

THE UNDERGROUND

“I want to develop the idea of an underground culture and how it can influence collective behaviors. This notion of the underground has come to represent some thing more contrived. And there always is something conventionalized about these gestures. The observation develops within a framework of popular music. Even though there are similarities to the avant garde, the basic forms of experimentation develop from song structure. Even in those groups which develop a looser form of musical development, there is a response to traditional song structure. Many of the underground gestures are related to the self-imposed limitations on the performers. These limitations can be due to intention or the limited ability of the players. In some cases, the sound is developed through a process. This process could describe the growth of an individual or a group.”

“By application, this underground determines some kind of social behavior. This behavior attaches a sense of political authenticity to the music and its presentation. The underground has a contested relationship with the society. It could see itself as battling against a dominant culture. It could see its efforts as more closely related with the actual socioeconomic conditions of the participants. This can include a close bond between the performers and the audience. In some cases, the audience is assuming the role of the performer. There may be efforts to take apart the role of the performer. This can include a random aspects of presentation. It can also include the use of technology to alter the role of the creator. And in some cases, there can be a special effort to advance the public persona of the players. And the music is meant to develop this perspective. As as a cultural underground, the movement advances faithfulness to social interactions. The scene can represent a form of collective action, as people work together to influence the community. However, the cultural scene can also have an independence from the intent of the underground. Individuals find that they need to commit more effort to maintaining their loyalty to the scene. And in some cases the cultural underground only has a tangential connection to musical performance.”

“Fashion and personal lifestyle have taken the place of the initial motivation. In some cases that sense of cultural support seems preeminent, particularly for those who feel more marginalized from the dominant culture. The underground is face of the individual situation. It establishes itself in an oppositional relationship with a society. In some cases, it attaches itself to critical social supports. The negative influences can have a more prominent position in the efforts of the individuals. This can lead to forms of exploitation that may seem worse than other examples in an oppressive society. In other words, instead of providing an alternative, the underground culture only provides the individual exploiter with more efficient means to control others.”

“In general, culture can provide a foundation of caring that is manifested in the habits of the participants. These interactions are built into society and express themselves in terms of social contradictions. The underground emerges in an effort to express the social contradictions, but the movement can erode basic concerns that have been developed in the existing society. This can make the underground into a freakish example of an oppressive discipline which is much more aggravated than anything which exists in main stream culture. The underground ruthlessly reflects forms of domination already existing in society. These dangers are particularly

risky, since underground cultures purport to be representing these behaviors as a way of curtailing their affects.”

“This is a kind of social inoculation, which goes awry. In some cases the craft associated with the musical underground can challenge the excesses of that culture. This is a tricky representation since ideas of virtuosity may be more connected to a dominant culture. A dominant culture can use virtuosity to limit aesthetic development. Individuals become tuned into a narrow perspective of what is pleasing. This debate can become particularly protracted in an underground culture. Some kind of proficiency can be critical to developing clear gestures that advance the commitments of the participants. Others can see this proficiency simply as a way for some to exercise control over others. This causes a significant conflict within an underground. At the same time, it can also serve as the motivation for development.”

“The underground culture uses those resources to advance the messages of the participants and also support their lifestyles for the artistic explorations. Nevertheless, these lifestyles could assume independence from any real creativity, and this could further reinforce hierarchical development of a scene. Even those who try to create a world outside of this sanctioned community can find themselves subject to the same forms of infighting. Musical performance and artistic creation can be fundamental for the emergence of an underground community. Nevertheless, participation in this community does not require an artistic commitment; therefore, the actual participation can be linked to a number of basic gestures that create an allegiance within this culture. Here, things get the controversial. People are attracted by the refuge that his culture seems to offer. This can be taken further into some kind of unbridled hedonism. The individual has escaped the restrictions of a dominant culture, and this ongoing freedom and power is up to the individual to explore.”

“Some participants barely recognize any kind of cultural performance beyond the conventionalized gestures. They become even more obsessed with their beliefs. The scene is blessed with a special power. They find a form of acceptance that they could never find elsewhere. This sense of empowerment may be connected to performance skills. Or it could be not that much different from any other form of social experience such as a high school or a college party scene. The underground could be me even more subject to forms of control exercised by charismatic individuals. Even though it’s a basic intent is to contradict the dominant order, this attitude only confirms existing beliefs. The underground becomes a fashion scene, and it appears to lose any pretense of actually transforming the society. This is simply another elite club, which regulates the behaviors of individuals and advances the goals of an elite few. Even though this becomes the actual dynamic of the scene, many are still fooled by the promise. They give themselves to the scene as if they are being nurtured by its offerings. Nevertheless, they see that their progress is limited.”

“They are also dealing with the restrictions of work. Their resources for cultural development are limited. At what point, did the underground culture lose its edge and become the excuse for a fashion pose. This is a difficult question to answer because even the pose can represent an emotional barrier against negative influences. Therefore, the pose always presents the possibility for a further development of the self. Overall, this provides the awareness of a profound social dynamic. This is a tricky situation. More than ever, individual is looking for some kind of jolt that can advance the complete experience. By trying to validate a personal

struggle, the individual risks getting caught up in conventional gestures. This becomes the very difficulty faced by the participants in an underground culture. In the present incarnation, the self can simply harken back to another era. In fact, that often has it been the watchword for this kind of movement.”

“It starts off as an archaeological search. There is an effort to create a more authentic interpretation of another historical era. This would seem to add greater artistic validity to the group. There could even be a supernatural aspect to this interpretation. In other words, an ancient people has a more direct contact with spiritual beings. From a critical point of you, this perspective of the underground can be viewed as a greater contrivance, even though it is the foundation for the most authentic aspects of the undergrounds performance. There is a brilliance to this understanding. The culture is simply discovering its history. It is creating a history to validate its present.”

“This strategy could be the source of the undergrounds in ability to discover a new form of expression. Historical consultation had been to motivates to enhance creativity. The history seems to imply these conventionalized gestures. The individual colored in these gestures. And that simply means going along with a more traditional behavior. There had been this opportunity to break from the society. And the underground seemed to offer necessary protection for the individual. Nevertheless, there remained this sense of total devotion to a set of beliefs. The more adept had followers. There was acceptance. They were disciples. This could lead to the worst abuses. The artist was taking advantage of the naïve.”

“It didn’t move the culture anywhere at all. But this seem to be a hope. This could give people who needed support. Certainly, a sense of estrangement had created this need to beline. In many ways, that was with the underground represented. The gesture was already available. It wasn’t all that complex. It was like buying a new suit. You only need to go in to try it on. Suddenly, everyone around you had that shared sense of fashion. Were you once felt isolated, you could look to your friends for that sense of confidence. It had motivated you to take chances. But it stopped pretty well at that. And you were seeking some kind of a acceptance. And you found that sense of understanding. You shared it with others were facing similar challenges. This made you believe that you were moving forward even if you were all holding in place.”

“Certainly, this increased the sense of frustration. But you were able to break it all down. It didn’t seem to matter much. You were all able to overcome the negative influences around here. And that gave you greater strength no sorry I just was more than a kind of batch. It was a belief system that held you all in place. Even if there was some thing that wasn’t quite right, you strove to make it into the program this added to your sense of conviction. There are others who might try to take us assertiveness from you. But you were not going to give in. You were sure about the rewards. This kept you all moving along. You might’ve had more radical goals. It seems sufficient in itself. You could share this sensation with others. Your Felton powered. This added to the sense of validity. You had a certainty about your life. It was more than that. In this culture had become enhanced by continued devotion. And you were sharing your way of thinking. This added to your insights. Your observations seemed to go along with this feeling that you had inside you were the only one. And there seemed to be a cause.”

“That added to your sense of stability. Even if things were falling apart around you, you would persevere. This added to your stress. This was an ongoing connection among all of you. It

offered so much more. Bless you. The underground may have sputter in this version. Sure, you were carried on by your beliefs. But you confronted them. And you thought that you were getting over on these experiences. Are you were not going to lose this argument; you were going to carry it on to the end. And that would be sufficient. The underground could be something more potent.”

“Did you have enough creative inspiration to move you forward. There was enough working in your favor. If you didn’t want to consider what could be the basis for your problems it wasn’t personal. It never had been. But everyone was trying to climb incredible mountain. And they all gathered around the base hoping that their collective efforts would matter.”

“Indeed, do you want to just a matter? Insult others who could help you feel this belief. But you hoped it was so much more. You told yourself there was so much more. This gave you more than enough commitment to carry on with it. What was it all about? There’s so many questions that were made and answered. And you were getting no closer of the solution. What did that do? You believe that you were moving forward. You would make the strides. But none of it was just meant to last. None of it was really for the long term. You almost felt helpless recognizing the dangers. What made you believe that things were running in your favor? There was enough to figure out. Did you really have the means? Did you surrender to the moment? You were pretending that you were triumphant. But you could’ve given up. This could explain why everything seem to be only a personal solution. To gratify the self. The individual believe that there was so much more there. But you were back to the same situation.”

“They were battling for ascendancy. All the while, you could feel it all slipping away. There was too much to worry about. You should’ve been more authoritative. You simply lacked that outlook. You could see those things happening in your immediate vicinity. But you had difficulty obtaining an outlook about the world. There were so many things happening at once. There’s so many things throw you off your game. But you still tried to look like a wonder. And that was all that seem to matter. This was all about togetherness. This was shit. This had worldwide implications, or did it? If you kept selling yourself short, would settle for less? And you seemed to be doing this time and time again. This added to your doubt.

The underground was supposed to be the means to overcome a feeling of social neglect. This could be related to a view of the socioeconomic system. But you tried to shy away from the universality. If you could just find the means for self expression, that would seem to put everything else in suspense. And you could feel good about your experience. That was enough to make it a go. They didn’t seem to be any other way to see this. You held on. You manipulated the resources. You created your own vision. That was sufficient to advance your belief. I convinced you that you were in control. You didn’t see how the chaotic was interfering with your mission. You had already found clarity. That was all that you wanted.”

“You had made your stand. But everything seem to explode around here. And you didn’t achieve that certainty that you had hoped for. You felt yourself being ripped in two. Always is about? Where was the scoring? Who else was involved in this way. Your fear became evident. He didn’t want this to speak for you. There was a sense of awareness so you stuck to the historical moment, and you did your best to make something of it.

“Sometimes, the underground would follow a completely different path. The individual might be seen as rebellious. But the behavior struck a chord with the worst elements of the

society. There was no real effort to craft a different perspective about the world. The self simply became more taken by its own achievements. This halted the overall development. It was entirely personal. There was no vision. There was really no hope for a better world. This was simply an excuse for someone to drain the spoils. That was not all there was. The self could resort to this rebellious gesture in an effort to craft a more appealing image. It was all based on total allegiance to an oppressive model. But it made the individual seemed to be iconoclastic. This was a different way of presenting the world.”

“More than ever, this seemed like a pose. It seemed like a personal attitude. There was no sense of transforming social interactions. People simply accommodated with the world. And there was this radical commitment, but there was nothing else. The individual simply was looking for flattery from others. And that would be enough in itself.”

“Particularly ruthless characters hide in plain sight. He may have style; he has his own level of appeal. But his goals are personal, and he manipulates the situation for his benefit. In fact, this is his nature. In other social situations, his weaknesses might be more glaring. He has limited ability, and this would be evident in a more traditional environment. He takes advantage of the situation to advance his own beliefs. He makes a real effort of being charming, when a great deal of that is false. Unfortunately, he’s dealing with people with a little experience. And he’s able to convince them with his sense of certainty. Under these conditions, it’s really easy for him to manipulate people. They only recognize what is happened after he has done his damage. This is the nature of his personality. He’s very much like a snake. He’s surreptitious. He sneaks up on the individual. And she finds that there’s little she can do to resist. He seems to accentuate that wildness within a person. This makes him more adapt.”

“This is all her doing. She feels that he has some kind of special power. He does this so much that there’s an element of dexterity. Nevertheless, anyone who is watching this from the outside can see his evident limitations. He does everything that he can to make up for that situation. He’s very insidious. Sometimes he realizes this. From the outside, he almost appears comical. The underground seems to feed on characters like this.. It’s not just their method. They seem to give an authority to the underground. This is all part of his nature under these circumstances, it would seem as if the whole project was in jeopardy. I couldn’t propose itself as an underground when it was advancing the worst successes of the system. He couldn’t operate in any other way. In more traditional society, his weaknesses would be exposed. That hardly meant that people like him were more unscrupulous. They seemed to understand the system better than he did. His method was haphazard at best. He substituted this with an incredible desire on his own part. Even still, he really did like the will to impress his beliefs on the world. This added to the sense of discomfort on his part he barely understood. And there was almost a sense of conformity in his attitude. Thus, he was able to tap in to the inadequacies of others, and take care of those who felt insecure about their place in society.”

“He seemed to confirm this reality as if he was some kind of genius. This was the furthest from the case, but that did not stop him from believing, and he learn little tricks to affect others in this way. Sometimes he would rely on technical knowledge. The underground had developed from a sense of emotional assertiveness. Now and then he moved into another direction. These characters could seem more self-sufficient. And sometimes, they even lacked any connection at all to an oppositional culture. Everything was no show up. And he knew how to get things

moving again and again. His unusual character was contrasted with others who had even less invested in the process of social change. For them, it was even more about their unusual lifestyles. These successes really had no grounding in any sense of a transformational outlook. It was all about accepting certain norms of behavior that permitted individuals to explore the more outlandish sides of their character. Even though the social contradictions seem to persist, the individual made a special effort to resolve these challenges as a way of going along with the status quo. For that brief moment, the person might believe that she was different. She could feel those emotions getting knighted within her soul. And she embrace those appeals. More than ever, she was battling for a place at the time.”

“This meant that she needed to keep moving. If she slowed down, she would lose her commitment to a long lasting understanding. She would be totally exposed for her lack of probity. Instead, she had always been carried along by these currents, and she seemed all the more interesting as she articulated her character. With all this was going on at once, it became almost impossible to consider the influences of any kind of underground culture. Everything existed in the moment. Everything existed in the body. When the body seemed to fail, there was always memory. But this vision hardened. There was a pose. There was a nostalgia. But nothing seemed to go anywhere. Everything was waylaid. The ship of state had run aground.”

“The underground lost its motivation. It seem to be concerned with one thing. How could the individual attain altered states of consciousness? It didn’t matter if someone could create this kind of awareness through a more sustained analysis. The participants wanted a more immediate gratification. And experience seem to offer them this kind of wonder. If that was all otherwise, it would be difficult to develop a more sustained political argument. Even those who started out with some kind of awareness were even more victims of the overall situation. They believe that their heightened state of awareness justified their process of discovery.”

“Again, they liked a sufficient analytical foundation. In this way, they had a limited creative understanding. The underground may have promised the fruits of an art movement. Nevertheless, it was now being elaborated as a totally visceral experience. Any conscious awareness was meant to facilitate this outlook. Thus, there really was no kind of perception that distinguished this experience for many other. And it may have seemed more intense at times. It was just that. There was nothing else to assist in the overall exploration. This created a greater emphasis on the youth. People might be fascinated by the supernatural. Or they were given to the promises of science-fiction. Even in doing so, they believed that they were involved in a different kind of knowledge. They were convinced that this fiction was their new science.”

“Although though the individual might try to manipulate the situation, there was really no way to expose his actions. And all came down to one thing: if he could continue to be late for the party, he could infiltrate any scene. He was never looking for much more. He’d be long gone before the truth would start to settle in.”

“The underground may have been poised to reverse the social processes. And we were starting to completely accommodate with the existing reality. People could use the symbols of an oppositional culture, but the real effects would mean that the individual only went along with all this happening. In many ways, how could it ever be any different? Individuals felt overwhelmed by their world. They would do anything to zone out. And the underground seemed to push this moment. The self believed even more in this possibility.”

“The underground face a sense of a letdown. And even though I tried to advance a different way of seeing, it was based on critical challenges. It could simply be a remedy for the challenge the difficulties of every day life. It’s promise of a new world could be limited. It could reinforce those social structures that it was trying to escape. This kind of belief was overwhelming in itself. The individual might believe that there were the means to escape these negative influences. Indeed a systematic approach might lead to this understanding. Nevertheless, such a commitment could fail to counteract the basic inadequacies in the individual’s experience. People might be more attracted to basic principles of self actualization. This could appear to result in immediate satisfaction for the individual. There could even be than enough resources to propel a person along a new path. Nevertheless, this kind of allegiance sustained a deep fund of observed inequities. This would almost be the basis for the self to throw up one’s hands and Claim nothing could be done. The underground was an echo in the wilderness, and the sound would be lost. How else could a person approach this vision.?”

“These are the conditions for change. But the basic principles remain the same. Things are fairly clear. The process is not an abstraction. It goes to the heart of experience.”

“ And these basic challenges occurred day in and day out. People would try to resist things are happening in their immediate experience. They could even be dealing with your facts about childhood. This same kind of treatment could occur again and again. That itself would be reason enough to find a new way of living. For many, there wasn’t much else to say. This all happened in the moment. So they need a quick response. It wasn’t always about some complex belief system. The underground could describe a set of defensive gestures on their part even if it did not accommodate for all the experiences that were going on. It might not have pierced to the root, the source of the problems. But there was some thing immediate about the lifestyle and this was everything. This wasn’t so much an appeal to theory. This was a way of adjusting to the conditions. It was a way of accommodating to the now.”

“The individual might seek a basis for further resistance. But an observer could describe this as escape. This created divergence of strategies. Some were attached to these evident rewards. If they were particularly adept, they might even questioningly who is thinking in a more global manner. In fact, it’s created a rift within the underground. Nevertheless, culture would make an attempt to create experiences to distract everyone and make them feel that they were working together. This was enough of a challenge in and of its self.”

The underground had been cultivated as a movement to a band in an oppressive society. However, the very character of this movement could exaggerate the efforts of individuals in this culture. Instead of addressing the actual foundations of an equity, individuals could believe that they had greater stuff agency. Or they could attach their self agency to some kind of initiation that were all part of an underground culture. As such, the underground did not serve a contest. And it would be necessary to find a more elaborate way of thinking that could provide a foundation for a more critical outlook. It was easy to lose one’s place. These kinds of cultures were originally much more isolated. But this isolation ended up contributing to a sense of hierarchy. A quick success in the underground made a person susceptible to getting caught up in the pursuits of the dominant culture. The individual’s commitment could easily be bought out by the highest bitter. In fact, this was often the motivation for some participants. They took pride in their craft. But they ceased any kind of self critical examination. They accepted things as they were.”

“Could you ever know what it would take to make a breakthrough? You were devoted to your life as it was. Could you see it as a stepping stone? There was no rip in the fabric.”

“How can I change this? How can I alter the situation? Are all these factors working against me? I believe that I have an understanding of my own. Do you understand the structure of your society? Do you see where it breaks down? Doesn't it break down close to you? Who are you feeding? Who are you benefiting? At what point, do you say I need to stop? Do I need to quit? Come along with me: we are going on a long journey. Is this a vacation? Who's gonna pay for the gas? This becomes the real question. I'm paying with my wife and my love. I'm giving more than you ever had. What do you need from me? I only need to put 1 foot in front of the other, and everything will make sense. How do I know? What is holding us together? What is breaking us apart? You have a few key elements. Where does it go? Where does any of this go? How can I say this any different way?”

“You've got everything you want. But there's so many things that you can't want. There's so many things that you don't even know that exist. You can't even ask for them. What kind of excitement do you have? It doesn't all work out. They say it does they write it off. They replace anyone who thinks differently. The purpose of this job is to write things off. Then there are the few people tasked with fixing things up. Like fixing up souls. But everything is broken.”

“Do you know why I stopped you? Do you know what I want from you? I can see in your eyes. That is what the underground has done. It has enabled people to make total amends with the society because they buy into the myth. And they think that their hard work is contributing to a different outlook about the world. Where does any of this go? What is any of this based on? Who is contributing? These are people who care about people. These are people who don't care. Some days I think I've got it all worked out.”

“I've got the simple version. You are the simple version. You're the love of my life. This is a joke. I only have one thing here. I hear a noise so around me.”

“Nothing moves. Nothing changes. Everything changes; she's a beautiful variation. I'm glad that you like it. I'm glad that you lost all sense of class consciousness. You believe it's a myth. You believe that it's you feeling sorry for yourself. And you do feel spent a lot of time feeling sorry for yourself. So use that time as a way of dismissing the real critiques offered by people in the know. These are people who respire for more. What's in the meal? Is that good stuff? I want the caramel corn. I want the mix. Everything is perfect. You were perfect. I love this. I couldn't be better. It's tasty. It's moving. I can't stop to make it happen.”

“The underground is simply an alternative contour. We have become accustomed to alternatives. It is a market among many. Individual seek different markets to help them realize their vision. What is really being said. What is the force that makes us the way that we are. It is in fashion. It is out of fashion. Does it make a difference? You have an opinion. You change the dye. You treat the fabric. Is this a symbol, or is it the real thing? Do you think that you can stop this?”

“The underground originally described a challenge to the dominant culture. This connection no longer applies. The underground is only a facet of the mainstream culture. It continue to function in this manner. Any attempts to constitute an independent underground culture contradicts the terms whereby people experience the world. The underground is no different in intent than any other form of cultural interaction.”

“Short of death, you cannot threaten me. I have the awareness and the tools to bring this system to its knees.”

“No one else will ever know.”

“What do you know? What do you understand that no one else knows?”

“Ryan is understanding person. And she will not let anyone mess with her head.”

“She is already a head above everyone else.”

“What do you know that no one else knows?”

“I put in my hours.”

“And you can make crisper chips.”

“I do not understand.”

“You are not meant to understand.”

“Good work.”

“I serve the chips.

“Do you make the chips?”

“How does delivery change the situation?”

“You are all going to have to take a stand. Work together.”

“People only take a stand to advance hate.”

“What does that ever mean?”

“Do some thing different.”

“Why should I listen to the same thing over and over again?”

“This is my love.”

“This is my life.”

“There are so many people who could do t for you.”

“He really does it for you.”

“That is the question.”

“They all love you, Ryan.”

“Ryan is articulate.”

“What is underground?”

“The underground culture helped Ryan to develop a sense of originality. But her originality only makes her go along.”

“Violet, how can you get out?”

“No one gets out.”

“I could go home with you.”

“I have someone.”

“Eat the snack food.”

“The food is there to help continue the system of belief.”

“What do you have there?”

“I need a quick fix. Not too much.”

“They need burgers.”

“What are you doing now?”

“I am an ambassador.”

“What do we need to add to your resume?”

“I am training.”

“I am doing a lot to become who and what I am.”
 “And what is that?”
 “You ruined my vibe.”
 “How does that work, mama?”
 “No one knows anything. No one gets anything.”
 “I feel as if you know.”
 “This is a partner thing.”
 “I do not need a partner.”
 “How does it work?”
 “Eat this, and you will be happy.”
 “You will be eternally happen.”
 “Do you grasp where this is going?”
 “Have I blown your mind yet?”
 “Why is this any dfferent?”
 “Which week is this?”
 “Who is going to win?”
 “Do you want to win?”
 “Serve me my meal.”
 “I am going to change up.”
 “What else do you know?”
 “Enter all the kisses as inventory.”
 “What is revenue?”
 “Love.”
 “Good faith.”
 “Bad consciousness.”
 “This is a twisted way of seeing the world.”
 “What does that mean?”
 “A love connection.”
 “You have your way of thinking. How has that changed? How have you gained class
 consciousness? They will wear you down before they build you up.”
 “I am so good. I have overtime over overtime.”
 “Violet says that will not nake any difference.”
 “I am a comic. None of that makes any difference.”
 “You are on the floor all that time. Your body bears the brunt.”
 “I have a bank account.”
 “Why are you pissing away you money right now.”
 “I am making connections.”
 “He does not understand half of what I understand.”
 “What is that?”
 “Why do you think that is not my stuff?”
 “I am a special guest.”
 “I am missing all this shit.”
 “This is not shit. It is a reality.”

“Why do you hide from the world?”
“There are some thing that I do not see.”
“Violet wants to tell you something, Ryan.”
“Work does not work that way. I need to try harder.”
“And harder.”
“How did you get here?”
“What is in the road?”
“Tell me, Ryan.”
“Everyone wants to work harder.”
“And you lost that commitment.”
“What are the goals?”
“I forgot.”
“Do not worry!”
“That is all that I do: I worry.”
“It will get better.”
“That has nothing to do with me.”
“It has everything to do with me.”
“The me forever and ever.”
She nodded her head to the song.
“That was the above ground of the underground.”
“It has no effect.”
“And what do you have?”
“That doesn’t even matter.”
“Matter.”
“Where does this go?”
“Matter.”
“I have this.”
“So does she.”
“This is brilliant.”
“We all get it.”