

Why Christmas?: Why Music?  
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 Luke 2:14  
 December 20, 2009

Are you listening this Christmas season?  
 Are you listening for God to speak, for angels to sing?  
 Can you hear the music in the air?

Calvin Miller wrote:

“When he awoke, the song was there.  
 Its melody beckoned and begged him to sing it.  
 It hung upon the wind and settled in the meadows where he walked.  
 He knew its lovely words and could have sung it all, but feared to sing a  
 song whose harmony was far too perfect for human ear to understand.  
 And still at midnight it stirred him to awareness, and with its haunting  
 melody it drew him with a curious mystery to stand before an open window.  
 In rhapsody it played among the stars.  
 It rippled through Andromeda and deepened Vega’s hues.  
 It swirled in heavy strains from galaxy to galaxy and gave him back his very  
 fingerprint.  
 ‘Sing the Song!’ the heavens seemed to cry. ‘We never could have been  
 without the melody that you alone can sing.’  
 [from *The Singer* by Calvin Miller, p.6 ]

There is just something about music isn’t there.  
 Something that moves us.  
 Whether it moves us to tears, gets our toes to tapping, or sends our spirits  
 soaring, music moves us.

The Gospel of Luke is the most musical of the gospels.  
 It begins as if it were an ancient history book, but at the first announcement  
 of Jesus’ birth, Mary breaks out in song, “**My soul magnifies the Lord, and  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior**” (1:46-47).  
 The church calls Mary’s song, the Magnificat.

When Zechariah the priest is told that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son, the  
 one we know as John the Baptist, he too breaks out in song, “**Blessed be the  
 Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people...**” (1:68).

At the birth of Jesus, a chorus of the heavenly host responds in song, “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom God is pleased**” (2:14).

I wonder when Jesus was born, did He hear the music?  
 It was everywhere, how could He not?  
 If you will listen intently enough, you too can hear it.  
 Even when we aren’t singing, someone is.  
 Because all of creation sings in praise at the angel’s message: “**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord**” (Luke 2:11).

Calvin Miller is an author who wrote a story entitled, The Singer.  
 Miller’s story is set out like poetry because poetry makes melody out of words.

The story begins before creation and continues with creation.  
 Calvin Miller has discovered in the Singer's voice the mystery of the Deepest Song--that the One who sang the world into being is in the process of singing the world together. And the greatest mystery of all is that He invites us to sing along.

I think that is why music moves us.  
 It stirs up a joy deep within us.  
 It gives us a connection – a connection to the very One who created us.  
 Praise set to melody and musical harmony best expresses the joy of our hearts.

The other day my granddaughter Kiley was at church and she came into my office and said, “Grandma Grandma come here.”  
 She grabbed my hand and pulled me into the Gathering area in front of the manger scene we have out there.  
 She pointed and said, “Look Grandma it is the baby Jesus and he is...Away in a manger no crib for a bed...”  
 Before she could even get all the words out of her mouth, she broke out in song and proceeded to sing the whole song to me.  
 Music best expresses the joy of our hearts.  
 It connects our spirits with God’s spirit.

But it does even more than that.

It helps us to remember.

We sing our theology – our beliefs about God.

We put those beliefs, those words to music so we can remember them.

Charles Wesley writes for us to sing, “Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.”

So do you know the next verse of that song? (Hark the Herald Angels sing, glory to the newborn King)

You see music helps us to remember.

That is why it is important to listen to what we are singing.

Wesley writes those words to remind us that:

Jesus is the chosen one, the Christ, sent by God to carry out among us the work that only God could do.

God comes as Jesus to be our Messiah; He was “born to give us second birth,” a spiritual birth that draws us back to God.

Jesus did not remain in the safety and security of heaven remote from us.

He entered our world and took on our human nature.

Jesus became one of us so that He could best show us the way back to our heavenly Father.

**Music helps us to remember.**

**Music best expresses the joy in our hearts.**

And the most amazing thing of all to me is that God invites us to be part of the music.

As Calvin Miller stated, “And the greatest mystery of all is that He invites us to sing along.

We get to be part of the melody of the greatest story ever told.

If you go back to that story in Luke – after the angels sing to the shepherds, “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom God is pleased.**”

The story goes on to say this, “**When the angles had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child and all who heard it were amazed at**

what the shepherds said to them.” (2:15-18)

People were amazed because they would have never dreamed that God would use shepherds to help sing his song – to be part of his symphony.

Look around you this morning – WE ARE GOD’S SYMPHONY.  
It may amaze others that we are God’s Symphony but we are nevertheless.  
Maybe it even amazes you that you are part of God’s symphony.  
Or maybe you never thought about it that way before.  
But make no mistake my friends, you are I are a part of God’ Symphony.

We get the privilege and joy of joining in on the song with THE SINGER.  
We get to share God’s love and joy with all those who will listen.  
We get to be part of the salvation story.  
We get to **sing** out the Good News about Jesus:

He came

He lived.

He died. And rose again.

He saves.

He heals.

He hears.

He speaks.

Still. Today. To you and to me. Through a friend, through a stranger,  
through a song, through His Word: Emmanuel has indeed, come!

So listen. And I pray this holiday season that you hear the sound of children caroling, bells ringing, and even a heavenly host of angels singing, **“Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace goodwill to men!”**

Join me in song this morning as we sing Angels we Have Heard on High  
and I encourage you to sing out to the One who gave you voice, who put that joy in your heart, who invites you to be part of His song.

Resources: The Bible, The Singer by Calvin Miller.