This Discussion Topic will provide an opportunity to identify musical elements in historical/cultural  contexts (CLO 3).

**Background**

Several weeks ago we encountered modernist composers who wrote music as they saw fit with little regard for audiences.  More recently we encountered Bob Dylan, who, while not so hostile to audiences as the modernists, has nevertheless followed his own artistic impulses while expecting audiences to adjust to them.  The late Beatles gave us a touch of this as well.  Hovering over these discussions has been this question:  what is the right balance between disdaining the public at one extreme and "selling out" to it at the other?

**Assignment**

1) In a single paragraph, post the following:

a. Briefly define your position regarding the right balance (see above); to what degree should artists cater to audiences?

b. Give an example of one of two circumstances:

i. A group or artist that in your opinion has sold out.  On what criterion (or criteria) do you base that opinion?  Is it a shift in musical style?  ... a lowering of musical quality coinciding with a rise in popularity?  ...statements by the artist(s), music critics, fans, or others?

ii. A group or artist that in your opinion has resisted the temptation to sell out.  On what do you base that opinion?

2) Respond in 2-3 sentences to the posting of at least one other student.  You can agree with a. and/or b., disagree, or offer an elaboration on those points.

**Grading**

This extra-credit discussion is worth 30 points broken down as follows:

* Up to 5 points for for a clearly defined position ("a" above).
* Up to 15 points for "b.i." or "b.ii." (above).  In either case you must both identify a group or artist and justify your opinion.
* Up to 10 points for your response.  To get full credit, you must contribute to the discussion, which means having a point and going beyond merely repeating what others in the thread have written.
* Note that there are no late-postings for this forum.