

## Musical forms pleasing to God Stewardship of Praise

Is there a law in Scripture against certain styles of music? Are certain forms of music Satanic, or displeasing to God? Interestingly, the Scriptures do not give direct instruction in regard to which musical styles we should avoid. One wonders why, since God was very specific with Israel concerning evil.

When Israel was led out of Egypt God set many laws before them. These laws ranged from very important founda-

tional laws, such as the ten commandments, to very specific and unusual laws. For instance, Israelite men were forbidden by God to shave off or trim the corners of their beards. "Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard," Lev 19:27. There were laws governing clothing style. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that

they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe a ribband of blue," Num 15:38. "Neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woolen come upon thee," Lev 19:18. What does this have to do with music? Nothing, except that it illustrates the detail to which God was concerned about the habits of the Israelites. God wanted them to be holy; even to the slightest detail of his will. Why didn't he specify which forms of music were holy and which were unacceptable?

Since that question can only be

answered with opinion and conjecture, let's start from another question. Can a certain style of music, such as rock music, be evil? To be clear, the question is *not* whether the words are evil. There is near universal agreement that words can be evil or righteous. We should not listen to music with evil words. We must listen to words which are righteous. Having said that, are there certain musical forms which are evil apart from the words? Can

any music without words be evil or unholy?

Our Heavenly Father, who tells the Israelites how to groom, and which fabrics to use in their clothing, nowhere gives explicit instruction prohibiting musical styles. If musical styles had good or evil characteristics, one would think that God would give instruction in Scripture banning evil musical forms. Of course, Scripture is not silent on which musical forms are preferred.

**1 Praise ye the LORD.  
Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.**  
**2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.**  
**3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.**  
**4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.**  
**5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.**  
**6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.**  
- Psalm 150

The six verses of Psalm 150 comprise perhaps the clearest section of Scripture on the use of musical forms in praising God.

The praise music described in this passage is nothing like the hymns sung in many church services today. For instance, in verse three we are told to praise God with the sound of the trumpet. The Hebrew word for "sound" used in this verse is *teqa* {tay-kah'}, and means a trumpet *blast*. In verse four the praise is to include *dancing*. In verse five we are told to praise him upon the *loud* cymbals.

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*" And he hath put a new song in my mouth, [even] praise unto our God"  
-Ps. 40:3*

# Stewardship of Praise

We are to praise him upon the "high sounding" cymbals. The Hebrew word for "high sounding" is *teruw`ah* {ter-oo-aw'}, and according to Strong's it primarily means *an alarm, signal, sound of tempest, shout, shout or blast of war or alarm, or an alarm of war, war-cry, or battle-cry*. In this context *teruw`ah* specifically means a *shout of joy* (with religious impulse). Clearly, the worshippers were not to hold back as they praised the Lord. They were to be loud and joyous!

How many times in our church services do we have trumpets blasting, loud percussion and stings along with shouts of joy from the congregation? Seldom in most mainline churches. Yet, this is what God gives us as the model for praise music through his greatest Psalmist, King David. This is not unusual for David. Remember, David was the one who danced through the streets in a white linen ephod as the tabernacle was brought back to Jerusalem. The spectacle so offended his wife, that she accused him of dancing in his underwear in front of all the women of Israel. David's response? "It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour;" (2 Sam 6:21). David didn't care what anyone else thought. He worshiped God with all his might, and didn't care that Micah was offended by it. And Micah wound up childless to her death.

Psalm 150 commands where to praise God (verse 1), what to praise God for (verse 2), how to praise God (verses 3-5) and who should praise God (verse 6). There is *nothing* quiet about this praise. It is intended to be *loud*, as the sound of a

battle cry would be loud.

While Scripture never proscribes any form of music, it gives us instruction regarding the kind of praise music that is pleasing to God. God wants music that is loud and filled with joy. It should include trumpets, strings, guitar and percussion, and sound like the sound of a war alarm. There are other examples of pleasing music in Scripture. David, for instance, used soothing music to calm Saul. We should probably assume that such soothing music can also be used to honor God. "Be still and know that I am God," he says. However, it is important to note that the intended focus of such soothing music is not God, it is usually used to soothe or quiet down the unsettled hearts of men. There is a place for soothing, quiet music in the life of a believer.

The bottom line is that God does not restrict musical style in Scripture. Many will disagree with me. I can only answer with the question, "where is the verse?" If God restricted musical forms, he would probably restrict quiet music. He doesn't want us to be shy about our enthusiasm and praise of him! He wants us to be loud and unashamed in our praise to him, and our joy because of him. He wants us to get out of our seats and dance before him. He wants us to make noise when we praise him!

Sherry and I realize that this is a very controversial subject. Many believers are against contemporary music, and believe it is evil. If you would like to respond to this article, for or against, please do. Perhaps you know of a verse in Scripture that addresses music in a way differently than we have here. I'm ready and willing to learn! Some responses may be published in the next issue. If so, I would ask your permission first. Please include your telephone number or email address in your letter.

In Christ's Love,  
Dan & Sherry Quakkelaar

## The Free Box

Luke 6:38

*By your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.*

Snowblower. It needs some work. Renee: 483-2828 (1)

Seal-A-Meal. Good working condition. Sandy: 464-6762 (1)

Small blue sofa in fair condition. Karen: 549-1585 (1)

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Fisher-Price riding pony on wheels. It has a removable, washable cover. Karla: 662-3163 (1)

## Ad Rules

Feel free to place as many free ads as you like. We do limit your ads to three issues. You may reinstate the ad in the next issue. Let us know when your ad was answered and should be removed.

Next **DEADLINE** is June 24, 1997.  
PHONE: 662-0247 FAX: 662-0640.  
Email [djq@execpc.com](mailto:djq@execpc.com).

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.

# Member's Needs

Sofa. Stephanie: 931-9788 (2)  
Travel bed or playpen. Jennifer: 662-0518 (3)  
Bookshelves. Jennifer: 662-0518 (3)  
Quilter needs men's ties. Melody: 524-9916 (1)  
Queen and full beds. Stephanie: 931-9788 (2)  
Refrigerator. Large capacity. Renee: 483-2828 (3)  
Gas stove and refrigerator. Stephanie: 931-9788 (2)  
Double stroller needed. Barb: 541-1733 (3)  
Gas Stove. Rena: 383-9812 (3)  
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I would like information on a homeschool singing group in Waukesha Co. that my 7 year old could attend. Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

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A firm mattress and box spring for a twin size bed. Sherry or Dan: 662-0247 (2)

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Adult student needs an IBM or MAC computer and printer. Patrice: 321-9494 (1)

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Refrigerator in good working condition. Sheri: 574-0322 (1)

Canning jars in 1 qt. and 2 qt. sizes. Will pay per jar. Renee: 483-2828 (1)

# Services

Simply Stewardship would like to help you sell your curriculum. If you did not make it to any of the book sales or you just weren't ready to sell in June, let us know. We will print your items in our next issue. Were you looking for something in particular at the book sales and did not find it? Let us help you track it down. Sherry: 662-0247 (1)

"A Living Sacrifice" This is a brand new newsletter that is written by Tess Fries. Her

goal is to reach sisters in Christ and encourage them to live their lives according to Roman 12:1, as living sacrifices. Each issue is about 14 pages long, is based on a theme (such as blessing your husband) and includes a Bible study to go along with the theme. Tess also has regular articles that you will see in each issue. These include Family Fun Night, Thoughts to Ponder, The Creative Kitchen and Thoughtful Stewardship. This

URGENT NEED: A Simply Stewardship member has been without a stove for about 8 months. If you can help her please contact us at Simply Stewardship as soon as possible. Sherry: 662-0247 (1)  
newsletter is published every 6 weeks and is \$16 per year. You may write to Tess and request your free sample issue. She would love to hear from you. El Shaddai Ministries, N4890 Gusk Rd., Taylor, WI 54659 (1)

Two home educated girls are looking for children to babysit. Ages 14 and 12, Red Cross certified, live in West Allis area. Sue: 453-7559 (1)

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# For Sale

Printing Equipment. 10x15 Offset press (Chief), 11x17 2 color offset press (Chief), Vertical Camera (Nu-Arc), Plate Maker (Nu-Arc), 25" lever pater cutter (Challenge), Paper Drill, Table Top Folder, 10x15 Letterpress (Chandler and Price), Light Table & Round Corner Machine. I am willing to train too! Dave: 786-6385 (1)

Huffy boy's red bike. 20", \$25. Sandy: 464-6762 (1)

Casio Keyboard CA-110. 49 keys. \$35. Stand, \$25. Sandy: 464-6762 (1)

Nordic Trac Rower TBX-2. Hardly used.

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MOVING SALE!! Renee: 483-2828 (1)  
20" console color TV. Good shape. \$50; 9 drawer long dresser, good quality. \$60; Oak school teacher's desk. \$25; Five kid's school desks. \$2 each; Late 1800's bread table. Appraised at \$600 but asking \$60; Elliptical glider with electronic monitor. \$100; Oak drawers with cabinet fronts and hardware. Approx. 25 drawers. No frame. \$25; Personal Christian library includes Dobson, Stanley, Swindol and many other. \$2 per book.

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## Praise ye the LORD.

## **The Bounty of the Clothing Share has International Implications Again**

Simply Stewardship has long contended that even 'poor' churches are blessed with an abundance of material wealth that all-to-often wastes away in our attics, basements and storage lockers. The overwhelming wealth of the church was proved again at this spring's Clothing Share.

Over 200 people were able to take clothes from the abundance of clothing held in the families of members of Simply Stewardship and Waukesha Bible Church. From helping single moms, to assisting a family with a sick dad who is unemployed, the clothing drive fulfills the mandate of God - that we love each other not just with words and prayers, but in practical ways.

In addition to the overwhelming number of families in our area able to experience the practical love of the body through the Clothing Share, another miracle for a ministry has occurred. Last fall the leftover items from the Clothing Share were donated to a home for orphaned children in Mexico. This year the remaining clothing is going to a home for orphaned children in Romania.

Organizers of the Romanian children's home have purchased a theater which is being converted into living quarters. Some time ago, they began gathering furniture and clothing hoping that at some point there would be enough to fill an entire shipping crate, and it could be sent to the theater in Romania from Milwaukee. They now have eight crates worth of clothing and furniture, and are still looking for more furniture, lights, household couches and coasters. The Simply Stewardship Clothing Share is again playing one small part in the ministry of God worldwide. Praise to His name!

God has always given the church the abundance necessary to accomplish His will. Whether we do what he has asked is a matter of how faithful we are in the stewardship of this wealth. May God make you a faithful steward, and may the world bless God as they see the love we show to each other.

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### **Simply Stewardship**

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Dan Quakkelaar.....Production & Layout

Simply Stewardship is published six times per year. Subscriptions are free. Classified ads are free, and will run in as many as three consecutive issues. Please call us with updates to your ads.

Any donations made to Simply Stewardship are used exclusively for printing and postage costs.

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### **Important Note to Members**

The date you see in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your renewal date. If your renewal date is this month, then it is time to let us know you wish to renew. If you want your name removed from the list, let us know that too!