

# APPENDIX II

## Music

In today's society, we don't always have the choice of what type of music we wish to hear.

I'm not talking about what we listen to in our private time at home. I am referring to the music we receive involuntarily, for example, when we walk down the street and a car goes by playing music where the volume and bass are turned up to the max or when we go to a restaurant and the music is so loud it is hard to enjoy your conversation with family or friends. These are common occurrences, but what is becoming more common and popular is the use of live or pre-recorded rock bands are used during some worship services without regard to the appropriateness of the form being used.

If you are concerned observing the unacceptable type of music used in many churches you might like to read and listen to a live recording of a lecture given by David F Reagan titled "Misusing the Elements of Music."

Please go to: <http://www.learnthebible.org/sermon-outlines/misusing-the-elements-of-music.html>

MELODY Found in some Romantic Period Classical Music and in the music of the Middle East and Far East

### MELODY

#### 1. Formless

- Found in some Romantic Period Classical Music and in the music of the Middle East and Far East
- Has no distinct direction; no recognizable movement from anywhere to anywhere
- God's truth has direction; his music should have it as well

#### 2. Too Tense

- Tension in music is caused by surprise
- Melodies have certain forms that we can anticipate; we often anticipate where the next note will be—even when we do not know the song
- Surprise is created by singing or playing a note other than the one anticipated
  - The use of surprise in music
  - Music with no surprises can be boring; surprise can be effectively used to gain attention or create interest
  - Too much surprise creates an unfulfilled tension much as an unhappy ending does in a story or movie; God's music should not leave the listener unfulfilled

### HARMONY

#### 1. Disharmony

- Caused by playing notes together that do not naturally go together
- Often found in Modern Classical Music
- Makes people wince; it almost hurts the senses; it should be avoided in Christian music

#### 2. Complex Harmonies

- Some harmonies are much more complex than others; they bring notes together that do have connections but the connections are more difficult
- Those who work with music a lot are comfortable with much more complex harmonies than are people who just listen; the average person finds such harmonies difficult to follow
- Hitting an occasional complex chord brings the same surprise as the singing of an unexpected note and can be used to bring freshness to the song
- However, extreme use of complex harmony draws attention to itself and diminishes the message of the song by making the listening experience too intellectual (thus blocking the actual message of the song)

### 3. Minor Keys

- Minor keys are built on a different scale than the major keys (The key of A Minor starts with the A on the piano and uses all the white keys)
- The minor keys have a very different sound and create a very different emotional effect than the major keys
  - They are more haunting
  - They create a sad, meditative feeling
- Minor keys can be very effective in an occasional melody or song where the purpose is to make the listener meditate on his failures or on the sadness of some condition
- However, sadness is not a major theme of Christianity and when it is a theme it is always a means to a better, happier, end (Psalm 137:1-4)
- Minor keys are becoming very popular as vehicles for modern Christian music (even among those conservative in other ways); we need to keep the use of minor keys in a minor position in our worship

## RHYTHM

### 1. Backbeat

- Refers to the practice of accenting the normally unaccented beats of a song; the backbeat is often provided by a bass instrument
- The backbeat (and offbeat) is the foundational basis for all rock music; hard rock hits every beat
- Backbeat is designed to create a physical, sexual tension in people

### 2. Offbeat

- Also called syncopation; refers to the practice of placing accents between normal beats off time from the regular accents
- Used in soft rock and in most modern music
- Creates a desire to jump in jerky movements; to dance
- It de-emphasizes the message of the music by overemphasizing the physical response to the music

### 3. Boogie-beat

- Uses an 8/8 rhythm with the pattern of a dotted eighth followed by a sixteenth note
- A jazz style of piano playing coming from bars and clubs; the honky-tonk sound
- As in the other styles, it appeals to the flesh

### 4. General Comments

- All of these rhythms go back to jazz, blues and rock (which are all interrelated)
- They all have a strong effect on the flesh; they were designed to create sexual tension
- They have a tendency to break down moral restraints; they mesmerize the mind and excite the flesh; where these rhythms predominate, virtue is often lost and moral looseness prevails
- There are admittedly lesser strains of these beats that do not obviously bring these evils but they still have the same effects, only to a lesser degree. Also, everyone who listens to this music does not fall into moral perversity just as all who drink alcohol do not become drunks, but the danger is always there. The music tends to excite the flesh but people still have a will and react to the excitement in different ways. Some people just have a good time and do not associate the feeling they are having with anything sexual. Others are led to greater sins.
- Another danger of this music is that it is the music of the world and the world can always do better at its music than the church can. Many are being trained to love the worldly sound in the church. What are they going to do with this love? Many will go to the world to get their "better" version and will take the ungodly lyrics with the music.
- God's music ought to sound different than the music of the world. Worldly music has no place in the church.

## LYRICS

1. Lyrics [of songs that are sung in church] that say nothing of Biblical significance should not be sung
2. Lyrics that teach false doctrine should not be sung
3. Lyrics that exalt man and his feelings and opinions should not be sung

## VOCALIZATION

1. This refers to the way a voice sounds as it sings; the singing voice

To learn more about this topic of the Christian and music, I recommend the following four books written by some of the most respected professors/lecturers and world-class musicians:

## THE CHRISTIAN AND ROCK MUSIC

The book, *The Christian and Rock Music* is written and edited by my good friend the late Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, with contributions from Calvin M. Johansson, Brian Neumann, Eurydice V. Osterman, Guenter Preuss, Tore Songefest, Wolfgang H. M. Stefani.

A generation ago there was almost universal agreement that rock music in whatever version was inappropriate for church worship or evangelism. Today 'Christian rock' is fast replacing traditional music and instruments. In many churches today 'praise bands' have replaced the choir, overheads replaced the hymnbooks, synthesizers have replaced the organs, drums and guitars have taken their place in the repertoire.

Some people see these changes as a divine blessing, others as a satanic curse. There is no neutrality in this issue. People get hot under the collar as they defend their particular position. Many ordained Pastors, Elders and accredited preachers having found no alternative but had to resign their position as a mark of protest.

*The Christian and Rock Music: A study of Biblical Principles on Music*, seven scholars of six different nationalities take a calm, balanced and Biblical look at the use of for worship and evangelism. With one exception, all the contributors are trained musicians with academic degrees.

2. Hyper-professionalism: some learn from classical-style professionals; although excellence is always good, we should avoid trying to sound high class in the average church
3. Country Whine: Many try to sound like their favorite country-western music star; the church is not a place for performance; the emphasis should be on the message of the song and not on the performance
4. Contemporary Whine: similar to the country whine, it carries an air of indifference and despair

The book has two major objectives; the first is to help people understand the true nature of rock music. The second is to define those principles that should guide people in making good musical choices.

Order your copy from: BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES, 4990 Appian Way, Berrien Springs, MI 49103  
USA. T: (616) 471 2915 Http: [//www.biblicalperspectives.com](http://www.biblicalperspectives.com)

## CONFESSIONS OF A FORMER WORSHIP LEADER – WHY I LEFT THE CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC MOVEMENT

For many Christians today, music has become one of the most important factors in their mode of worship and their attempts to reach unbelievers with the gospel.

Writing from his own personal experience as a former worship leader, Dan Lucarni questions the use of contemporary music in worship services and shows how he believes many churches have been deceived into using worldly means to 'reach the lost'. He has seen first hand, how an emphasis on music and the ultimate move towards rock music in particular, has caused divisions in the church, and turned the emphasis away from God and towards ourselves.

His warm and heartfelt account is intended to highlight these dangers and to help churches to reverse this trend and return to God as to His rightful place of our worship.

You can obtain this book by contacting:  
EVANGELICAL PRESS, Faverdale North  
Industrial Estate, Darlington DL3 OPH,  
England. Web; <http://www.evangelicalpress.org>.  
E-mail: [sales@evangelicalpress.org](mailto:sales@evangelicalpress.org)

## **THE BATTLE FOR CHRISTIAN MUSIC**

Most books about Christian music begin from a musical or historical premise. In *The Battle for Christian Music*, Tim Fisher begins from a scriptural premise to show what Christian music really is: Christian music is music where text, music, performers and where performance practices are conforming to the image of Christ. He then contrasts scriptural

principle with the contemporary Christian music movement. CCM is one of the most divisive issues confronting the church today. See Tim's website:  
<http://notearsinheaven.com/NTIH/Fisher/>

## **HOW TO CONQUER THE ADDICTION OF ROCK MUSIC**

Rock music has been accepted an amoral expression of individual taste; however, it is truly an addiction; it must be treated as such with all the warnings and precautions that apply to any addiction.

Prepared by students of the Advanced  
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Institute In Basic Life Principles, Box One, Oak  
Brook, Illinois 60522-3002, USA