

The Power of Music

May 25, 2020

It is said that Saul use to call David in to play music for him, in order to calm his troubled spirit. I Samuel 16:23 recounts one of these times. The narrator says, *“And whenever the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand, and Saul would be relieved and feel better, and the evil spirit would depart from him.”* Saul was constantly pressured by his insecurities and fears regarding what others felt about him, and were conspiring to do against him. These thoughts made him an erratic leader, and an unstable captain of his army. Music provided some relief to these troubling thoughts that drove him to the point of madness. Music has always had this calming and soothing affect on the human heart. There is something that we connect with in its beat, and its melody and its hopeful longing. Music can also move our feet to dance, and our hearts to sing which provides a feeling of excitement and energy. Like poetry, music has a rhythm that plays us, as we try to enter the sounds and words that are designed to transport us.

I have recently downloaded the new album by Andrea Bocelli entitled Si! Even though there are instruments that play in the background, his voice is a full and complete instrument in itself. It carries you to the core of that string inside of you, that when plucked soothes all the tension and worry we have been carrying around. During the day I am in need of such a chord that can liberate me from my own concerns and my weariness as well. But at other times during the day I like to listen to Jimmy Hendrix. His driving guitar opens up that part of me that wants to crash through the walls in front of me and grab something real in which to carry with me throughout the day. His guitar is powerful, and when we allow it to carry us into ourselves, we can feel just a little bit of that power to create things in the world. I have especially been treating myself to “All Along the Watchtower” and “Little Wing.” They show off is talent to make the guitar sing, unlike any of his other songs.

Both Bocelli and Jimmy Hendrix connect with something deep in us. Bocelli is like Mozart, who allows the violins to hang over the melody like a rainbow of color. Jimmy Hendrix is like Beethoven, who wishes to conquer something, instead allow the music to sooth you. Beethoven wants you to feel the music through its power, Mozart wants you to feel the music through its subtle tones and melody’s.

Music is spiritual. Every religion creates its music to help the worshipper develop the spirituality behind the story of its God. Christians have developed music throughout the centuries to tell the story of Jesus, but also to help the worshipper feel the spirituality behind the story. Like Beethoven, Jesus was powerful and driven. His spiritual message was hard. But Jesus was also graceful and loving. In the story of the woman who poured perfume on Jesus’ feet, you can hear the violins softly entering the melody of the story, which offers us tears and sighs of a loving spiritual presence.

During this time of our invisible enemy don’t forget to listen to music. But the most important thing we can do is to let it play us. Let it pluck that chord that unlocks that spiritual treasure we were born with.