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Music and Social Justice

Jennifer Thomson
Bucknell University

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Hello and welcome to buck no occupied here on 90.5 WV BU Lewisburg thanks for tuning in to have a very exciting show tonight. I have I have many guests here in the studio with me each of them is from a class being offered here this semester. Music 322 music and social justice. So going to briefly introduce each of the students here in the room with me. I have some Nam here I she is a major in market innovation and design, and she's a senior. Vivian is also a senior majoring in chemical engineering. Nicole, another senior graduating with a degree in majoring managing for sustainability. Blake, a sophomore studying contemporary music composition and Ella studying linguistics and Arabic studies. So thank you for coming into the studio this evening. Thank you. I'm wondering if all of you can talk to us a little bit about I want your course is about so we were discussing a lot about problems with prism and socialist reform within prison systems and how we can do to change okay with their what got you interested in taking this particular class. What stood out to you over me. I was the classes in high school a lot on problems within the social justice system and what the nature of how that our little worsen and I wanted to discuss employee take the theory and practice. So to get out there and try to do some about a little more in depth about his problems. I think for me music and social justice. I was really fascinated by activism actually do research on energy issues in central PA with Prof. what in an environment studies and you also study activism and I'm just I'm fascinated by it because I started with her when I was a sophomore and I thought our generation is super apathetic when it comes to social justice issues, and I think last year, especially this year to live. Been completely wrong. I think our generation has stepped up majorly and I love you. I just like love studying. I think it's a cool topic to study academic perspective for me. What attracted me to the course was the music component. We think of music we don't think of it in terms of in terms of social justice that are helping any sort of movement within it, and so within this class, studying different genres of music and studying how they can affect certain change within a type of community I think that's kind of what I had what I originally joined this class war in learning more about that from an academic respect as well. First, your international soul is all have a connection is I not had any way that talk about social issues so that thing and laid off to dolls or myself. This area and find out how how people are using this one of them that what we have in our life. And I thought that not being talking about things that have done about the visit involved in one of social and so a little bit more. How will using music is a way and encourage members that someone if I can ask you all to talk a little bit about how you study music what is actually look like in a classroom setting. Are you are you listening to music quite frequently are you performing music are you watching at home and then talking about it later. What is it look like to analyze music in this way will were more seminar to class. We meet once a week for three hours and were not doing these aching class where it's kind of you listen to it at home and internalize it and talk about in class and it's it's been really interesting because we've been listening to contemporary artists that I guess normally don't associate with activism or social justice 80 Kanye yes, but we been listening is system of a down J Cole G unit the game to sheens recross more and hello and are not just its different to think about music, not

perspective. With all these artist I you know, but you never really knew that there involved in social justice actually like to to play track right now that I for that your classes talked about. It's called the science by murderers and then if I can ask one or two of you to kind of reflect on on those. The larger meanings of this track will call him. I got like white white way, all that right now. I was murderers with the science, wondering if any. My guess the studio would like to break that song down for our listeners so very long, but not necessary. As I music is great if you 50% of music to be dry and social media videos. Being able to use or having this is being passed around to realize and know what is going on and let them know what you change. I think it's really interesting about the song is that the murderers really say prison explicitly too many times in the song, but they're talking all the issues that lead to the current prison system and know their qualms with that and the song is like it's a good very good parallel at two reading that we we did buy enjoy Davis and she's current talks about the cycle that keeps the low cost to be convenient for the prison systems and just like a quote from the song. It's the become victims dependent on the system and the wrapper. He kind of explores and talks about you know the sentencing disparities for drugs and low-level drug crimes and racial disparities, and I think it's a very artistic take on what a lot of us scholars are putting out there and a lot of academic articles are saying is just a very artistic way to represent that he's or the murderers are throwing out all these facts just in a way that you actually want to listen. Vivian you actually mentioning your analysis of the song that not only is he dying getting across all of this information right, but in some way. He's suggesting something that a listener can do what what was your take on that part of it, this question can go for you or for really any any of the students in the room with a sense of even this artist offering like a particular kind of social justice vision right or something that is listeners could do was it more and informational song. I mean for me I think I'm not Vivian I'm Nicole for me. I think it's way more informational heat he kindest talks about the institutional problems in society and what leads to the prison system being the way it is no pea-sized. They want you to fill in and up in jail you know that they make a lot of money while you're in jail like alleged I think it's kind of more informative than providing any thought as to how do we fix this. It's free. It's informative about the lady you okay laying it on. Think I told you about that is what it is. Okay, follow EN, but it felt like with direct talking and talking to my nation that is affecting me daily distant truly say I going Vivian said that I think within itself is a form of social justice and activism so I'm may have been informative. Like she was saying the content and the manner in the rhetoric that he was delivering his message and was showing the people that this is a problem that what were going through needs to change. But he may not have answered just like a lot of us when I have answer for many other sorts of problems and issues, see listening to, but not occupied here on 90.5 WV BUI have five wonderful students in the studio with me tonight talking about their course music and social justice. I if any listeners want to give us a call here in the studio. The number is 570-577-3489 so your classes called music and social justice. But the sense that I get is that you really concentrated quite a bit on prison industrial complex. Some wondering if you can talk to us a little bit about

that, what's the what's the way in which your course has directed its attention towards the prison system is problems have five major issues that try to hide job and yeah I the prison industrial complexes. It's a public entity. Prisons are public entity, but there being incentivized for private profit and you know we've been reading all these articles especially enjoyed G. Davis and prison labor is a pot of gold. There's no strikes, there's no union organization. There is no health benefits, and corporations are able to make their products really cheap Victoria's Secret Starbucks. I think a couple tech companies that they use prison labor to make their products and I think that's something not a lot of us don't know the general consumer does not know, and I think it's really interesting is management major that prison stock prison stock looks really good. A lot of these private prisons are publicly traded and people do invest in them and people make a fortune. It's really interesting and some private prisons are also categorized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit so just. It's interesting to look at it from a management perspective to as that. It's been my major. I think a lot of it is hidden. I think a lot of people don't know about this prison industrial complex, and this idea of a public entity being incentivized for private profit. I don't know. I think a lot of people would have qualms with it if they knew about it. I just don't think a lot of people know about this and that's why think a lot of us are taking this class and tying her friends about it and you having conversations starts with a conversation in doing radio show. I believe that this is anything wrong but why would taking the varying social lease without the rest. Like last think that is one one of the cited into it's really because we we can have you doing and investigating how how exactly the system is working with people that are so so actually we were talking earlier you use this word to hide right and you talked about how that you know the prison system was designed to hide five problems right five things that are considered problems within our society and Nicole again. You came back to this idea of of the prison system being hit it right into wondering if you can. If you can talk about that the hedonists right in the fact that the prison system is itself trying to hide problems to me. Maybe one way to talk about it would be just in terms of either songs that you you talked about in the class right are there particular artists that try to make it visible in and how today, what would the ways in which they attempt to make this so how is perception is that all problems and on way how is an on our mission will yeah going on said hiding or displacing issues that we perceive in society like like the prison system is effectively displacing people and hiding them from our know it's it's ruining families. Alex and its content contributing to this the cycle that keeps certain neighborhoods and the lower class. In this cycle that they can't break out of and it's just so convenient for private prisons, especially to reap the benefits of this this problem makes an onset it's kind of like magic. It's kind of like an illusion. And I think for us as people not like a lot of us come from communities that a lot of people are no displaced and put in prison, and far like our know it's I think it's hard for us to understand not using why I think it's great that were taking this class. I think it's great that were learning about this yeah on on this issue of invisibility and visibility of the play another track the track by Janelle Monet how you talk about and then ask ask you all to talk about that track for us. Janelle Monet with a track

called hell you told about and I'm going to ask my guess your in studio to talk to us about this track. This track is really important for us because we agree with the names of people that were brutalized by the police force in recent years, and for the audit shows shows how we still have this racial bias store culture and how is going into the social draws the justice system and how we are still how we still have this racist attitude and how we perceive the black community recently in our classes how the black community is being treated unfairly in regards to sentencing. Was it about black men face longer sentences than white men for the same crime think this song really shows it brings up the point about how there is still divided American culture. The black-and-white how we are treated the justices that the well that the system think that will so was I's and sells a life that they left. He left five children and what it was going to. I try to find ways as though ethical will happen when they do end up buying one of the all things to me this this song kind of represents oral history that Blake was talking about with the different with all of the people who were mentioned and it sheds light on people who are kind of were typically seen in a negative light, and forcing those while listening to the song to listen to these people names as reinforcement that we are still here. We we need to remember these names because they are important in the movement of the black lives matter and if you want to look at it from a musical perspective or assorted musical techniques within music. We talked about in class how this song kinda betrays an anthem has a lot of qualities with the beat that was being pretrade and the column response that Jenna and Janelle Monet and everyone else who was speaking what were saying. So we see all these different qualities within the song that allows accessibility to people who may not be familiar with trave on Martin or Freddie Gray or Sandra Bland or whoever else may been spoken and that also just adds more to the dimension of the song and allows people to understanding this only understand but just be a little more familiar and may totally take something from the piece that was presented there saying LME. Is there a missing my work here is there like a psychological effect gets produced by the way in which this song was put together rights of the executive column response aspect unit of the beat. Underlying it all mean is there. Often times I think you know I would imagine many of your conversations have to do with the words of a song right but to think about the interface between the words and then the music that's actually being constructed to convey that well if you notice in the song. There weren't really many words being said it was just names and saying say his name and tying that with let's say like the choir kind of a mistake and although seven things. I think it can joins and losing my way to contagious usually yeah I think something with this implicit, he of the song makes it that much more effective benefit where a bunch of different layers to the song and and budget of more words being said I think I would've taken away from what the message was within the song that make sense. I think that it's really interesting. Like I think it seems like simple song. It seemed as anthem quality, but I think Janelle Monet really thought about it when she was ring the song and note the historical implications of just know like beats and the common response we Mary was in our class. She's Nigerian and she's hiding at the historical and cultural implications of that type of

drumming. It means calls were Nigeria and I think Janelle Monet Blake Aro's masterpiece, it's really an anthem, it represents no issues going on in the cultural backgrounds of those that are in this situation I yeah it's it's a great piece in the all of it so I think another case that you will talk about your classes is one from relatively close by. From Muncie the Muncie women's prison I and and effected the case of the lady lifers so I was going to play the track, but I'm wondering if if we can switch it up a little bit and if if you can all actually I introduce the track and then and then I'll play it from listeners. So this track leading lifers on these women made this song to talk about their story. These women are elderly elderly. After the older Thursday 50 6C and their wafers, their bounds by a mandatory sentencing for life and a lot of these women you say will I see my family or die alone and they kind of reflectance either not guilty, but they're asking to be forgives and no. 34 years in prison. People change. People can change and is a mandatory life sentence is it is it really needed so they reflect on that through the song and they write lyrics and its superpowerful think I'm watching a cursor turning circle for all her listeners give us once again open. I think our technical difficulties in the studio are overwhelming my computer. If this check comes up we will talk about this track. I apologize to listeners out there that is not coming up right away so can I ask you all to talk about your understandings of social justice and whether or not they've changed and not necessarily just over the course of this class, but just whether they changed over the past few years for you anybody. I really enjoy seeing my both and it was really exciting thing was giving you as though they had one. Drinking one half. Each and so really: you want on the end so that the thing is different and medium height needed one so they got the wind together to find all so I will I self identify as environmentalists and I think environmentalism is intertwined with social justice issues. I know I perceive social justice EB equal access equal opportunity to Maslow's hierarchy of needs you beyond need physiologic physiological DOC 50, love and belonging, esteem and self-actualization and we should all have equal opportunity way in achieving and I think I think there's just there's a lot of barriers so that in thoughts reason why there's a difference between social equality and social justice, and I really love what Vivian was talking about the Facebook post I think you know that sums up what social justice is sorry number the first day of class we were asked recently, the same question and I had a hard time answering it because I reread Gould the term activism. For example, and will pop up was a policy or action of using vigorous spaghetti that was campaigning to bring about a political or social change, and I thought to myself, have I done anything to that. That aligns with this definition and I couldn't really think of anything but then as we were talking in the discussion. I don't member who would someone bought up the idea of consciousness-raising which is expanding people's mind on certain issues, so I deftly and I like Vivian's example. But I also think that simply bringing awareness to certain issues that others may not know about that. Something that's an example of social justice or activism because people may not know what's going on in the world and for those people who don't understand. I don't know. Best opportunity for us to provide that knowledge that we know that other people don't something that's my example that I learned in

class and that I think I've at least tried to. So for example I am because I can surmise of an ally within the LGBT Q movement and spitting awareness to people who don't understand that sort of life at all. I think that's a concrete example of how social justice or social activism, or any sort of scent synonym pertains to make sense to want to jump so high on this issue was our and more off the student is much because the resources I will giving on the rear. A very brief one minute break I hear about them occupied and be back to continue the conversation will physical activity. They will help get your child help them activate well every day in day well get involved, get going....Go.GOP just yet you vacuum button occupied on 90.5 WV BU Lewisburg I have five students in the studio with me tonight talking about the work they've been doing in their class music and social justice. If anyone out there wants to give us a call here in the studio. The number is 570577 3489 so all of you been doing quite a bit if I academic reading in an obviously a discussion of the prison system right how do you want to see a change I do mean now that you know what you know what kinds of changes you want to see come about how all thinking how all problems should be like. This is one of think that with education awards. The literacy is very important for avoiding that 5% of juveniles recent court sentences are functionally literate, and 60% of prison inmates are also ordered and that's where we'll see a diverse little nature of the problem where if you are illiterate and you have children, how his wallet is very difficult and have children that could grovel literate unlike yourself and us out. We break a problem is with a stronger education program education system all across the country that you see a lot of they change. Selah. One so much when you start the thing started. I think the reason why so how the jobs are and how though, no matter what job even though you don't really need the skills that you got school why it might have. So you need to live with what is expected of and me. No one like you want and what date and how he met Holly sure that this is okay and what the lesson was distant and out how we measure the legal back. We just let them be and let them go. You have a record is getting off is made so we felt that that cycle cannot I completely agree with that. I think society as a whole needs to stop treating people that come out of prison. Blake like not not letting them have equal opportunity employment at the and not being able to not being able to vote. I think those two things are very inhibiting and they don't allow people to break out of this cycle. I also think that decriminalizing recreational use of some drugs it.need stop in at. There's so many countries, especially Portugal. They've had such great success with decriminalizing use of certain drugs and why are we still do not like you know it's just it blows my mind because everybody should be a criminal. I guess I don't not like seriously like it's I think our generation is very open to the idea decriminalizing a lot of things that are considered criminal. Now I on having health phones by that five them is trying to help nation on earth shall so everyone basically said some really good stuff leave you with what they been saying just going up with something I'm set for like the system now from a general perspective focuses on allowing retribution. The idea that you like the crime you do is kind of reflective of your sentence and I like to see a more rehabilitative type outcome with with people who go into the system, especially with children. Or as we like to call juvenile delinquents, I think,

especially from a youth perspective that has big of a big effect on one's life going into the prison system and if there were more rehabilitative methods when it comes to getting out of that system, or out of prison. Once your sentence is over or even before your sentence is from the from the get-go. I don't know I just I want to see more positive enemy the right word but were optimistic optimistic ways of changing release from youth. The youth one of you just their experience in the system X retribution and you know the idea of prison is needed something. Here's your sentence and your paying your time while you're in prison and once you get out you know you've done your time learns why remaking all these obstacles for people to succeed. Like anything they need more of a push in more of a support system to succeed then people haven't gone through that and it's I just don't see the point in burning a scarlet letter in like someone's like felons can't vote and being a felon is, especially if you even get out of prison. It's extremely hard to find employment. You know I think once you're out of prison. You've done your time you've learned about yourself better yourself hopefully and there should be no reason that were not societies a whole is not here to support them getting back into the hang of things and supporting them to become safe, self-sufficient people in society and helping others. 10 years down the road in the same and this after like hearing what you said it's interesting because like a lot of what we say is very idealistic, so idealistic were you know the generation of people but but I actually to degree think is realistic. After that we have to apply ourselves and it starts with us talking about a startled conversation and I think like we have the ability to to affect and change policy or change the system that we are currently talking about anybody in here. Just think we should abolish the prison system altogether arming you been reading Angela Davis item. This is one of her central arguments that hear you. I hear a lot of physicians on reform word or shifting funding from punishment towards education, which is fine but you don't butts up against things like the fact that in the society. Education doesn't really remedy people social position anymore. So personally I don't think we should abolish the prison system because I've heard stories that of people who have gone into the system has benefited their lives so I'm I don't think we should completely abolish. I just think changing certain policies, orders, certain aspects of the system that affects so many people for something so trivial as recreational drug use or something like that. I think that's those sorts of things we should be changing on this is only the entire or abolishing it completely but I think some people do need to experience, as I never could've the same is but some people do need to experience a certain punishment for specific type of crime something like murder, like something something is like no largest murder or to that degree. I think letting them off easy is and this is only the answer but I think for other things they should change. For those things before speaking idealistically. I think the best method you have is a bridge between nonviolent and violent crimes having more reform for the nonviolent crimes to help them better themselves and to just get back on the right track and should be with violent crimes in the aleck I was should be some type of punishment. Reflection rather than just kind of wedding them all but you don't agree should be abolished and you like completely juice will be some type of system to keep people in truck. I am asking

you to listen to one more song here. This was given to me by one of your classmates system of a down prison song is his first alright so that was down prison song. Please analyze it for us covertly or will this is a very aggressive song is very but is very is also room for is very much like members not John was "on the content is very informed is what affects their craving into this piece is really interesting holder combined with the aggressive tone. The song is deftly very anxiety and something that I that I took note of was similar to the Janelle Monet song the repetition that China built a prison I think it deftly adds in a different way and in a different genre in a different, maybe even audience though the anthem feel that you that we've that I felt within that song. So we wanted to add. I don't know, and I noticed how much of it off until then I was anything that goes back to show how this to understand how they roll out. I saw one last question for you all here tonight, which is that our largest and most consistent body listeners is at the prison infected USB Lewisburg. So what would you like to say to the inmates of and I can meeting with the thing that I felt how you all talking to them and get bated face to what is going on and realizing that by me. I learned so much wrong and that this action and my wife went down. So when I go this, but I think we as a society like to put labels on people who are different than us as a power dynamic and I note that I said we are we likely was on people. We are all people we are no different from one another. Other then maybe the particle activities were involved in, or the things we do and I guess what I guess on I will where I'm going with that. But what I noticed also by being by going to the prison. Is there so much more like me than I realized. And every time I go I smile like these are real people you know more people I don't know what are like this, but I'm so happy when I meet people who society deems less than because it shows me that they really aren't less than we really the same. If that makes any sense at all. But yeah, you guys are all people. But I say thank you all for coming into the studio tonight. I know that some of you, along with others of your classmates will be back in two weeks to talk a little bit more about the kind of warfare class has been doing, but I for she's putting the time tonight in studio Simon to put music on and then I will be back to talk about the 49th anniversary of the Black Panther party's founding. All is you see that was a group called dome Londoner with the track on Joe Gabrielle before that was Moses, somebody with a track called plastic and listening here to Bucknell occupied a 90.5 WV BU Lewisburg today. October 15 is the anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther party, 49 years ago in Oakland, California, and so I thought to commemorate that awesome day. I would play a recording of founding member Bobby seal reading the Black Panther's original 10 point program. Enjoy this get into the workings and the meaning of his work is in the meeting of a black revolution why black people have a right to take was they read the platform of the program basic program simply says exactly what black people of been crying for for 400 one one freedom powered term of this loan to one full employment while three thousand show human being for one in the robbery black women writers five what these education pieces about nature raises education history and our roles world 61 all-black road motors serve seven seven 81 all-black brothers is held in rural County state city deals have tried to have no understanding of every

man, nine quarts actual peers on the jury is defined by the so-called June that is more rigid housing over education just more peace black beside you in black lung is just penalizing objecting law, the race trust blood that was Bobby seal reading the Black Panther party's 10 point program October 15, 1966, the Black Panther party for self-defense was founded in Oakland, California by Huey Newton and Bobby seal originally what they did was perform armed police patrols, meaning that they would observe encounters between East Bay cops and black residents in order to watch whether the police were in fact filing the rights of the black Americans that they were interacting with a quickly expanded their programs to encompass a wide range of community programs I in particular, the free breakfast for children program, community clinics and free food programs. The free breakfast program was declared by Jaeger Hoover in 1970 to be the greatest threat to national security. Ironically enough, it was after the demise of the Black Panther party that the federal government itself began a free breakfast program for all school age children, so that your week and radical history with the Black Panther party earlier this hour I had five students from music and social justice in here talking about the work that they've been doing in their class. The connection between music, social justice, and the prison industrial complex. I sadly none of them believed that the prison system should be abolished, but perhaps on their next visit. I will convince them of this. They are coming back in two weeks. Next week here on the show. I will have the cast and possibly the crew of the upcoming play here on campus radium girls. It is a play about the poisoning of radium dial painters in the early 1920s. These are women factory workers who would paint luminous radium paint on the dials of wristwatches. They knew at least the people giving them the paint knew that it was laced with radium that was in fact the substance that made the dials luminous at night. But as we all know radium is carcinogenic and so these women developed eyes highly invasive cancers, particularly in the throat and in their jaws, so the cast and crew will be on here to talk about the performance. Hopefully we can talk a little bit about the historical context of the case itself. That is all I have for you tonight. Thank you for tuning into bug now occupied by here on 90.5 WV BU I and for anybody listening at the prison. I'm sure you've heard this ad nauseam but please do send your playlists in a DJ. Will has his prisoner request show every Sunday from 3 to 5. So if you have a playlist for him. You can send it to WV BU at Bucknell University Lewisburg, PA 17837. Have a good night