

What Music Does God Listen To?

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Have you ever wondered if God was driving around town, which radio station would He listen to in his car? Talk radio, National Public Radio? Rock, Hip Hop, Country? Classic, Golden Oldies, Christian? I strongly suspect that if He were listening to most of the things I hear on the air, there would be a flurry of lightning strikes in a lot of control rooms across the country.

So, what kind of music does God like? It probably doesn't come from an MP4 player. It probably doesn't come from a guitar or an oboe. Those are only lifeless instruments.

As a grandfather, the sweetest music I have ever heard comes from my grandchildren. Lucy's rendition of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or little India singing "Jesus Loves Me" are classics in my book - not because they were of operatic quality - not because studios are rushing to sign contracts with my grandkids - but because they came from the heart of my dear little ones.

Think about it. God has choirs of angels. The sound (pardon the pun) must be angelic. Cherubim and seraphim surround him, but what He truly wants to hear is the "joyful noise" that comes from our hearts. Our music is an expression of our relationship. The "fruit of our lips" is our gift to our loving heavenly Father. Frankly, He probably doesn't care if we

sing off-key, mess up the timing, or even hit the right notes. What touches God's heart is what comes from our hearts. Here are some great reasons to "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).



Lucy, One of John's Granddaughters

First, because we love our God and our hearts are bursting with joy. The Apostle Paul told the Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). Second, Joy gives birth to joy. When we sing as God intended, it fills our hearts and refreshes our spirits.

Second, what can we give to God that He doesn't already have? The mountains and seas, the stars and the planets, and everything in them belongs to God. Everything we possess belongs to God, and we are only His trustees. The one thing we have that truly belongs to us is our heart.

That makes our heart our most precious gift, and we give our hearts to God in song. Because we love God, we want to give him the very best. Think about it. When you give your wife a special present, do you just carelessly toss it on the bed wrapped only in the cheap, plastic shopping bag it came in? Or do you take a moment to remove the packaging, lovingly wrap it in bright paper, and tie it together with a beautiful bow?

David refused to offer a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing (2 Samuel 24:24). Likewise, our heavenly Father will be happy with our songs when we give him our very best!



Exercise

1. What is your favorite hymn? Why?
2. Song leaders have a tough job. What song would you choose to lead to prepare the congregation for worship?
3. What song would you lead in preparation for the Lord's Supper?
4. Which hymn do you sing driving in the car?
5. If you were going to write a hymn, what would you write it about?