

THE EVOLUTION OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Compiled for

IOWA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

by

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Donna Parsons Williams grew up as a member of the Bangor Friends Meeting. Her other church memberships have included Cedar Rapids Friends and Marshalltown First Friends.

Spending many hours studying music with Dr. Elias Blum, Donna graduated from William Penn College in 1949. She received her Masters of Arts degree with a major in music from the University of Iowa in 1966. Donna served the Iowa public schools for thirty-six years as both a vocal and instrumental music instructor.

Donna has been a lifelong church musician. She currently directs the Palm Shadows church choir in Donna, Texas, through the winter. In the past she has also directed choirs for Baptist, Methodist, and Friends churches.

"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." Psalms 104:33

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
As you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom,
And as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
With gratitude in your hearts to God.
And whatever you do, whether in word or deed.
Do it in the name of the Lord Jesus,
Giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:16-17 NIV

AUTHOR'S NOTE: THIS PAPER WAS CREATED AT THE REQUEST OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS FOLLOWING LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF TRADITIONAL HYMNS AND/OR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES.

The Evolution of Music in Worship

Communication is known among all of God's creations, be it human, animals, birds, insects, plants, water, air, etc. However humans were created with brains and the responsibility to care for less highly specialized species. Science teaches us that everything continues to evolve, and so it is with music.

Not much is known about music in the first 300 years after Christ's birth, but rulers and the people were searching for meaning in the life of Christ and his followers as worship began. Creeds were created to guide worship as practice of religion changed with the teachings of the New Testament.

In the Middle Ages, a pope became the religious leader and monasteries became the research and educational institutions of the time. Plainsong was the unison style of music performed by the monks. Manuscripts of scripture were copied by hand. The Crusaders went on long pilgrimages searching for the Holy Grail from 1096-1291. The music of Palestrina in the 1600s introduced singing in parts.

Two major events in The Reformation Period were the translation of the Bible from Latin to English language by John Wycliffe in 1382 and the invention of the printing press in 1440. This machine with moveable type created reading material such as Bibles and books for the common people. Many were searching for new interpretations of worship which founded the Moravian Church, the Lutherans, Anabaptists, Calvinists, Reformed and Presbyterians, Puritans, Anglican Church in England, and even the Quakers led by George Fox in 1647. William Tyndale translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek to English.

The Catholic Mass was sung in Latin and represented the life of Christ during worship services, but operas were the stories of daily living which entertained outside of worship. When the priests objected to opera during Holy times, composers wrote oratorios on religious themes. These were elaborate choral productions for large choirs, but void of costumes, scenery or staging. Bach, Beethoven, Handel and Brahms were prolific in producing choral works with organ and orchestral accompaniments. Johann Sebastian Bach was known to have composed new music for each service during the church year. Three of Johann's sons were also noted musicians: Johann Christian Bach, Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach, and Wilhelm Friedemann Bach.

Mozart and Schubert were performers hired by royalty in Europe to entertain guests often. Choirs and intimate chamber orchestras provided entertainment. Italian composers were also influential and noted for composing symphonies for larger orchestras.

Immigrants from England, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Russia and China were some of the earliest settlers joining the Native Americans and Eskimos in America. Their folk songs, dances, and instruments gave us a wide variety of music and language. The slaves coming from Africa in pre-Civil War times brought call and response songs, spirituals, work songs, and the blues styles from New Orleans, Memphis, and Kansas City to Chicago and New York. These strongly influenced the styles of jazz which came later.

Our early American Quakers worshipped in silence with no music in their meetinghouses. John Wilbur was a strong leader of Conservative Friends but Joseph Gurney introduced new ideas of worship emphasizing evangelism with paid pastoral leadership, music, flowers, and Sunday school to accompany silent worship. This resulted in a division of the two groups in 1826 at Mt. Pleasant, Ohio and the sudden growth of pastoral Quakerism as it moved west with the pioneer settlers.

Lowell Mason was the first to teach public school music in Boston. As settlers moved westward, stringed instruments were popular, pianos were introduced, and then community orchestras and bands were formed. John Phillip Sousa directed a band that toured across America. This stimulated interest in the formation of community bands. Music from Barnum and Bailey and the Ringling Brothers Circus also entertained communities across America. Now we find “America’s Got Talent” on television as modern variety style entertainment.

When country schools consolidated, vocal and instrumental music became important assets in education. The movie and television inventions brought music from every country in the world to us. Now electronic communications with sound and pictures appear around the world instantaneously, so we view world events as each occurs.

The first hymns sung in America were Old Hundredth (Doxology) and Amazing Grace. The latter has been revised to become “Amazing Grace—My Chains are Gone” in our generation.

Each war had its songs, each era added new styles of music, and all reflected the daily lives of people.

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Friends United Yearly Meeting) has enjoyed music as an important part of each worship service. Gospel music came from hymns with close harmonies including a cappella (unaccompanied), quartet, and even barbershop styles. Rock and roll shortened our lyrics but added stronger rhythms. Then came show choirs and jazz bands in public school music. Now we have praise bands with PowerPoint lyrics, so most harmony is fast disappearing as is the skill of reading printed music.

Damaged hearing results from too much amplified electronic sound. “Remember, it ‘s not necessary to use excessive volume to reach the ear of God!” is a quote from one of my favorite musicians.

In conclusion, let’s make room for both hymns and praise music, so God can reach each of us in different ways.

The following sections contain a bibliography, examples of styles of music with title, composer, lyricist, publisher, date of publication, and references to the source of lyrics and music if known. Then follows Biblical scriptures pertaining to music listed in the Concordances of the New International Volume (Study Bible) followed by the Concordance from the American Standard Bible. Duplicated scriptures have been eliminated.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Guideline Search: When researching music in songbooks look at the front for these sections: Forward, Acknowledgements, Preface, Table of Contents, Author or Compiler, Publisher, Address of Publisher, and Copyright date. The pages of the book may have additional information about the contents such as scriptures from the Bible, author of lyrics, composer or arranger of the music, and source of the music if it is a folk song or from a specific country. Many different helps are organized at the end of the book and each book is different.

The Celebration Hymnal, © 1997, WORD MUSIC/INTEGRITY MUSIC

Psalms of Victory, Christian Publications, Inc. © 1946, Harrisburg, PA

Singspiration Series # 1 through # 8, Favorites #1- #4, and several other books published by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan

James Blackwood, Songs of Faith and Hope, Temple Music Co. Inc. P.O. Box 6992, Nashville, Tennessee 37215, © 1966. (The best of the latest gospel songs together with all time favorites and the best loved hymns compiled by James Blackwood of the Blackwood Brothers Quartet)

Spirituals, compiled and arranged by William Stickles, © 1948, Charles H. Hanson Music Corporation, NY 19, NY

Robert J. Morgan, Then Sings My Soul, (150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories) © 2003, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee.

Cleveland Colored Quintet, Songs: Every Day with Jesus; I Am Not Under Law; and Roll, Jordon, Roll, all in live appearances at the Marshalltown Coliseum in the early 1940's during a week of Evangelical Meetings with Joseph Speas (native of Marshall County) as the main speaker.

IMPORTANT MUSIC THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Be Thou My Vision 8th Century Irish Hymn to a Folk Song tune

All Creatures of Our God and King 1225 LYRICS- St. Francis of Assisi

Catholic Mass

Palestrina- Motets – Simple harmonies began

Canon – Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace) – Simple harmony created by singing the same melody through but each group of singers beginning at different locations.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 1529 Martin Luther wrote a number of hymns and helped revive congregational singing.

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed 1707 Isaac Watts wrote the lyrics and also published "Hymns and Spiritual Songs"

O God, Our Help in Ages Past 1719 Isaac Watts lyrics and Wm Croft music.

The Passion according to St. John (1723), The Passion according to St. Matthew (1729), the Mass in B minor (1733-38), Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, and many sacred cantatas were creations of Johann Sebastian Bach.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 1739 Charles Wesley lyrics and Carl G. Glaser music. Arranged by Lowell Mason who also arranged Work for the Night is Coming; Love Divine, All Love Excelling; My Faith Looks Up to Thee; Nearer My God to Thee; Fairest Lord Jesus, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 1739 Lyrics by Charles Wesley who wrote over 6,000 hymns. He also wrote lyrics for Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 1739; Jesus, Lover of My Soul 1740; Oh, For a Thousand Tongues!

Amazing Grace 1779 John Newton wrote lyrics to a traditional American melody. It was one of the earliest songs in America. A newer adaptation in recent years is Amazing Grace--My Chains are Gone.

Fannie Crosby was a blind author who wrote lyrics for many hymns. Some of these were Praise Him! Praise Him!; 'Tis the Blessed Hour of Prayer; Will Jesus Find Us Watching?; Jesus Shall Reign; Near the Cross; Pass Me Not"; Jesus Is Calling; 1860's.

God So Loved the World, text John 3:16, music by John Stainer

Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah 1741 George Frederic Handel – Composer, Scriptures I Chronicles 16:31 and Isaiah 40

Praise the Savior, Ye Who Know Him 1806 Thomas Kelly, composer who wrote 765 hymns. Traditional German melody.

Felix Mendelssohn wrote anthems for large choral groups in the late 1800's. A collection of his music includes To Thee, O Dear, Dear Savior; Wake, Awake from the oratorio "St. Paul"; Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord from the oratorio "Elijah"; If with All Your Hearts; But the Lord is Mindful of His Own; both from the oratorio "St. Paul"; Blessed Are the Men Who Fear Him from the oratorio "Elijah".

His Glorious Name Text Isaiah 9:6 Music is Finlandia composed by Jean Sibelius.

The Star Spangled Banner September 14-1814 Francis Scott Key wrote the lyrics and John Stafford Smith composed the music. Song is based on an actual battle over Ft. McHenry which was won by the Americans. This song is our National Anthem.

Battle Hymn of the Republic (Civil War 1861-1865) Lyrics Julia Ward Howe, stanzas 1 – 4; Son Mown, stanza 5 Traditional American melody.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save (Navy Hymn) Psalm 107: 30 – 31

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Text by Henry van Dyke, Music by Ludwig van Beethoven, melody from the Ninth Symphony Text Psalms 55:22; 16:8

How Great Thou Art 1885 Carl Boberg Text Isaiah 45:18 Swedish Folk Melody
Same Swedish folk tune for O Mighty God, How Great Thou Art , translated from Swedish by John Peterson © 1956.

In the Garden 1912 C. Austin Miles

The Old Rugged Cross 1913 George Bennard

Wonderful Grace of Jesus 2 Corinthians 8:9

Great Is Thy Faithfulness 1923 Thomas O. Chisholm, William M. Runyan

Precious Lord, Take my Hand 1932 Thomas A. Dorsey (Not the band leader of the 1940's, but a black man who became known as the Father of Gospel Music. He also wrote Peace in the Valley.

There Is a Balm in Gilead 1800 Traditional spiritual. Go Down, Moses; Roll, Jordon, Roll; He's Got the Whole World in His Hands; These and other spirituals led to a style of Christian music called "Gospel."

Modern Gospel Music songs composed by William and Gloria Gaither include All the Glory Belongs to God 1988; I Believe in a Hill Called Mt. Calvary 1968; His Name Is Life 1983; There's Something About That Name 1970; Let's Just Praise the Lord 1972, etc.

This Is the Day 1967 Psalm 118:25 Lee Garrett

Thy Word 1984 Psalm 119:105 Amy Grant

Awesome God 1988 Rich Mullins

And so the list could continue on for music is a gift from the heart for all listeners!
--- Donna Parsons Williams

BIBLE CONCORDANCE REFERENCES

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © 1985

Animals	Job	12:7	Ask the animals and they will teach you
Balm	Jer	8:22	Is there no b in Gilead?

Cymbals	I Co I Chr 2 Chr	13:1 15:16 5:12	A sounding gong or a clanging c instruments, lyres, harps, and c dressed in fine linen and playing c
Dance	Mt MK	11:17 6:22	and you did not d of Herodias came in and d
Dancing	PS PS	30:11 149:3	You turned my wailing into d Let them praise his name with d
Flute	PS MT	150:4 11:17	praise him with the strings and f We played the f for you
Harp	GE 1Sa PS PS PS	4:21 16:23 98:5 150:3 137:2	the father of all who play the h David would take his h and play with the h and the sound of singing Praise him with the h and lyre We hung our harps
Hymns	PS MK 1CO AC RO Col	40:3 14:26 14:26 16:25 15:9 3:6	a hymn of praise to our God they had sung a hymn, they went out everyone has a hymn or a word Silas were praying and singing h I will sing h to your name h and spiritual songs with gratitude
Joyful	1Sa 1Chr PS IS Jer	18:6 15:16 100:2 24:8 31:4	with j songs and with tambourines as singers to sing j songs come before him with j songs the j harp is silent and go out to dance with the j
Jubilant	PS	98:4	burst into j song with music
Music	Gen Jdg 1Chr 1Chr NE Job PS PS	31:21 5:3 6:31 6:32 25:6 25:7 12:27 21:12 27:6 33:2 45:8 57:7 81:2	singing to the m of tambourines I will make m to the Lord put in charge of the m in the house they ministered with m fathers for the m of the temple and skilled in m for the Lord and with the m of cymbals they sing to the m of tambourine and make m to the Lord make m to him on the ten-stringed the m of the strings makes you glad I will sing and make m begin the m, strike the tambourine

		87:7	as they make m they will sing
		92:1	and make m to your name
		98:4	burst into jubilant song with m
		108:1	make m with all my soul
		144:9	the ten-stringed lyre I will make m
		147:7	make m to our God on the harp
		149:3	make m to him with the tambourine
Isa		30:32	will be to the m of tambourines
La		5:14	young men have stopped their m
Eze		26:13	m of your harps will be heard no
Dav		3:5	lyre, harp, pipes, and all kinds of m
		3:7	and all kinds of m all the peoples
		3:10	and all kinds of m must fall down
		3:15	lyre, harp, pipes, and all kinds of m
Am		5:23	to the m of your harps
Hab		3:19	for the director of m
LK		15:25	came near the house, he heard m
Musical	1Chr	15:16	accompanied by m instruments
		23:5	with the m instruments I have
	2Chr	7:6	with the Lord's m instruments
		23:13	with m instruments were leading
		34:12	skilled in playing m instruments
	Neh	12:36	with m instruments prescribed
	Am	6:5	and improvise on m instruments
Musicians	1Chr	6:33	Herman, the m, the son of Joel
	1K	10:12	to make harps and lyres for the m
	2Chr	5:12	all the Levites who were m
		9:11	to make harps and lyres for the m
		35:15	the m, the descendants of Asaph
Psalms	Col	3:16	as you sing p hymns
Sang	EX	15:21	Miriam s to them
	NU	21:17	then Israel s this song
	JDG	5:1	Barak, son of Abinoam s this song
	1Sa	18:7	as they danced, they s
	2Sa	22:1	David s to the Lord the words
	2Chr	5:13	in praise to the Lord and s
		29:30	so they s praises with gladness
	Ezr	3:11	thanksgiving they s to the Lord
	PS	106:12	and s his praise
	Rev	5:9	and they s a new song
		5:12	in a loud voice they s
		14:3	they s a new song before the throne
		15:3	and s the song of Moses, the servant

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Cambridge University Press © 1977

Bible Dictionary: Music, Psalterly

CONCORDANCE

Beating Tambourines		PS 68:25	
Choir	Neh	12:38	second choir proceeded to the left
	Neh	12:40	two choirs took their stand
Cymbal	2Sa	6:5	with lyres, harps, ...and cymbals
	1Chr	15:16	harps, lyres, loud-sounding cymbals
	PS	150:5	Praise Him with loud cymbals
	1Cor	13:1	noisy gong or a clanging cymbal
Dance	Jdg	21:23	from those who danced
	2Sa	6:14	David danced
	Ecl	3:4	a time to dance
	Matt	14:6	daughter of Heriodias danced
Dirge (lament)	Am	5:1	hear this word...as a dirge
	Luke	7:32	we sang a dirge
Flute	1Sa	10:5	with harp, tambourine, flute and a lyre
	1Ki	1:40	people were playing on flutes
	1Cor	14:7	either flute or harp
	Rev	18:22	sound of harpists, flute-players, trumpets
Harp	Job	30:31	my harp...my flute
	PS	33:2	sing praises to Him...harp of ten strings
	PS	57:8	Awake, harp and lyre
	IS	24:8	gaiety of the harp ceases
	Rev	5:8 15:2	each one a harp holding harps of God
Hymn	Neb	12:46	hymns of thanksgiving to God
	Matt	26:30	after singing a hymn
	Acts	16:25	singing hymns of praise to God
	Eph	5:19	psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
Instrument	2Chr	5:13	instruments of music
	PS	150:4	Praise him with stringed instruments

Lyre	Gen 1Chr PS PS	4:21 25:1 57:8 98:5	those who play the lyre and pipe were to prophesy with lyres awake, harp and lyre with the lyre and the sound of melody
Music	Eph 1Chr 2Chr PS Luke	5:19 15:16 7:6 92:3 15:25	psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singers, instruments of music instruments of music to the Lord with resounding music he heard music and dancing
Musician	1Sa PS Rev	16:18 68:25 18:22	son of Jesse...a skillful musician the singers ...the musicians after them sound of harpists and musicians
Praise	1Chr Neh PS Luke	16:9 12:46 150:3 2:13	Sing to Him, sing praises to Him leaders ...singers, songs of praise Praise Him, sun and moon; heavenly host praising God
Psalms	PS Luke Eph	95:2 24:44 5:19	shout joyfully ...with psalms and the Psalms must be fulfilled speaking ...in psalms and hymns
Sing	Ex 1Sa 2Sa Job PS Prov Zeph Mark Col Rev	15:1 18:6 22:50 38:7 33:3 29:6 2:14 14:26 3:16 5:9	I will sing to the Lord women came out...singing and dancing I will sing praises to Thy name When the morning stars sang Sing to Him a new song the righteous sings and rejoices Birds will sing in the window after singing a hymn admonishing...with psalms and hymns they sang a new song
Singers	1Chr Ecl	9:33 2:8	Now these are the singers male and female singers
Song	Ex 1Chr Job PS IS Eph	15:2 6:32 35:10 32:7 33:3 5:1 12:5 24:9 5:19	Lord is my strength and song they ministered with song God my maker who gives songs surround me with songs of deliverance Sing to Him a new song Let me sing ...a song of my beloved Praise the Lord in song do not drink wine with song speaking ...in psalms and hymns

Sound	PS	66:8	dawn and sunset shout for joy
Thank	PS	28:7	with my song ...thank Him
Timbrel	Gen	31:27	with joy...songs...timbrel; and ...lyre
	PS	81:2	Raise a song, strike the timbrel
	PS	150:4	Praise Him with timbrel and dancing
Trumpet	Josh	6:6	seven trumpets of rams horns
	PS	150:3	Praise Him with trumpet sound
	Matt	6:2	do not sound a trumpet sound
	1Cor	15:52	the trumpet will sound
	Rev	1:10	like the sound of a trumpet
