

Everyone Loves Music: Using Music as a Bridge to a Non-Believing World

Music is mentioned throughout the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and includes all types of sounds and songs. It expresses fear and pain, joy and excitement, love, longing, regret, repentance, grief and happiness. And even more, music is a window to the spiritual, the transcendent. C. S. Lewis says that music can be “A medium for meeting God.” It was for him and can be for many. But how can we help people understand that music is a gift from God? How can we, as the church, bridge the sounds of heaven to earth? Let’s look at what music is (weighing in on the debate as to its source - God or nature); music as an apologetic; music in Church History; how music shapes culture and 10 ways music can be a bridge to help the nonbelievers understand the Gospel with applications for the musician, the church leader and apologist.

Angela Courte MacKenzie is a musician, pianist, singer, worship leader and recording artist. Growing up in Christian television ministry with her family in Florida, USA Angela has hosted hundreds of praise/worship programs seen all over the world “*Power of Praise.*” Angela holds a B.A. in Music and a Masters in Christian Apologetics from Biola University. She has spoken at conferences in addition to leading worship in conferences and churches. Angela has a passion to assist Christian artists to embrace a love for theology and spiritual development in addition to developing their musicianship. Loving the hymns and old songs, Angela hosts a weekly Facebook Live program *Sunday Night Live* where she sings and plays the piano, taking requests from the viewers. Everyone is welcome to join her each week to praise around the piano. www.angelaonline.org

I. Introduction

II. What is Music

A. Naturalistic worldview

1. Adaption from evolution

B. Biblical worldview

Definition: An expression that is spiritual, intelligent and interpretative as a human experience and God’s revelation

1. Like language, music is universal, but unlike language music does not rely on a linguistic or physical context but on organization and interpretation that can be *perceived* in sound itself.
2. Music exists when rhythmic, melodic or harmonic order is deliberately created and consciously listened to
3. According to Professor Roger Scruton, only a rational being – one with self -consciousness, intention, and the ability to represent the world can understand music.
4. Music is the “sound within the sounds”

III. Music and the Church

- A. Music has a preeminent place in scripture
- B. Music transformed to simple plain chant
- C. The Reformation – a singing movement
- D. Skepticism/Suspicion/Skepticism
- E. Music is a sacred gift of God

IV. Music Shapes Society

- A. Madonna
- B. Lady Gaga
- C. Hitler
- D. Why give the arts over to the wicked?

V. 10 Ways Music Can Be A Bridge

- A. Music is a gateway to the spiritual
- B. Music touches our soul/expresses longing
- C. The disturbing evangelist
- D. Cultural Mandate
- E. Challenges reductionism
- F. Unique musical thumbprint
- G. Least imitative
- H. Trinity
- I. Wrong note
- J. Major and minor themes

VI. Acknowledging Its Limitations

- A. If someone is not musically inclined?
- B. Music must be paired with arguments

VII. Conclusion

Challenge: Imagine what the world will hear when the power of God and the power of music are released together in full potential? May God use your life and your music for His glory to build the bridge and release the sounds of heaven to a hurting world.

Recommended Reading

Redeeming Transcendence in the Arts (Bearing witness to the Triune God)

Jeremy S. Begbie

Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, London, 2018

Taking Note of Music

William Edgar

SPCK Publishing Co, London, 1986

Music Through the Eyes of Faith

Harold M. Best

Christian College Coalition – Harper One, Washington, 1993

Understanding Music (Philosophy and Interpretation)

Roger Scruton

Continuum UK, London, 2009

Voicing Creation's Praise

Jeremy S. Begbie

Continuum T&T Clark, London, 1991

The Power of Music (God's calling to change the world one song at a time)

Michael L. Brown, PhD

Charisma House, Lake Mary, 2019

All the Music of the Bible (An exploration of Musical Expression in Scripture and Church Hymnody)

Herbert Lockyer Jr.

Hendrickson Publishing, Peabody, 2004

Bach Among the Theologians

Jaroslav Pelikan

Wipf and Stock Publishing, Eugene, 2003