

# Understanding Freddie Mercury's Meanings in his Selected Songs

5347Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry (TOJQI)  
Volume 12, Issue 6, July, 2021: 5411-5414  
Research Article

## Understanding Freddie Mercury's Meanings in his Selected Songs

Rini Russal

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer in English, Bishop Jesudasan C.S.I Arts and Science College, Mulayara, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. Affiliated to University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

### Abstract

Freddie Mercury was a British singer, songwriter, record producer, and lead vocalist of the rock band Queen. The aim of the study is to analyze how Freddie Mercury used music to express his feelings. This dissertation titled Understanding Freddie Mercury's Meanings is designed to identify the role of music and Queen Band on Freddie Mercury's life. The paper introduces Freddie Mercury and explains how he used music as a communicating medium. The study tries to understand the underlying expression behind his three selected songs: Bohemian Rhapsody, Somebody to Love, Show Must Go On. They sum up Freddie Mercury's life. The paper concludes the study bringing together the meanings Mercury intended to portray through the songs

I'm not afraid to speak out and say the things I want to, or do the things I want to do. So I think in the end being natural and being actually genuine is what wins, and I hope it comes out in my song.....

-Freddie Mercury

Freddie Mercury was a singer-songwriter and musician whose music reached the top of U.S. and British charts in the 1970s and 1980. Mercury defied the conventions of a rock frontman, with his highly theatrical style influencing the artistic direction of Queen. Freddie Mercury helped to make Queen one of the biggest rock bands ever and he is undoubtedly regarded as one of the greatest singers in the history of rock music. He made a reputed place as one of the most popular song writers of his generation. Freddie Mercury wrote many classic hits for Queen, including Killer Queen, Bohemian Rhapsody, Somebody To Love, We Are The Champions, Don't Stop Me Now, Crazy Little Thing Called Love, Show Must Go On etc.

Bohemian Rhapsody, Somebody To Love and Show Must Go On are the songs that sum up Freddie Mercury's life. These songs play an important role in Mercury's life. Bohemian Rhapsody is the master piece of Queen, it was released in 1979. The song was released at an

astonishing five minutes and fifty-five seconds. Through this song he was starting to come to term with his bisexuality and his relationship with Mary Austin was falling apart. About Bohemian Rhapsody Mercury he stated that, it's one of those songs which have such a fantasy feel about it. People should just listen to it, think about it and then make up their own minds as to what it says to them. Somebody To Love and Show Must Go On are other two impressive hits of Queen

In the song Bohemian Rhapsody we get an outline on Freddie's sufferings of life. Simply Bohemian Rhapsody lyrics were just about relationships and a bit of nonsense in the middle. The song contains Freddie's deepest secrets. The lyrics have so many meanings depending on how we understand it. Freddie once said,

It's one of those songs which have such a fantasy feel about it.

I think people should just listen to it, think about it and then make their own minds as to what it says to them....

Bohemian Rhapsody didn't just come out of thin air.

I did a bit of research although it was tongue-in-cheek and mock opera?

Why not?

There are several reasons why Bohemian Rhapsody is so great, and the main reasons are: Freddie sang it, wrote it and it is one of Queen's best! The song is about mercury's sexuality, personal life, though it is a masterpiece itself. The intro of the song refers to Mercury's mixture of feelings, confusion and happiness. The ballad section is the part of the song that speaks about Freddie himself and he may have lost something or may have felt bad again about his religion which is against his new-found sexuality. The operatic part, which Freddie is reflecting on all he feels about his religion, the music, the art and everything. The hard rock part is an escape from all of the struggles in life, the main reason why he wrote the song. In the ending section and returns to his original state. He put a lot of work into this song and with the help of his band mates, the song had become a masterpiece.

Somebody To Love was debuted on the Queen band's 1976 album A Day at the Race and also appears on their 1981 compilation album Greatest Hits. This song has some similarities to Queen's earlier hit Bohemian Rhapsody with its complex harmonies and guitar solo. The song is a soul-reaching piece that questions god's role in a life without love.

Somebody To Love is in a form of a gospel. The song doesn't contain any hidden meanings underneath the lyrics. We can see the interesting perspectives of the songwriter when he penned these lyrics. Freddie Mercury, who composed these lyrics, was bisexual. So, the repeating questions that can anybody find me somebody to love? could being bisexual in a society and time when any sexuality other than —heterol was suppressed. It is to find a partner openly in the

## Understanding Freddie Mercury's Meanings in his Selected Songs

society now, but it was difficult during 70s. On the other hand, Freddie Mercury was one of the biggest entertainment icons by the time of the release of this song. So, it would be very difficult to find anybody who will love him for the real person and not the celebrity.

Show Must Go On is marked in the history books as one of the last songs recorded by the late great Freddie Mercury of Queen. As per Brian May, Freddie was in a very bad shape due to complications in AIDS when he recorded the song in 1990. This makes The Show Must Go On one of the true reflections on Freddie's attitude to life, as he is The Showman of Rock music from 80's to-date. The Show Must Go On made into Queen's 1991 album 'Great Hits 11' released six weeks before Mercury's death. The song has cracked into top ten positions in almost all the country's music charts at some point. From the Queen Biopic movie Bohemian Rhapsody, we can see how Freddie Mercury pushed the band to break into the world arena and how his vocals helped the band to become one of the biggest bands in the world through decades.

Death is inevitable, but people have to power through until the end, even when it is difficult. The show, used to symbolize life in general, has to be enjoyed while it is still possible to get the most out of it, and continued in a strong and determined way by those who remain who must try to move on.

Analysing these three songs and summarising it, Queen Band act as a way to express Freddie Mercury's thoughts and feelings to the society. When pass through Mercury's life we can find that he was facing many sufferings from society by the reason of his bisexual relationship. Most of his creations, especially through these three songs, he exposes two ways of meanings. One that gives the direct meaning and the other one that gives the indirect meaning through these selected songs of Queen, it is clear that a band can influence a society through some lyrical notes. And an artist can speak to his audience through his music what he really wants to say. Music acts as a medium of communication between singer and his audience. Here Freddie uses his songs to speak about his problems to his audience, like we share our problems to a particular person. Even though Freddie faced so many problems he always feels relieved after sing. From him music is the only way to express his emotions. And of course his band mates also helped him in this. After analysing the songs we can say that his last days were so painful for him. After his death, Queen Band was also can to its death.

### Reference

1. Queen – The Show Must Go On Lyrics | AZLyrics.Com. AZ Lyrics.Com, [www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/queen/theshowmustgoon.html](http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/queen/theshowmustgoon.html). Accessed 1 May 2021.—---.||
2. —Queen – The Show Must Go On (Lyrics Review and Song Meaning).||
3. —Queen – Somebody To Love Lyrics | AZLyrics.Com.|| AZ Lyrics.Com, [www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/queen/somebodytolove.html](http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/queen/somebodytolove.html). Accessed 1 May 2021.
4. —Queen – Somebody to Love (Lyrics Review and Song Meaning).||
5. “Queen - Bohemian Rhapsody Lyrics | AZLyrics.Com.” AZ Lyrics, [www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/queen/bohemianrhapsody.html](http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/queen/bohemianrhapsody.html). Accessed 1 May 2021.

6. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. —Freddie Mercury | Biography, Parents, Songs, & Facts. | Encyclopedia Britannica, [www.britannica.com/biography/Freddie-Mercury](http://www.britannica.com/biography/Freddie-Mercury). Accessed 1 May 2021.