

MUSIC

— SACRED AND SECULAR THROUGH THE AGES —

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From Antiquity and the unwritten music of primitive man to our modern age with its complicated and sophisticated musical forms, music as a medium has in many and varied ways ministered to the hearts and minds of men. Furnished by nature with two very good instruments, the voice and hands, man explored and developed vocal music via his voice and instrumental music with his handclapping rhythms leading to his making such instruments as rattles and drums from trees, bones, and animal skins. Reed grasses broken and blown upon soon developed into pan pipes. The string of the hunter's bow idly plucked, finally developed into modern stringed instruments. And, as various instruments were developed and perfected, they found their place along with developing forms of vocal music in the lives of the people in satisfying their emotional and intellectual needs.

We find music used in mystic ceremonies, festivals, war, ceremonial dances, work, games, and religious rites. The Hebrews used the shofar (a sort of trumpet made from a ram's horn) to announce the great feasts and to accompany the chorus in the temple singing. The Greeks used the trumpet in the Trojan war, and the Romans used it to encourage their fighting legions and to strike terror into the hearts of their enemies. During the Middle Ages, the trumpet figured in fanfares and signals of the court and battlefield. The Spartan bard, Tyrtæus, is sometimes credited with the invention of the trombone in 685 B. C. while other authorities say it originated - at least the slide feature - in northern Italy in the 14th century A. D. The development of our modern french horn can be traced from the simple calls of the huntinghorn of about the year 1500. The oboe was known in one form or another to the Egyptians, Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans, and was used by these

ancient peoples as a wailing instrument at their burials. It found its way into Europe in the Middle Ages and made its appearance in the court of Edward III of England, about the middle of the 14th century, where three oboes were used in the royal band. The chalumeau, the ancestor of the clarinet, was a favorite instrument of the Greeks and the Persians when the Crusaders passed through these countries during the Middle Ages. The stringed instruments may be similarly observed. And so we may follow the development of the various instruments and instrumental musical forms along with the more easily traceable vocal music and its forms from antiquity to our present day.

However, the main purpose of the material thus far presented is to provide a basis of historical perspective rather than casual observation and generalization for study undertaken in this paper.

As a Christian missionary music teacher, and having dedicated my life to teaching in a Christian school in a foreign country, namely Japan; I have continued the study of music, especially Christian music, with a view to applying it in direct and concrete ways to my present teaching situation. As a mainly instrumental instructor, my study has been weighted in favor of instrumental music. However, I have continued it in conjunction with all phases of music including vocal music both sacred and secular. In this connection, stimulated and intrigued with the manner in which both vocal and instrumental music, sacred and secular, have developed since early biblical times, and with the initial presentation material as a historical basis and coordinating factor, the following presentation gains in relevance and credibility.

Early Jewish music (2,000 - 1,000 B. C.) was played, danced and sung. Jubal, a descendant of Cain, is said to be the father of the harp and organ.¹

After the great flood, music is first spoken of in connection with Laben when he talked with Jacob.²

During the reign of King Saul, music became important in the lives of the

people, and the Jewish temple became the center of musical activity. David and Solomon employed court musicians, and David organized choirs in the temple.

1 The Holy Bible, Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York, revised A. D. 1946-1962

Genesis Chapter 4:verse 21, p. 4

2 Ibid. p. 32

Their music was sung and played for the service of God. In the temple, instruments were used when the priests entered. Bible reading and prayers were chanted. Chanting and antiphonal singing begun in the fifth century B. C. by the Hebrews, are still done today. There are many bible references which show how music was used at this time and how important it was in the lives of the Jewish people. Music was used in the crowning of kings.¹ It was also used in times of triumphs of the nation;² in times of worship of God,³ and in the worship of idols.⁴ Music was also used in happy times;⁵ and at funerals.⁶ There were specific uses for certain instruments. Trumpets were used to proclaim the new year, to call people to war, or to assembly. They were also used for festivals and in temple orchestras. Cymbals were used for both religious and military purposes. The psaltery was used with singing; the timbrel with songs and dances. The flute was used at banquets, funerals, and religious services.

Instruments used in Hebrew life and their biblical references:

Name of instrument	Reference	
Trumpet (ram's horn)	II Chronicles 15:14	Hosea 5:8
Cymbal	Daniel 3:5, 7, 10, 15	
Dulcimer	Psalm 150	
Harp	Daniel 3:5, 15	
Psaltery	I Samuel 16:16	
Timbrel	Isaiah 5:12	Isaiah 14:11
Pipe (flute)	Judges 11:34	
	Isaiah 5:12	Matthew 9:23
	Jeremiah 48:36	Matthew 9:23

- 1 The Holy Bible, Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York, revised A. D. 1946-1952 Kings 1:39, 40
- 2 Ibid. Judges 5
- 3 Ibid. II Chronicles 29:27
- 4 Ibid. Daniel 3:5, 7
- 5 Ibid. Ecclesiastes 2:8
- 6 Ibid. II Chronicles 35:25

Jewish music had great influence on Christian music, the Jewish chants leading to the Gregorian Chants which are still used in the Mass of the Catholic Church. Catholics and Protestants both use chants in their Churches today. The harp was an important Jewish instrument. It had ten strings at the time David, a Bible Character, used it. With many strings, it is used in symphony orchestras and as a solo instrument today.

And so we may see the unfolding of the drama of religious music as it moved from the Jewish Old Testament into the Christian New Testament through the life of Jesus Christ, and later on in the life of the early Christian Church. We can trace the music of the beginning of the Christian Era (200-800) through three sources - the Jewish, Greek, and Roman music. The early church continued to sing the Psalms as the Jewish people had done in the synagogues in an antiphonal manner which is still carried on in the churches today. At first, the music of the church was only vocal because at this time in history, many Christians were being persecuted for their faith and services had to be quiet and held in secret. The life of the Christians in the catacombs and their persecution in the Roman arenas as they were torn apart by hungry lions is well known historical fact. Also, some early Christians believed that instruments were for war purposes and therefore not to be used in the church service where a feeling of peace was desired.

After Christianity was adopted as the Roman state religion however, music received more of its rightful place in the church's life and worship. The important music of this time was the Gregorian Chants which were thought to be a necessity as they summed up the teachings and beliefs of the church - namely, the redemption of man through the death of Christ on the cross. Chants as well as the mass which was

begun in this era, are still used in church worship. In addition to the chants, hymns were written by such men as St. Ambrose of Milan. Hymns were popular because all of the people could join in the singing.

The belief that music must be used in the service of God caused Christian missionaries to carry the well-known chants with them into other parts of Europe thus spreading this culture widely through-out the area. This was to influence all music, not only Christian music for the next thousand years and more. Missionaries who went abroad were Augustine to England and Boniface and Il de fonso to Germany and Spain. Charlemagne from France sent his ministers to Rome to study the music. Thus the monastaries all over Europe became centers for teaching this music and keeping it from being destroyed during the dark ages to come.

Little is known of secular music before the tenth century. Thus far, church music has received the most important place in history. We first learn of secular music in connection with the minstrel groups in France. The troubadours, poet-musicians from southern France, used church melodies for their secular songs. The Trouveres, poet-musicians from northern France, joined with the troubadours to form a guild of secular musicians. This guild of singers, instrumentalists, and composers worked until the 18th century using their knowledge of Christian music for secular purposes. The Minnesingers from Germany, combined religion with their singing, thus linking sacred and secular song. Their strong rhythm and sacred words are the roots of the Luthern Chorale. The two important musical forms of this period are the Madrigal (secular music) and the Motet (sacred music).

The religious Crusades of the 12th and 13th centuries are important to music because the Crusaders brought back to Europe with them many instruments. In the Medieval Period, the three most popular instruments which began to be used independently were the lute, viol, and organ. The organ was most popular because of its important function in the church.

The Renaissance Period (1,400-1,600) - the period of the "rebirth of learning"

affected all phases of man's activity.

Though the trend of the time showed a lack of interest in spiritual things, still the composers who wrote the greatest music of the period, we find to be men of the church who wrote mostly sacred music. Choral polyphony reached its peak during this period and instruments were used more independently as solo instruments rather than just for accompaniments. Composers began to think harmonically and the old church modes began to disappear. Major and Minor Scales began to be used. Six countries were the important centers of music in the Renaissance Period; Italy, France, Netherlands, Spain, England, and Germany. Palestrina of Italy wrote some of the greatest church music. Di Lasso of France and the Netherlands wrote many masses and motets, set many bible psalms to music, and also wrote secular music. In Spain, Victoria wrote only sacred music as he believed strongly that all music must praise God. His music is some of the most beautiful ever written. Palestrina and Victoria are called the "Bach and Handel" of the 16th century. Luther of Germany is very important as the author of the Protestant Reformation which made an important contribution to music. It is indeed fortunate that Luther was a musician as well as a reformer. If Luther had not lived, there might have been no music of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms such as it is. Luther's music became the foundation stone of all German music to come from Bach to Wagner. Luther's chorales came from sacred and secular folk melodies, from Gregorian Chant and some he wrote himself. These chorales expressed the religious beliefs of the church. The Luthern Chorale was the most important contribution of Germany to all Renaissance Art. Important instruments used during the Renaissance were the lute, harpsichord, clavichord, violin, viols, and the organ. (Our modern violin bow was invented at this time.) The organ, because it was the instrument of the church, had the attention of the best trained musicians and was the first instrument to have a style of its own and much music written for it. The madrigal, motet,

and the chorale are the important forms of the Renaissance Period. The madrigal a secular form and the motet and chorale, sacred forms.

During the Baroque Period (1680-1750), music was written logically and scientifically. As the music of this era was influenced by people who were not in the church, secular music became the most popular. Instrumental music largely took the place of vocal music; although the new form opera, combining music and drama, was invented early in the period. Since this time when the art of violin playing was perfected, (Amanti and Stradivarius), the two famous violin makers, no better violins have been made. Corelli, first master of the violin, was the founder of our modern composition and performance. Other important instruments used were the oboe, lute, bassoon, and french horn. We also have the beginning of concerted instrumental music in this period. From Italy, we remember Montiverdi for the first great opera; Scarlatti for his many operas, cantatas, oratorios (dramatic works with biblical texts), and much church music. In England, the musical genius Purcell, made important contributions in harpsichord music, church music, solo songs, and music for plays called incidental music. At this time, the verse anthem was the most important form of music used in the church. The German composer Handel, often considered English because he became famous there, wrote many kinds of music including oratorios, operas, anthems cantatas, and songs. The best known of his vocal works is the Messiah based on the bible passages concerning the life of Christ. Many beside the king of England have thrilled to hear Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Bach, the famous German musician, was a famous organ builder, violinist, organist, and choir director. His works include over two hundred cantatas, St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, Christmas Oratorio, Mass in B Minor, Musical Offering, and The Art of Fugue. He also wrote much much other music including

organ music, harpsichord, vocal, chamber, and orchestral music. His greatest works are his sacred works which are an expression of his religious beliefs. He said his only purpose was to glorify God. In his music, we reach the height of instrumental polyphony. Another contribution was his division of the scale into twelve equal semitones giving us "Equal Temperament". All of our pianos are now tuned in a tempered scale. Composers from Mendelssohn to Stravinsky have followed the Bach musical style. Bach's greatest music, the B Minor Mass, and Handel's greatest music, The Messiah, were both sacred. The major musical forms of the period were the opera, oratorio, Passion, mass, cantata, anthem, chorale, suite, concerto, and fugue. Although the popular music of the Baroque Period was secular (opera), the music of this period which is popular today is sacred. People around the world sing Handel's Messiah, and there are perhaps no musicians who aren't familiar with Bach's B Minor Mass. He is thought to be the greatest of all composers. The Rococo Period (1725 - 1775 A. D.) was a sort of bridge between the time of Bach and Handel and the time of Maydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. This period saw the piano becoming more important than the harpsichord and clavichord; and the style changing from polyphonic to homophonic music. The modern symphony, string quartet, and sonata were begun in this period. During the Classical Period, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven established these forms. The Classical Period covered the time from 1770 - 1880. Haydn, like Bach, wrote music for God's glory. He believed God had given him musical talent and was helping him to use it. He also believed the most important thing in music was its spiritual feeling, which belief accounts for the deep feeling and emotion in his music. He is called the father of our sonata, string quartet and symphony. He wrote over a hundred symphonies, over eighty string quartets, six masses twenty piano concertos, several operas, oratorios, and church music. His well known symphonies are the London Symphony, the Surprise

Symphony and the Clock Symphony. One of his most important quartets is the Emperor Quartet because it includes Haydn's famous hymn to the Austrian Emperor. This hymn is now the Austrian national anthem. His greatest oratorio, *The Creation*, has its text taken from "Genesis" and Milton's *Paradise Lost*. "The Heavens are Telling" is a chorus from *The Creation*. Mozart was the greatest pianist of this period and though died at the age of thirty-five, wrote in twenty years six hundred works for all kinds of instruments and voices. In a letter to a friend, he thanked God for all the music he had been able to write. He wrote operas, symphonies, quartets, much church music, songs, sonatas, concertos, and many piano works. His three most important symphonies are the E-flat Symphony, the G Minor Symphony, and the Jupiter Symphony in C Major. His most important operas are *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *Don Giovanni*. His last work was the *Requiem Mass*. He died while writing it. Beethoven, Haydn's pupil, was the bridge between the Classic and Romantic Periods. Beethoven knew he was going to become stone deaf and this didn't help his disposition, but he learned how to make his troubles serve as a spiritual help to his music. He never heard his last five string quartets nor the Ninth Symphony (*The Choral Symphony*). After he had conducted his Ninth Symphony, the audience clapped loudly, but Beethoven didn't hear them. When a member asked him to turn and look at the audience, Beethoven almost burst into tears of thanksgiving. His thankfulness to God for the beauties of nature about him are heard in the music of his sixth and seventh symphonies. While he was writing the seventh, he entered a prayer to God in his diary. This prayer reveals his feeling toward God. His important contributions to music are : the addition of the scherzo to the symphony, the introduction of the trombone, piccolo and contra-bassoon to the symphony, more dissonant harmony; the introduction of the chorus into the symphony. He thought that music should be expressive. This idea made him the

bridge between the Classic and Romantic Periods. His works include nine symphonies, chamber music, one opera, sonatas, many piano works, masses, and many other vocal works. His third, fifth, sixth, and ninth symphonies are best known. His *Missa Solemnis in D (Mass)* is very important. His oratorio, *Christ on the Mount of Olives*, is one of his great vocal works. *Fidelio* is his one and famous opera. The piano became important in this period. Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven wrote much music for it.

Clarinets were used in symphony music. The trombone, piccolo, contrabassoon, and tuba were introduced, and valves were used for the first time. Orchestration had more instrumental color. Thus instrumental music came to have a very important place. This was further implemented as instruments were improved to meet the new techniques required of them. Forms of the period were the classical symphony and the classical sonata.

The Romantic Period (1830 - 1900) was the time of freedom in writing of music, much expression of feeling and sentimentality. Music of many countries was centered around their folk music. This and Napoleon's wars to conquer other countries helped to create a spirit of nationalism in music. Melodies during this period were very romantic and many new chords were used for the first time. Music written for the piano is the most important outcome of this period. This period is commonly known as the "Golden Age" of the piano. Valve instruments, the Boehm flute system, oboe, bassoon, and clarinet were perfected; the English horn began to be used; and the chromatic harp was invented. Woodwinds, brass, and percussion were used a great deal more than previously. This combination of instruments made our modern orchestra and modern orchestral effects possible. Forms used during this period are: choral music, opera, oratorio, art song or German Lied, Wagner music drama, short piano pieces, symphonic poem, (tone poem), symphonic suite, symphonic overture, symphonic variations, and song cycle.

Schubert was a master of melody and the art song. His most famous songs are: "The Trout", "The Erl King", "The Wanderer", and "Who is Sylvia? ". His Unfinished Symphony No. 8 is also well known. Many also know and love his "Psalm 23" and "Ave Maria". Mendelssohn has given us the famous overture, "Midsummer Night's Dream". oratorios "St. Paul" and "Elijah", his "Italian Symphony", "Violin Concerto in E Minor" and the famous piano work, "Songs Without Words".

The music of Schumann, Liszt, and Wagner also figure heavily in this period. Brahms was a very cultured man who read and thought much during his lonely life. He learned much from his study of Bach and was, like Bach, a religious man. He is well known for his C Minor, E Minor, D Major, and F Major symphonies, his choral music; Nanie, German Requiem, songs; "Blessed are They that Go Mourning", "All Flesh is as the Grass", and "Blessed are the Faithful" (all biblical texts). There is probably no one who isn't familiar with the music of Johann Strauss, the "Waltz King" and the beautiful piano works of Chopin. Cesar Franck was a church organist, an ambitious church musician, and a strong Christian who died while doing his Christian work. He is well known for his D Minor Symphony, his oratorio, "The Beatitudes", church music "Psalm 150", and "Organ Chorales". The composer, Faure, was a church organist whom we remember for his opera "Carmen" and Berlioz for his symphony, "Romeo and Juliet", his opera, "Damnation of Faust", his religious music, "Requiem Mass", "Chorale Te Deum", and "Enfamme Duer Christ." Saint-Saens is best known for his opera, "Samson and Delilah", Old Testament characters. Verdi must be remembered as the greatest Italian composer of opera during this period. His "Rigoletto", "Il Trovatore", "Aida", "Othello", and "Falstaff" are all well known. His religious music, "Requiem Mass", "Pater Noster", and "Ave Maria" enjoy equal status. We remember Puccini for his operas, "Madame Butterfly" and "La Boheme".

In England, we find the church music of S. Wesley and S. B. Wesley. We recall Stainer for his "Crucifixion", and Gilbert and Sullivan for their famous operas "H. M. S. Pinafore", "Pirates of Penzance", and "Mikado".

The "Big Five" composers in Russia were Moussorgsky, Borodin, Balakirev, Cui, and Rimsky - Korsakov. We remember Moussorgsky for his opera, "Boris Godunov", suite, "Pictures at an Exhibition", and orchestral poem, "Night on Bald Mountain". Rimsky - Korsakov is remembered for his symphonic suite, "Scheherazade", his orchestral work, "Russian Easter", and songs, "Hymn to the Sun", and "Song of India". We remember Tchaikovsky best for his Symphonies Nos. 4, 5, 6, his "Nutcracker Suite", and "Swan Lake".

Norway gave us Grieg with his "Peer Gynt Suite" and Bohemia, Dvorak with his "Slavonic Dances", and "New World Symphony" using folk tunes and melodies from America. Spain gave us De Falla with his tone poem, "Night in the Garden of Spain". Finland gave us Sibelius who said that God was the power who ruled any art. We know him for his seven symphonies, "Valse Triste", tone poem, "Finlandia", and "Swan of Tounela".

We remember MacDowell of the United States of America for his piano music, "Woodland Sketches" and "Panio Concerto in D Minor". Lowell Mason is as important in American sacred music as is Stephen Foster in American secular music. Mason is also called the "Father of Public School Music" in America. Foster is famous the world over for his songs, "Old Black Joe", "Old Folks at Home", "My Old Kentucky Home". Block is a Swiss Jew who emigrated to America. He shows in his music the Old Testament feeling of faith and sorrow. His music was inspired by Hebrew folk music. We remember his for his "Israel Symphony", "Psalms for Violin and Orchestra", and "Baal Sham Suite".

The New Music since 1900 has been marked by a break away from the

Romantic style and has progressed through two world wars during the first half of the 20th century in the forms of Impressionism, Expressionism, and Neo-Classicism. Atonality, bitonality, polytonality, change in meter and rhythm, dissonant harmony, polyphony, the whole tone scale, the twelve tone scale, widely skipping melodies, and jazz with all of the more recent forms of rock and roll, the twist, etc. have been significant of this period. The modern symphony, symphonic suite, chamber music, ballet, opera, and choral music have found valid representation.

From France, we especially remember Debussy with his orchestral work, "The Afternoon of a Faun". Equally well known is Ravel's orchestral work, "Rhapsody Espagnole" and also "Bolero". We have Milhaud's "The Scaramouch" (for two pianos) and Honegger's "King David's "Symphonic Psalm".

Germany has given us Schoenberg with his, "Peace on Earth". Hindemith, The American Requiem and "Symphony Mathis der Mahler". England's Benjamin Britten has given us the well known religious music, "A Ceremony of Carols" and "A Boy Was Born ". Ralph Vaughn Williams gave us, "Sea Symphony". Hungary has given Bartok with his, "Blue Beards Castle". Russia has provided Rachmaninoff with his, "Piano Concerto in C Minor"; and Prokofiev with the symphonic suite, "Peter and the Wolf", the opera, "The Love of Three Oranges" and his, "Classical Symphony". We have Schostakovich with his symphonies and Scriabin who tried to combine art and religion in his music. He is known for his mystic chord, (C, F, Bb, E, A, D), his tone poem, "Prometheus", and orchestral piece, "Mystery for Religion". Stravinsky completes the list with his Ballet Suites, "Fire Bird", "Rite of Spring", and "Petrouchka"; and his, "Symphony of Psalms" a choral work for orchestra. America gives us William Grant Still, the most famous American negro composer. We know him for his, "Afro-American Symphony", "Cantata", and, "They Lynched Him On a Tree". America provides many other famous modern

composers. Randall Thompson's "Peacable Kingdom" and "Alleluia" are well known religious works. Aaron Copland is known for his suite, "Billy the Kid" and, "The Lark" a chorale. Howard Hanson is known for his, "Romantic Symphony" and George Gershwin for his opera, "Porgy and Bess", and Rhapsody in Blue "for piano and orchestra. Cole Porter has given us the song, "Night and Day" and Jerome Kern the operetta, "Show Boat". Richard Rodgers has given the musical comedies, "South Pacific" "Oklahoma", and "Carousel".

This list doesn't include the many folk song singers of our time or such new composers now well known in the choral and instrumental field as Robert Washburn and Arthur Frachenpohl in particular who have been so well received and published in both sacred and secular works. Frachenpohl's works in particular are being widely performed all over the U. S. A., and he is also significant as a composer who writes especially for instrumental and choral groups music to be performed during church services. Such a work is his, "Te Deum". Robert Shaw is another such modern composer who has, through his own choral groups, and via recordings given new arrangements and life to both sacred and secular music. I have had the privilege and pleasure of working under him many times and learned the sheer pleasure and joy of singing and playing great religious choral and instrumental works under his baton. In his own words, "When you sing the mass, the meaning of the biblical message should make you dance before the Lord... "The Mass is joy and praise to Him, not a funeral."

And thus, like a golden thread, sacred music, both vocal and instrumental, has woven itself into the fabric of the minds and hearts of the people of every age providing the leaven of the "Eternal".

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