REFLECTION PAPER : MONEY FOR NOTHING

Due in class Monday January 22
Papers MUST be typed, double-spaced, and 3-4 pages in length.

The film Money for Nothing opens with the question: “Of the thousands of musicians who perform music today, why do some of them become stars and have their music heard by millions, while others don’t?”

There has long been a tension between art and consumerism, with some advocating a complete separation of the two and others relishing the overlap. The film MFN makes a strong case for the claim that the market-driven nature of the music industry today influences not only artistic expression, but both political expression and consumer choice.

1. Summarize the film’s response to the opening question.

2. Before watching the film, what assumptions did you have about the process that guided music to the listener’s ear?

3. In what ways did the film support or contradict your assumptions?

4. What are the potential social costs of the organization of the music industry as described in the film?

5. What changes in the music industry do you think would have the greatest benefit for society? Are these changes likely? Why or why not?

Please note: Obviously there is a lot of information available on the web and in the library that you could use in this paper. Please do not refer to outside sources for anything other than to refresh your memory of some fact. This paper is a chance for you to review your understanding of the content of the film and to process your own thoughts on the topic. If you do refer to outside sources, be sure to attribute the source of the information.