

# Listening log



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Rock Report Listening Log Imagine Album: Emotive Artist: A Perfect Circle

Year of Release: 2004 Rock Style: Alternative Musical Characteristics.

Originally written and recorded by John Lennon, it is hard to imagine that a cover could exceed the work of such a legendary rock music figure.

However, the redux by A Perfect Circle has a much more haunting tone, a minor key used to create a much more socially relevant sound in that it is wistful and with less hope than the original recording gives. Where Lennon seemed to be saying how wonderful it could be if we could just accomplish this, A Perfect Circle manages to discuss how the ideal is unreachable, that the darkness always looms just outside of hope. There is a sadness that is much more explicit than the original that gives a whole new dimension to the beautifully rendered lyrics. Title: Sweet Dreams Album: Sucker Punch Artist:

Emily Browning Year of Release: 2011 Rock Style: Pop Musical

Characteristics: Once again, the remake is more haunting, the music creating a more powerful message in that their seems to be more of a threat than the original sung by Annie Lennox. The music is defined by a more ethereal and dream like synthesized backdrop. The sound of Browning's voice is sweeter than both Annie Lennox or the cover done in 1995 by Marilyn Manson whose tone was far more threatening. Browning creates a wistful, less feminist sound than was created by Lennox, and within the framework of the musical translation, the music sounds more victim oriented than empowering. Comparison The original versions of each of these songs can most easily be identified as pop music, with the Lennox version through the Eurhythmics being a bit more alternative in the popular genre as it was being expressed in the 1980s. Both remakes create their variation through a socially relevant musicality that comments on the current social situation

over that of the original. In the 1970s when Imagine was released, there was still some remnants of hope for social reformation as the world had changed so dramatically during the 60s and 70s. A Perfect Circle represents a far more desolate image of the social landscape, the idea of the world changing hung within the bitterness of the disappointments of the generations of the last few decades. The Browning version of the more empowered version by Lennox reflects the sadness of the female position, vulnerable to exploitation and abuse as revealed within the film Suckerpunch for which this version was created. As a song originally from the 1980s when women were finally beginning to win the battle of equality, the position that they are currently in with the objectification and subjectification sexualizing the female position to the point of defining the female by her sexual nature is revealed in the despair with which Browning expresses her vulnerability.