fiction got interested by the dialectic created by music and literature. At the origins of poetry there's an essential sound element, melodious to the point that it's impossible to just *read* a poetic song. We need to listen to it, as the ancient authors did with epics.

Essentially, literature and music have the same purpose: *recount*.
A personal experience or an imaginary story? It doesn't matter, 'cause everything can be used as inspiration for a song or a book.
On the other hand, they are both art forms so they are the mirror of the human soul, the reflection of dreams and feelings.
There's always been a relationship of mutual influence and inspiration between literature and music. However writing a song is not like writing a book. Anyway getting inspired by a great novel to create a song can be a good start point and an exciting challenge. Besides musicians and artists remain fascinated by a book like everyone else and, like everyone else, they can *fall in love* with a literacy character, reflecting themselves in them so that they can escape from the monotony and the concerns of ordinary life.

The history of music is plenty of tracks which were born this way. For example For Whom The Bell Tolls by Metallica takes its name from the homonym book of Ernest Hemingway: a really suitable work from whom getting inspired to talk about the futility and absurdity of every war.
The band led by Robert Smith, The Cure, got inspired by the novelette of one of the most famous exponent of literary existentialism: The Stranger of Albert Camus. The song Killing an Arab (which led the band to be unfairly accused of racism) is the description of a specific moment of the novel explained by the apathetic protagonist, Meursault.
Anoter example could be David Bowie's album Diamond Dogs which got inspired by 1984 of George Orwell, a distressing scenario of a totalitarian dystopia.

Therefore, quoting the German poet Heinrich Heine:

" Where words leave off, music begins. "

HOME

GOT CURIOUS?

INSPIRING AUTHORS

INSPIRED ARTISTS

CREDITS

★ Home: Section dedicated to the introduction of the project, in which there are some examples taken directly from the database.

★ Got Curious?: Inside this page there are two drop-down menus where the user can select the author and then his/her works, getting as results the tracks which got inspired by those specific works.

★ Inspiring Authors: Here the user can see the graphic related to the most inspiring authors.

★ Inspired Artists: Here the user can see the pie graph related to the musicians who got inspired often.

★ Credits: Reserved page to the credits, like the creator of the project, the sources, the tools, etc...

DATA SOURCES

Most of the records on the website were taken from the tunes' database created on Cornerdancer.
Additional records were taken from *Artists for Literacy*'s *The Song Inspired By Literature Project*, Wikipedia and from some interviews of the performers quoted inside the database.

DATA MODEL

The database is composed by 586 records.

	#	Nome	Tipo	Codifica caratteri	Attributi	Null	Predefinito	Extra
☐	1	**ID**	int(3)			Sì	*NULL*	
☐	2	**Author**	varchar(44)	utf8_general_ci		Sì	*NULL*	
☐	3	**Work**	varchar(56)	utf8_general_ci		Sì	*NULL*	
☐	4	**Song**	varchar(73)	utf8_general_ci		Sì	*NULL*	
☐	5	**Link**	varchar(62)	utf8_general_ci		Sì	*NULL*	
☐	6	**Performer**	varchar(48)	utf8_general_ci		Sì	*NULL*	
☐	7	**Album**	varchar(72)	utf8_general_ci		Sì	*NULL*	
☐	8	**Year**	int(4)			Sì	*NULL*	
☐	9	**Label**	varchar(32)	utf8_general_ci		Sì	*NULL*	

The website developments were set within localhost/PhPMyAdmin, using:

★ PHP and MySQL
★ HTML5 and CSS3
★ JavaScript, JQuery and Json

Spazio utilizzato			Statistiche righe	
Dati	128 KiB		**Formato**	Compact
Indice	0 B		**Codifica caratteri**	utf8_general_ci
Totale	128 KiB		**Creazione**	Lug 02, 2016 alle 15:57

ACCESSIBILITY AND USE

The website and (its application) is compatible with:

★ Mozilla Firefox
★ Google Chrome
★ Safari

The responsive website can be seen to the maximum width of 768px and it will look like this:

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HOME

GOT CURIOUS?

INSPIRING

AUTHORS

INSPIRED

ARTISTS

CREDITS

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CONCLUSION

I created this project to let people who love music or literature (or both) know how much these two subjects can be related to one another.
I was inspired by my thesis for the finals of high school, where I took as subject a band and I linked their songs to literary works (basing myself to interviews and other researches).

Finding references between songs and literature is a very interesting topic but unfortunately just a few people talk about this (as I previously explained in the section "State of Art").
This is another reason why I chose this particular topic.

"Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order, and leads to all that is good, just, and beautiful, of which it is the invisible, but nevertheless dazzling, passionate, and eternal form."

- Sir John Lubbock