

The Power and Purpose of Music

Introductory Lesson

What is Music?

- Webster's 1828 Dictionary definitions of music:
 - “Melody or harmony; any succession of sounds so modulated as to please the ear, or any combination of simultaneous sounds in accord and harmony. music is vocal or instrumental. Vocal music is the melody of a single voice, or the harmony of two or more voices in concert. Instrumental music is that produced by one or more instruments.”
 - “The science of harmonical sounds, which treats of the principles of harmony, or the properties, dependencies and relations of sounds to each other. This may be called speculative or theoretical music”

Music is a Language

- It conveys thoughts and emotions.
- It has syntax and structure.
- It can often speak more powerfully than words.
- “Music is the universal language of mankind.” - Longfellow

Music and Language

Component	Language	Music
Phonology	Phonemes are the smallest units of sound (the b in ball)	Notes are the smallest units of sound
Morphology	Structure of individual words	Multiple notes make up chords
Syntax	Structure of multiple words in a sentence	Multiple notes or chords make up a song
Semantics	Additional meaning in words (e.g.: figurative or emotional)	Additional meaning, feeling, or association beyond musical tones.
Pragmatics	Altering language for desired goals or communication (e.g.: formal or informal)	The emotion or message conveyed by music to communicate to its audience.

The Power of Music

- To illustrate music's power to communicate, the next four slides each has a different recording that will play.
 - You will not know any of them because they are royalty free music from pixabay.com
- Ask yourself two questions while the music plays:
 - What emotions are encouraged by the music?
 - What setting can I imagine the music used in?

The Power of Music

- Example #1
 - <https://pixabay.com/music/main-title-chasing-victory-main-9448/>



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- Example #2
 - <https://pixabay.com/music/ambient-the-death-of-a-supernova-7537/>



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- Example #3
 - <https://pixabay.com/music/beautiful-plays-just-relax-11157/>



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- Example #4

- <https://pixabay.com/music/polka-zither-polka-alpenmusik-music-from-the-alps-1394/>



Four Elements of Music

- Melody
- Harmony
- Rhythm
- Lyrics



Four Elements of Music

1. Melody
(top notes)

2. Harmony
(other notes)

3. Rhythm
(space
between
notes)

4. Lyrics

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1. A - sound, That saved a wretch like me! I
2. 'Twa fear, And grace my fears re-lieved; How
3. Thro' nares, I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
4. When years, Bright shin-ing as the sun, We've

once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now see.
pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be-lieved!
grace hath bro't me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first be - gun. A - MEN.

The image shows a page of a musical score for the hymn 'Amazing Grace'. The score is written on a staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. Four orange boxes with arrows point to specific parts of the score: '1. Melody (top notes)' points to the highest notes of the melody; '2. Harmony (other notes)' points to the chords and accompaniment; '3. Rhythm (space between notes)' points to the spacing and duration of the notes; and '4. Lyrics' points to the text of the hymn.

Moral or Amoral?

- Is music right or wrong?
- My theory is that is both
 - Amoral in its essence
 - Moral in its execution and application.
- Therefore, there is good music and there is bad music.

Corrupted Music

- Go beyond “I know it when I see it” judgements.
- Each of the four basic elements of music can become corrupted, and we will examine each of these with examples.
- These are many other considerations to use than these which we will get to in future lessons.

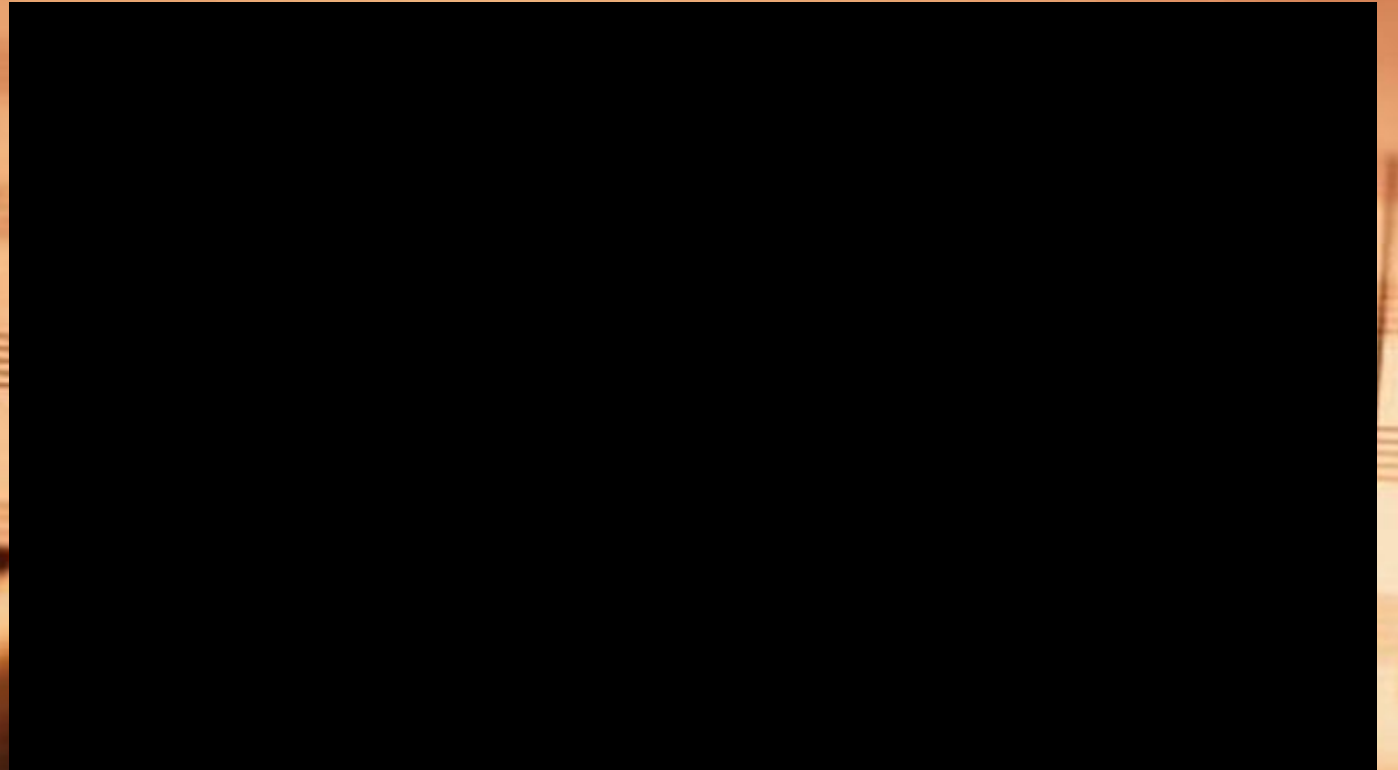
Corrupted Melody

- Rare, but possible.
- Usually corrupted in its performance – alterations, exaggerations, or just flat out missing the notes.
- Our example is someone going way off course singing “Amazing Grace”

awfbase

Corrupted Harmony

- Using unnatural, nontraditional, and exotic chords.
- Our example is a progression of new harmonies of “Amazing Grace”.
 - Note how the “feel” of the song is altered



Corrupted Rhythm

- This is the second most common corruption today.
- Typically it is adding a complex rhythm that drives the song.
- Also can be overemphasis of beats.
- Our example is “Amazing Grace” set to a dance beat

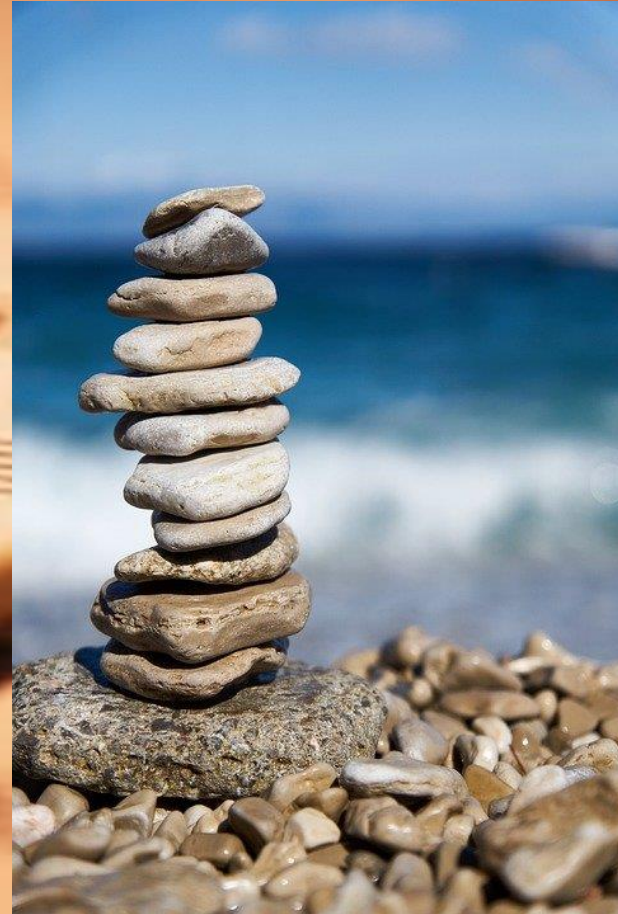


Corrupted Lyrics

- The most easily identifiable and most common.
- For an example, “Amazing Grace” is one of many songs written in Common meter. You can easily swap tunes and lyrics with songs in the same meter.
 - You can sing “Amazing Grace” to the tunes of “Yellow Rose of Texas” or “Gilligan’s Island”
 - Why you would want to I do not know... but you can.

Music in Balance

- Good music has a balance in its four elements.
 - Lyrics are clear and discernable
 - Melody is prevalent
 - Harmony is supporting
 - Rhythm is in step



Music and Musing



- Muse (verb) – “to become absorbed in thought”
- Music affects our mental and emotional state.

Music and Purpose

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

I Corinthians 10:31

Prominence of Music in Scripture

- The Bible is a musical book.
- The largest book (Psalms) is the songbook for the nation of Israel.
- Music can be found from Genesis to Revelation.

Important Verses in the Old Testament

- Genesis 4:21 – Jubal, the father of instrumental music.
- Exodus 15 – the Song of Moses
- Exodus 32:18 – Music in worship of the Golden Calf
- Psalms – the songbook of Israel
- Amos 5:23 – God can reject our songs.

Important Verses in the New Testament

- Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26 – Christ and the disciples sang.
- I Corinthians 14:15 – Singing with understanding
- Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16 – Music in the life of the believer.

