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# 1. 2016

## 1.1 February

### About (2016-02-17 16:46)

I am Catherine, a student at Florida State. This blog aims to analyze the extensive role of music in Christianity and how large of an impact it has to the different sectors of the religion.

This is just a short excerpt for the about page.

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### Contact (2016-02-17 16:46)

This is a contact page with some basic contact information and a contact form. [contact-form][contact-field label="Name" type="name" required="1"/][contact-field label="Email" type="email" required="1"/][contact-field label="Website" type="url"/][contact-field label="Comment" type="textarea" required="1"/][contact-form]

This is just a short excerpt for the contact page.

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### Music Is Power (2016-02-18 17:44)

Music is defined as "an art of sound in time that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color." Music is a universal language among many different cultures and religions all across the globe; however, one religion that places heavy emphasis on music and worship is Christianity. Music is not limited to any one sect of Christianity, but a prominent image in all, with each having their own differences.

This introduction to the genres of Christian music is aimed to bring light to this significant piece in this vast religion. Some different types of Christian music are contemporary Christian hits, Christian rock, South African choirs, old hymns, psalms, and other worship. Each has its own role in the religion and its own appropriate setting to which it applies. So why do Christians sing? "Such singing 'lends dignity and grace to sacred actions and has the greatest value in kindling our heart to a true zeal and eagerness to pray.'" (Calvin, 1988) Like many other things in this world, Christians view music as a gift from God. This gift that evokes such powerful emotions, allowing the individual worshipping to feel so close to God. It can be argued that the gospel readings and different lectures in the Church

are meant to move one towards God, so what's the difference with music? It is very similar to why music is very prominent in movies. When taking the suspenseful music out of a scary movie, it is not very scary anymore. The tone, rhythm, and other elements of music combine to move the scene along in the movie and create the atmosphere. Worship music and other forms of Christian music in the Church are the exact same thing. All of these elements bring a different atmosphere to the Church service and lend a more empowering feeling.

In future posts, different genres will be compared and contrasted; as well as the differences between the various sects of Christianity. The purpose behind why and how each utilizes music in its individual traditions and teachings will also be analyzed to gain a deeper understanding of the role of music. As future posts will dive deeper into specific areas, a contemporary Christian song has been attached to portray how a message with such impact can be written into a normal song that you would hear on the local radio.

[1]Oceans- Hillsong UNITED

Bouwsma, William J. *John Calvin: A Sixteenth-Century Portrait*. New York: Oxford UP, 1988. Print.

"music". *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. 17 Feb. 2016. <Dictionary.com

[2]<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/music>>.

1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9\\_xzw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9_xzw)

2. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/music>

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## 1.2 March

### Traditional Worship (2016-03-02 22:06)

One very motivational and powerful setting for music in the Christian faith is the service. Many of the different denominations are known to use worship through singing and instruments to relay music to the congregation, as well as get the people actively involved. Roman Catholicism is one denomination that is very traditional with their use of music in the mass. The Catholic faith follows the bible, which states in Colossians 3:16, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and song from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." The "Word of God" is encouraging the use of praise and song to worship in mass. From this scripture reading comes the use of psalms and hymns in a more traditional mass service. A psalm is similar to a poem with musical accompaniment. Even though there are many different genres of Christian music available, the bible quotes that hymns or psalms are to be used. This created the foundation for the musical aspect of a mass service.

Although these psalms and hymns can be recited, it is more moving to add music and a melody. As previously mentioned in a post, the tone, rhythm, and other elements of music all combine to move a piece. This evokes emotion in the congregation, setting the perfect stage for worshiping. Music provides a greater opportunity for congregational participation. Many churches form choirs with a full band for the mass. Both are comprised of parishioners, allowing for the opportunity to engage in the music. Similarly, the congregation is often encouraged to

join in on praise with the song books that are typically provided in the pews.

While more modern Christian music has been coming to light recently, hymns and psalms still remain very traditional and are still observed in most Roman Catholic churches. A hymn has been attached as an example of the age-old tradition of the musical aspect in a mass.

"Music at Mass." *Archdiocese of Louisville* (2002): 1. *Archdiocese of Louisville*. Web. 2 Mar. 2016. <<https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/GIRM2002Music.pdf>>.

Yancey, Philip, and Tim Stafford. "Colossians 3:16." *NIV Student Bible: New International Version*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011. 1366+. Print.

[1]Take and Eat- Michael Joncas

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6EJJRaK69U&list=PL323D9781654AF975&index=1>

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## Universal Language (2016-03-30 00:57)

Music at a service is not only prevalent at Catholic masses, but other Christian denominations as well. Music is a universal language understood all around; therefore, it makes sense to have it be observed throughout the different Christian services. The Methodist church is another example of a denomination that utilizes music for worship. There are many similarities to Catholicism. Methodists share the belief of using music to worship God and there has been a shift in the music used; however, even with these similarities, differences can be observed.

Methodists' focus was on preaching and singing the hymns without much accompaniment; therefore, organs and choirs were not a major part of services. "Hymn singing became a trademark of Methodist worship," often being sung before and after the sermon and intermittently throughout the service. One way Methodists made music special to their domination is how they used it to preach the word and reach out to the community. Charles Wesley would guide the people through the streets, encouraging them to sing with confidence. However, there were guidelines to their method of what to sing. Some of these included choosing hymns of praise and prayer, choosing hymns proper to the congregation, being aware of singing too much, and pausing the singing to ask if others understood the meaning of the hymn. Compared to the variety of music observed in Catholic masses, Methodists are stricter and more rigid in their praise.

Ever since the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Methodist leaders have taken a more formal role in the music services of their worship. Choirs are very prominent with full instrumentation; however, they still remain true to the roots of praising through hymns. This sets Methodists apart from the other Christian denominations, allowing for a closer connection among the community and a more familiar living. A popular Methodist hymn has been attached as an example to observe the differences among other denominations. However, it is a more recent and formal hymn as the older, chanted ones are difficult to find nowadays. [1]Praise My Soul the King of Heaven- Methodist Hymn Shaw, Scott. "Music of the Early Methodist Church." *Reihai to Ongaku*(2004): n. pag. Web. 29 Mar. 2016. <[2][http://www.scottshaw.org/wp-content/uploads/Articles %20and %20related/Microsoft %20Word %20](http://www.scottshaw.org/wp-content/uploads/Articles%20and%20related/Microsoft%20Word%20)

%20Article%20for%20%E7%A4%BC%E6%8B%9D%E3%81%A8%E9%9F%B3%E6%A5%BD%20-%E3%80%80%E8%8B%B1%E8%AA%9E%20-%20for%20homepage.pdf>.

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AezOmQ8vDk&list=PL8382D816CDAF9281&index=7>

2. <http://www.scottshaw.org/wp-content/uploads/Articles%20and%20related/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Article%20for%20%E7%A4%BC%E6%8B%9D%E3%81%A8%E9%9F%B3%E6%A5%BD%20-%E3%80%80%E8%8B%B1%E8%AA%9E%20-%20for%20homepage.pdf>

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## 1.3 April

### Satan Temptation Through Music (2016-04-09 17:05)

Have you ever heard a catchy song on the radio and found yourself singing it or humming it later? Have you ever really listened to those words?

When thinking of the phrase “religious music or praise and worship,” often comes to mind words such as innocent, pure, whole, and clean. This is exactly the mid set that these artists have when writing such music. Religious music is meant to have a sole focus on worship and honoring God. Today’s society has become a strong influence for an increase in Christian artists and music worldwide. More so now a days, music is playing an even larger role in Christianity than the religion has ever seen.

Christians believe that Satan, or the devil, has influences on everything that occurs on a daily basis in one’s life. Recently, it has been recognized more that he is even controlling popular music and its message. Satan, like God, works through people. Upon extensive research, it has been learned that witches from Satanic Covens are requested to “pray” upon popular artists to invoke Satan to work through their music with aim for captivating the audience. These artists use witchcraft and spiritualism for help in writing such disheartening and outrageous music which is ultimately what draws an audience.

Unfortunately, in today’s society, sin sells and leaves people desiring more. Artists such as Lady Gaga, Kayne West, and Tyler the Creator all use satanic images in their music videos and performances. While the use of Satanic followers may never cease and may only increase as society becomes more blind-sided, Christian artists are increasing in numbers to help bring peace and light to the sin heard through these modern day pop songs. This reality is what has music playing a very prominent role in the church now more than ever.

Attached is both a popular Lady Gaga song and a contemporary Christian song; not just to hear the praising of God, but to hear the clean lyrics compared to the vulgar lyrics.

[1]Bad Romance- Lady Gaga

[2]Through All of It- Colton Dixon

Piazza, Jo. "Pop Artists Turning to Satanic Imagery to Drum up Controversy, Sales, Experts Say." *Fox News*. FOX News Network, 19 Apr. 2012. Web. 09 Apr. 2016. <<http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2012/04/19/music-artists-turning-to-satanic-imagery-to-drum-up-controversy-sales-experts/>>.



1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDPmPYWe6s8&nohtml5=False>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91KliTalksY&nohtml5=False>

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## **A Revolution (2016-04-11 16:06)**

Changes and evolution occur all the time. It's no surprise, then, that music is ever evolving into something fresher and more in tune with society. Christian music, especially, has seen a major shift in the field of music. This change has greatly impacted the religion and how it is practiced. It has also brought together many different Christian denominations.

Older Christian music, as previously talked about, was slower and very traditional. Popular music and other genres of music have impacted a shift from the great traditional music to more upbeat and diverse music. Christian music can now be classified as Christian rock, Christian pop, Christian rap, contemporary Gospel, and the list goes on. This idea is widely recognized as the "Praise and Worship revolution." There was such an overturn in the melody and rhythms of Christian music; however, the sole focus of Christian music remained the same: To focus on the lyrics and the message being preached. This explosive change was influenced by the rise in music in society and the popularity it gained. Music has become a very prominent aspect and this led Christian music to grow to appeal to more audiences than simply those worshipping in a service. Many have taken to the appeal of this revolution by making it their choice music. All of these songs on Christian radio stations resemble those on pop stations in tune and rhythm; however, they are still true to their spiritual side, making them the ultimate combination of fun and faithful. Recently, church services have begun to shift from traditional hymns to these contemporary songs, as well. St. Thomas More student mass, in Tallahassee, at six pm every Sunday evening now uses these songs for praise and worship during mass. This revolution is attracting more changes in the religion.

Not only has this revolution impacted the way Christian religions worship, but it has also drawn different denominations together and allowed for the idea of inter-religious groups to form. This concept is very evident on college campuses. Non-denominational Christian groups come together with a great emphasis on praise and worship as all of the denominations share this tradition. These groups do not aim to preach one denomination's teachings over another, but find peace and harmony in something so beautiful as the art of music.

At the surface, music may seem obvious that it is influential, especially in today's humanity; however, it means so much more in the Christian faith between its development and cohesiveness.

Attached is an example of a contemporary Christian hit currently being played on the radio. This song is observed in all different denominations of Christianity, depicting music's well-roundedness even in something as categorized as religion.

[1]This is Amazing Grace - Phil Wickham

Howell, Lisa. "The Rise of Contemporary Christian Music - by Lisa Howell, December 2000." *The Rise of Contemporary Christian Music - by Lisa Howell, December 2000*. N.p., Dec. 2000. Web. 11 Apr. 2016. <<http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/frogprincess/frames/history/history.html>>.

1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFRjr\\_x-yxU&spfreload=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFRjr_x-yxU&spfreload=10)

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<https://www.blogbooker.com>

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