

Persuasive Music

John Calvin argued that of all the gifts God has given us – music is the most powerful. Churches have spent a great deal of time discussing the role of music in public praise. However when we discuss the more general role of music in society, it is often in a condemnatory way. Is there such a thing as Christian music? What does secular music tell us about our culture? This seminar will look at how understanding music and using music can be a real bridge to communicating the Gospel.

David Robertson is the minister of St Peter’s Free Church in Dundee, Scotland (a church that is best known for being the church of Robert Murray McCheyne) and the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity. He is the author of *Awakening* (a contemporary account of McCheyne’s life) and *The Dawkins Letters*. The latter has resulted in him being invited to debate and discuss all over the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This has been done in cafes, bars, libraries, universities, pubs, restaurants, village halls, and even occasionally in churches! David is a chaplain at the University of Dundee, columnist, broadcaster and debater. His interests include history, reading, music, politics, theology and football – he supports Dundee FC although his other team is Barcelona! David is married to Annabel and they have three children; Andrew (26), Becky (24) and Emma Jane (15).

I. Introduction - What is Music

1. Material
2. Spiritual
3. Cultural

II. Understanding Contemporary European Music

1. History and Media
2. Creating or Reflecting
3. Art, Commerce, Politics and Religion

III. Some Examples ?

1. Lady Gaga

2. Christian Music

3. Classical Metal

4. Folk Philosophy

IV. How do we use music in Persuasive Evangelism?

1. Listening and Using

2. Playing and Orchestrating

3. Creating Praise

V. Questions?

Suggested Reading

Vishal Mangalwadi: *The Book that Made Your World*, Nelson – 2011