



fashion week



Rizwan Ahmad



Outfit by Malaysian designer Sharifah Kirana



Munib Nawaz



Collections by designer Shabs (left); and Pink Chiffon (right)



Priya Mulji



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Feel the music within

WHEN I moved to London, I thought going to a gig would be much easier and more frequent, but alas, that hasn't been the case. Either gigs sell out in seconds or I have no one who shares my musical tastes to go with.

I have only one gig booked for this year (so far) and that is Emeli Sandé in April with my good friend Rita Morar. (Actually, I must say super singer Rita was the inspiration for this column).

I love music – guitar riffs and drumbeats give me a sense of peace that nothing else does. Nothing makes me happier than going to a live music show. My favourite genre is rock, but I so love any live music experience. But Rita's love for music stems from a deep understanding of it which maybe many people don't have; music touches her soul, her inner core and inspires her every fibre. Sometimes, when I am at her home sitting in her living room, she just starts to hum a tune and I know that for her, music was meant to be. They say when you're happy you listen to the music in a song and in sadness, you are touched by lyrics.

There are so many artists out there whom we connect with; an artist who I relate to on a personal level is Adele (pictured above) and I am sure many other women do too. Her heartbreak songs remind me of a time when I was going through the exact same emotions. *Hometown Glory* brings back memories of living in Nottingham and *Right As Rain* reminds me that sometimes it is better to be single.

When *Someone Like You* was released and Adele sang it at the Brit Awards a couple of years ago, you could see the sadness in her eyes. Though she had written that song about herself, you could see it touched every person in the world who had suffered a broken heart.

I sit here watching a programme on TV about Pandit Ravi Shankar who sadly passed away last year and it makes you think about how music inspires every part of your life. Especially as an Asian person, music is just there – songs in worship, birth, marriage, death; everything revolves around music. It can take you to places no person can.

There is nothing I enjoy more than standing in an arena of whatever size and hearing that music erupting from the guitar on the stage in front of me. I go into a trance-like state with the rest of the people in that auditorium watching the band performing.

I think we sometimes underestimate the power of music; music is something that affects our lives and always will. Everyone sees and hears music in different ways. If you have different views on music it is okay, if you and your friends like different types of music, that is okay too. We just need to continue to believe in the healing power of music and never forget that it will be here for us unconditionally.