Guides for:
***Ain't No Way*, Aretha Franklin; *Something Inside Me*, Elmore James; *Everybody Hurts*, REM; *Symphony Nº3 (Symphony of Sorrowful Songs)*, Henryk Górecki**

A few months ago, I went to pick up my friend at the airport. It was a long drive to Chicago, and I spent the time singing along to blues music (full blast). The cars driving along with me must have thought that I was nuts! I love blues music. It corresponds with my heart and my experience of life. It makes me feel alive.

My friend got into the car, and I politely turned the music down. We talked about his trip. It was "surface talk"--the kind of conversation that doesn't go very deep, the type of conversation that lacks meaning. As we settled in for the drive home, it got a bit quiet, so I nudged up the stereo volume a bit.

It was a really good song! So I edged it up a bit more. My friend said nothing… So I turned it up more. I said: "I love the blues--it is some of my favorite music." He looked uncomfortable. I asked him: "Do you like it?" And what he said struck me--it struck me enough to remain silent for awhile. He said: "No, I only listen to music that makes me feel happy." I switched the channel.

What are your thoughts on this statement? "I only listen to music that makes me feel happy." What does this really mean? (Brief discussion)

Pay attention to these themes (We will come back to these in discussion)...

- What is the purpose of music?
- What is the human experience?
- How can we find meaning in suffering? (Christ comes to me in my suffering…)
- How can we avoid reducing this experience?
- Where can we find beauty in the grittiness of humanity? (Love, deeds, In the eyes of another)
- How is there joy in sadness?
- What is your experience of being sad? What about homesickness or yearning?
- Have you ever been "thirsty for love"?
- What does it mean to be 'fully alive'?

Pay attention to the tone and momentum of the music…

- What is the tone?
- Does it speed up or slow down in any parts?
- How does the singer's voice sound? Gritty? Full of life? Yearning? Etc.
- Think about the genre of the piece… How does this affect the mood?