

Church Membership 6

Instruments in Worship

Since we are now all convicted
Psalm singers...

Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of
ten strings! Psalm 33:2

Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God. Psalm 43:4

I will also praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel. Psalm 71:22

Raise a song; sound the tambourine,
the sweet lyre with the harp.

Palm 81:2

Sing praises... to the music of the
lute and the harp, to the melody
of the lyre. Psalm 92:3

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of
melody! Psalm 98:5

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the
lyre! Psalm 147:7

Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with
tambourine and lyre! Psalm 149:3

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

**Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him
with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that
has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!**

Psalm 150: 3-6



True confession time...

- * Have you wondered if the RPCNA has ever realized they are singing about instruments?**
- * Have you wondered if we were a bit crazy for “ignoring” the instrument texts?**
- * Wanted to ask... but...you know... the elephant in the room and sacred cows and all that?**

Harps, lyres, and the RPCNA

A divine history of
instruments in worship...

**What instruments were used in
worship before the Tabernacle?**

Mosaic Reformation: Numbers 10:2

Davidic Reformation:

I Chron. 23:1-5

I Chron. 28:19

Hezekiah's Reformation: 2 Chronicles 29:25-29

New Testament's strange silence

**Where does the New Testament
speak about instruments?**

The argument of the Book of Hebrews

- Jesus is better than Moses (ch3)
- Jesus is better than Joshua (ch4)
- Jesus is better than the High Priest (ch5-6)
- Jesus is from a better priesthood (ch6)
- Jesus's covenant is better (ch78)
- Jesus's worship is better than the Tabernacle/Temple (ch9)
- Jesus is a better sacrifice (ch10)

Jesus better than the Levitical system of priests, temples, worship:

- * Sacrifice: Jesus's one time sacrifice**
- * Incense: Prayers of saints**
- * Oil Lamps: The Holy Spirit's work**
- * Instruments: Grace in the heart (A covering of the bloody sacrifice and making something that is bloody and horrible and violent)**

How do we know it is grace in the heart?

- Colossians 3:16
- Eph 5:19
- Hebrews 13:15
- Rev. 5:8, etc. (Levitical language comes back)

Can you define *a cappella*?

earlier *alla capella* from Italian, "in the style of Church music, in the manner of the chapel," literally "according to the church," from *cappella* "chapel". Originally in reference to older church music which was written for unaccompanied voices; applied 20c. to unaccompanied vocal music generally.

The Testimony of the Church:

- Clement
- Oregin
- Chrystostom
- Justin Martyr
- Eusebius
- Augustine
- Tertullian
- Councils of Laodacia 364: (reaffirmed the churches position against instruments)
- Carthage 416: (On the Lord's Day let all instruments be silent.)
- Aquinas (13th c.) "Judaizing"
- Reformers (16th c.)
- Wesley: "I have no opposition to an organ in worship so long as it is neither seen nor heard."
- Spurgeon: "I would as soon pray to God with machinery as I would to sing with machinery."
- The Puritans (Westminster, Scotland, England, America)
- Dutch Second Reformation
- Eastern Orthodox Church
- All Presbyterians until mid-late 19th century

Musical instruments were commanded for use with the offering of sacrifices in the Old Testament temple worship. The death of Christ being the perfect and final sacrifice brought an end to this way of worship. There is neither command for nor example of the use of musical instruments in the words or practice of Christ and the apostles. The command of the New Testament is to offer the sacrifice of praise—the fruit of our lips. RPT 21.6