

EVALUATING MUSIC FOR CHURCH USE

Can we? Could we? Would we?

CONGREGATIONAL MUSIC

DOCTRINALLY SOUND

It should align and complement what is preached and taught.

- “And Can It Be?”
 - He left His Father's throne above,
 - So free, so infinite His grace;
 - Emptied Himself of all but love,
 - And bled for Adam's helpless race;
 - 'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
 - For, O my God, it found out me.
- In the strictest, literal sense this phrase is not true.
- In a poetic sense it may be excusable.

FREE FROM WORLDLY ASSOCIATIONS

The text, tune, and style should not remind others of music that is not glorifying to God.

- “You’re My Best Friend” by Don Williams
 - #1 Country Song – June 1975
 - You placed gold on my finger
 - You brought love like I've never known
 - You gave life to our children
 - And to me a reason to go on
 - You're my bread when I'm hungry
 - You're my shelter from troubled winds
 - You're my anchor in life's ocean
 - But most of all you're my best friend
- “My Best Friend” by The Inspirations
 - *I Know – Track #10*
 - With His Blood Jesus saved me
 - With a love like I've never known
 - He gave life a brand-new meaning
 - And to me a reason to go on
 - He's my bread when I'm hungry
 - He's my shelter from troubled winds
 - He's my Anchor in life's ocean
 - But most of all He's my best friend

ACCESSIBLE

The entire congregation, from toddler to senior, should be able to sing and comprehend the song.

170 Wonderful Grace of Jesus

WONDERFUL GRACE 7.6.7,6.7.6.12 with refrain

1 Won-der-ful grace of Je - sus, great - er than all my sin;
2 Won-der-ful grace of Je - sus, reach-ing to all the lost,
3 Won-der-ful grace of Je - sus, reach-ing the most re - viled,

how shall my tongue de - scribe it, where shall its praise be - gin?
by it I have been par-doned, saved to the ut - ter - most.
by its trans-form-ing pow - er mak - ing me God's dear child,

Tak - ing a - way my bur - den, set - ting my spir - it free,
Chains have been torn a - sun - der, giv - ing me lib - er - ty,
pur - chas - ing peace and heav - en for all e - ter - ni - ty,

for the won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.

Refrain
the match-less grace of Je - sus,
Won-der-ful the match-less grace of Je - sus, deep - er

GOOD QUALITY

This applies to many areas, such as textually (grammar, expressions, vocabulary, expressions, etc.) and musically (melody, harmony, rhythm, etc.).

No. 100

Aint It a Shame

As sung by Cook & Whitworth

1. Aint it a shame to work on Snn - day, Aint it a
2. Aint it a shame to joy - ride Sun - day, Aint it a
3. Aint it a shame to gos - sip on Sun - day, Aint it a
4. Aint it a shame to lie on Sun - day, Aint it a

shame, a work-ing shame, Aint it a shame to work on Sun-day, Aint it a
shame, a joy-riding shame, Aint it a shame to joy - ride Sun-day, Aint it a
shame, a gossiping shame, Aint it a shame to gossip on Sun-day, Aint it a
shame, a ly - ing shame,, Aint it a shame to lie on Sun-day, Aint it a

shame, (a work-ing shame,) Aint it a shame to work on Sun - day,
shame, (a joyriding shame,) Aint it a shame to joy - ride Sun - day,
shame, (a gossiping shame,) Aint it a shame to gos-sip on Sun - day,
shame, (a ly - ing shame,) Aint it a shame to lie on Sun - day,

When you got Mon - day, Tues - day and Wednesday, And you got

rit.
Thurs - day, Fri - day and Sat - ur - day, Aint it a shame.

PROPER RESPONSE

What is the effect of the song?

- A few examples....

SENTIMENTALISM VS. ADORATION

#1

408

Precious Memories

The memory of the just is blessed — Proverbs 10:7 KJV

1. Pre - cious mem - 'ries, un - seen an - gels,
2. Pre - cious fa - ther, lov - ing moth - er,
3. As I trav - el on life's path - way,

Sent from some-where to my soul; How they lin - ger,
Fly a - cross the lone - ly years; And old home scenes
Know not what the years may hold; As I pon - der,

ev - er near me, And the sa - cred past un - fold.
of my child-hood In fond mem - o - ry ap - pear.
hope grows fond - er, Pre - cious mem - 'ries flood my soul.

Refrain
Pre-cious mem-'ries, how they lin-ger, How they ev-er flood my soul;

In the still-ness of the mid-night, Pre-cious, sa-cred scenes un-fold.

WORDS: J. B. F. Wright and Lonnie B. Combs
MUSIC: J. B. F. Wright

SENTIMENTALISM VS. ADORATION

#2

1. I come to the gar-den a-lone, While the
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so
3. I'd stay in the gar-den with Him Tho' the

dew is still on the ros-es; And the voice I hear, fall-ing
sweet the birds hush their sing-ing; And the mel-o-dy that He
night a-round me be fall-ing; But He bids me go; thro' the

on my ear, The Son of God dis-clos-es.
gave to me With-in my heart is ring-ing.
voice of woe, His voice to me is call-ing.

JOVIALITY VS. JOY

There is a difference in the deep-rooted joy of a Christian and the silly antics of a high school pep rally.



LEVITY VS. COMMUNITY

Oftentimes we fall into a trap of irreverence to build camaraderie in a service.

- “The Family of God” by Bill and Gloria Gaither
 - You will notice we say "brother
 - and sister" 'round here-
 - It's because we're a family
 - and these folks are so near;
 - When one has a heartache
 - we all share the tears,
 - And rejoice in each victory
 - In this family so dear.

ROMANTIC AFFECTION VS. REVERENT LOVE

God's love for us, our love for Him, and the brotherly love of Christians is not the same as the romantic feelings we have.

Jesus is not your boyfriend.

- “How He Loves Us”
 - He is jealous for me
 - Loves like a hurricane, I am a tree
 - Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy
 - When all of a sudden
 - I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory
 - And I realise just how beautiful You are
 - And how great Your affections are for me
 - And oh, how He loves us, oh
 - Oh, how He loves us
 - How He loves us all
 - Yeah, He loves us
 - Oh, how He loves us
 - Oh, how He loves us
 - Oh, how He loves

SADNESS VS. SORROW

Sorrow is a true and valid response that God desires, but this is not the same as removing all joy from life.

SPIRITUALS

614 Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

Traditional Spiritual

OH, YES LORD Irregular with Refrain

REFRAIN

No - bod - y knows the trou - ble I've seen, No - bod - y knows my sor - row;

FINE

No bod - y knows the trou - ble I've seen, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah!

DUET *somewhat faster*

CHORUS

1. Some - times I'm up, some - times I'm down, Oh, yes, Lord!
2. Al - tho' you see me going 'long so, Oh, yes, Lord!
3. What makes old Sa - tan hate me so, Oh, yes, Lord!

DUET

D. C. al Fine

Some - times I'm al - most to the groun', Oh, yes, Lord!
I have my trou - bles here be - low, Oh, yes, Lord!
'Cause he got me once and let me go. Oh, yes, Lord!

FAMILIARITY VS. PATERNITY

While God is our Father, we should not refer to Him as our “Daddy”. Yes, we have a close relationship with God, but we cannot stoop to irreverence to describe it.



SOMBERNESS VS. SOBRIETY

While we should be serious about our worship, we should never be gloomy or overly grave.



VIRTUOSITY VS. EXCELLENCE

While we should offer God our best, we should not draw attention away from him by our own actions or performance.



MORE CONSIDERATIONS

(Hard to find examples for these)

- Does it form the believer?
- Is it memorable?
- Does it help display varied and appropriate emotions?
- Will it compliment the other elements of the service?
- Does it inspire congregational involvement?
- Does it have depth?
- Does it give glory to God?

SPECIAL MUSIC

Solos, groups, choirs, etc.

EVERYTHING ELSE, PLUS:

- The participants must be exemplary
- There is a broader range of appropriate music.
 - Next slide will go deeper...
- Music can be more advanced or technical.
- Avoid the temptation for novelty.

WHO ORIGINALLY SANG
THIS SONG?

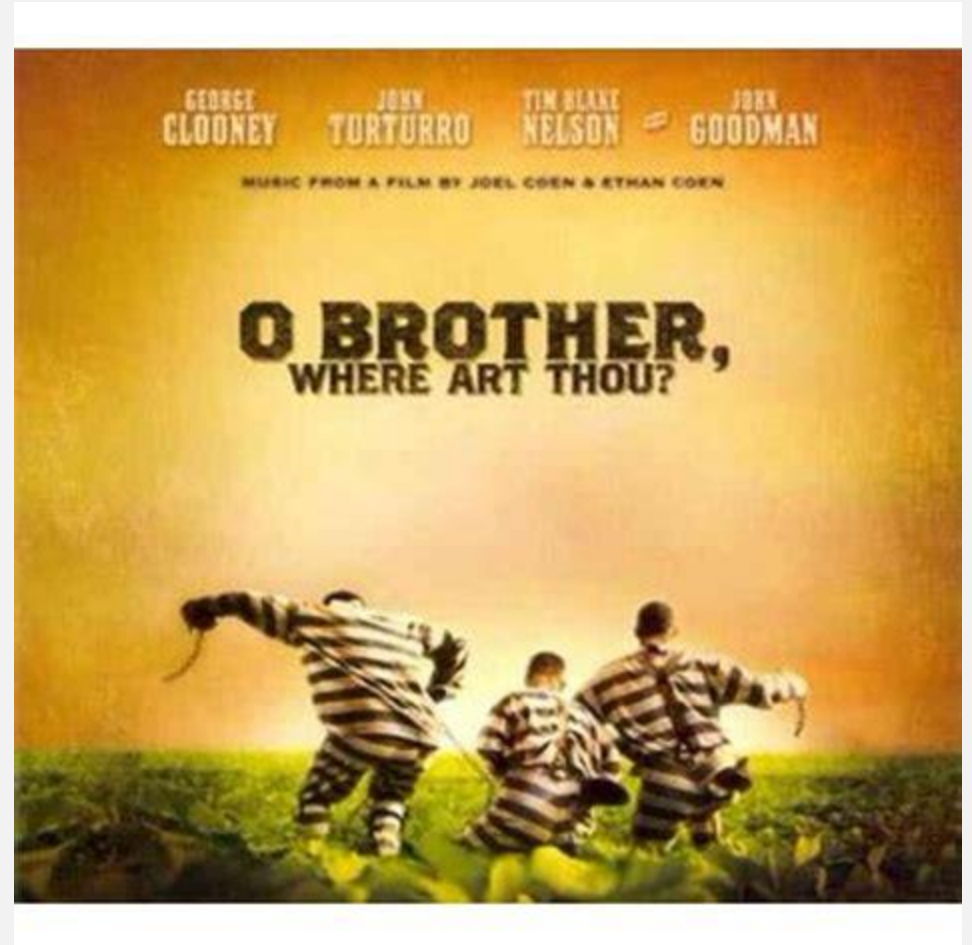
Hank Williams wrote and recorded
"I Saw the Light"



WHO MADE THIS SONG FAMOUS?

“Down to the River to Pray” is thought to have been a Black spiritual, dating back to at least 1867.

You never heard this song until it was used in the soundtrack to “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”



WHO WROTE IT?

Wikipedia:

Kristoffer Kristofferson (born June 22, 1936) is an American retired country singer, songwriter, and actor. Among his songwriting credits are "Me and Bobby McGee", "For the Good Times", "Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down", and "Help Me Make It Through the Night", all of which were hits for other artists.

One Day at a Time
Words & Music: Marijohn Wilkin & Kris Kristofferson
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

1. I'm on - ly hu - man, I'm just a ^(man) wo - man,
2. Do you re - mem - ber when you walkod a - mong men,

Help me be - lieve in what I could be and all that I am;
Je - sus You know if You're look - ing be - low that it's worse now than then;

Show me the stair - way, I have to climb, Lead, for my sake,
Push - in and show - in', crowd - ing my mind, So for my sake,

REFRAIN

teach me to take one day at a time. One day at a time, sweet
teach me to take one day at a time.

Je - sus, that's all I'm ask - ing from You, Just give me the strength to

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WHO WROTE IT?

Wikipedia:

Jack Williams Hayford (June 25, 1934 – January 8, 2023) was an American author, Pentecostal minister, and Chancellor Emeritus of The King's University (formerly The King's College and Seminary). He was formerly a senior pastor of The Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California, one of a handful of flagship churches in the Foursquare denomination, and was the fourth President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. He was widely known for his involvement in the Promise Keepers movement and for being a prolific author and songwriter, with over 600 hymns and choruses in his catalog. He is the author of the popular 1978 hymn "Majesty", which is rated as one of the top 100 contemporary hymns and performed and sung in churches worldwide

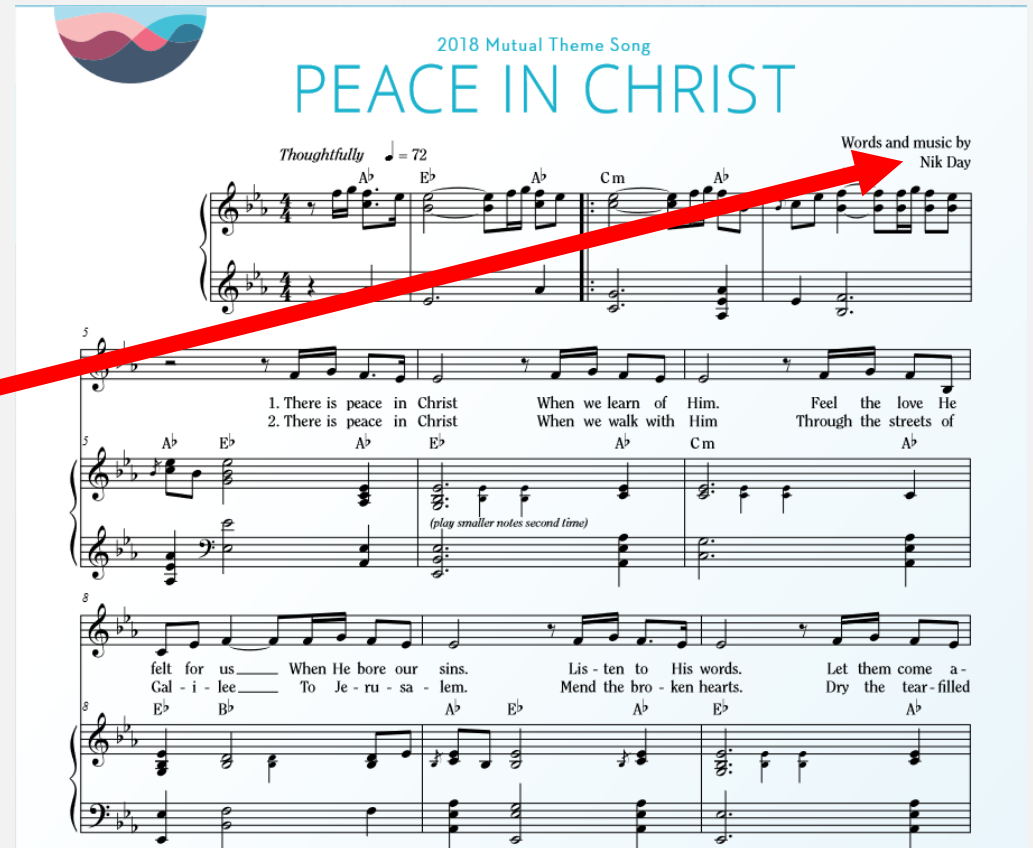
Majesty

Words and Music by
Jack W. Hayford

Maj - es - ty, wor - ship His maj - es - ty, Un - to
Je - sus be all glo - ry, pow - er and praise,
Maj - es - ty, king - dom au - thor - i - ty Flow from His
throne un - to His own, His an - them raise, So ex -

WHO WROTE IT?

“Peace in Christ” was written by Nik Day, a staff member of the LDS (a.k.a. “Mormon”). It was written for a youth theme in 2018.



2018 Mutual Theme Song

PEACE IN CHRIST

Thoughtfully ♩ = 72

Words and music by
Nik Day

1. There is peace in Christ When we learn of Him. Feel the love He
2. There is peace in Christ When we walk with Him Through the streets of

felt for us — When He bore our sins. Lis - ten to His words. Let them come a -
Gal - i - lee — To Je - ru - sa - lem. Mend the bro - ken hearts. Dry the tear - filled

(play smaller notes second time)

WHO HOLDS THE COPYRIGHT TO THE SONG?

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(ASCAP)

SHOUT TO THE LORD

1

Words and Music by
DARLENE ZSCHECH

Worshipfully

My Je - sus, my Sav - ior,

Lord, there is none like You All of my days I want to praise.

the won - ders of Your might y love.

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Offertories, preludes, postludes, etc.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

- You will have a limited pool of instrumentalists to choose from.
- Instrumentalists have limited competency and certain styles they will be more comfortable with.
- Be careful to not exceed the skill level of your musicians.

RECORDED MUSIC

- This is far more prevalent today thanks to technology.
- Live music is far superior to recorded music.
- Every church must make its own policy on when and what to use.
- The biggest drawback is that it draws attention to itself.