

Why?

One fundamental question Tristan Scroggins appoints can easily be responded without the possibility of giving a real answer. "Why do people love bluegrass music?"

To come to an answer it is necessary to know what bluegrass music is and I will try to help him by finding a definition (which is on my website) although in my opinion the question will stay unanswerable. Why do people love ... anything?

In its core this question is the same as the question: why do people fall in love with their partner? The answer is: we don't know, we cannot know. One reason or the other people have reasons to fall in love and at the moment they do it seems as if they lose their common sense. There seems to be no sensible or exact reason why they love someone and don't love another. The same happens regarding food or religion, people can't really define why they love some taste and they disgust another. They suddenly are struck by a religious feeling and they change their lives forever, leaving others in complete confusion. Tristan is very clear about his conversion to bluegrass.

From a distance it is possible to indicate factors that might play an important role in

choices like for instance religion. The cultural and religious environment plays an important role in the religion you 'chose'. Living in Asia would almost certainly have made you a Hindu or something like that. Most people marry someone that has lived in their close surroundings all of their lives. Why do they pick out their neighbor instead of a more attractive person on the other side of the globe? And why do others choose someone inconveniently miles away when there is someone next door that is even prettier (in the eyes of others of course)?

I sometimes think that mathematically talented people would prefer playing banjo because of the strict regularity of banjo picking. It seems even possible to organize scientific research at such an issue. But of course the exceptions will be too numerous.

Tristan describes the moment that he got converted to bluegrass as a falling in love at first sight while he has lived all of his life between bluegrass family members of more than average level. He was not obliged to do, but the chance he would, considering his talent, was very great. But when being born in a classical violin family it could have made him a concert violin player just as easy.

In his personal situation there is something easy to explain. When he inherited talent from his father and living in such a - I presume - professional setting for bluegrass it doubles or triples the chance he would choose for bluegrass music too. And living in such a stimulating place with plenty of examples at the highest level around lift him up and brings him also directly on a level that is even more stimulating to develop further.

It almost makes me jealous. This is probably not really nice of me but if there is anyone who doesn't have to worry about the reason why he loves bluegrass music it's Tristan. His problem would rather be to survive in surroundings that are not soaked of bluegrass. The question might even be annotated like this:

Why would people, less talented living in bluegrass-wise harsh countries and considering there is only a very small change to be a successful bluegrass musician, love bluegrass?

They just do.