

INSTRUMENTS

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ORGAN?

INSTRUMENTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Cymbals – I Chronicles 15:16, 16:5
- Tabrets, Timbrels, Tambourines – Exodus 15:20, I Samuel 10:5
- Harps, Lyres (various forms and designs) – I Kings 10:12, II Chronicles 9:11
- Pipes, Flutes (various forms and designs) – Isaiah 5:12, 30:29

INSTRUMENTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- We find references to new instruments being invented by David (I Chronicles 23:5, Amos 6:5).
- We have numerous references to the use of instruments in worship (e.g., Exodus 15:20, I Chronicles 16:5, Psalm 92:3).

INSTRUMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Paul alludes to instruments in I Corinthians 13:1 and 14:7.
- The New Testament is clear that singing was essential in the early church (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, James 5:13).
- Instruments do reappear in Revelation (Revelation 5:8, 14:2, 15:2).

ARGUMENT #1

There is no positive command to use instruments in the New Testament,

WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE BAN?

- It's not in the Bible!
 - Pews
 - Hymnbooks
 - Electricity
 - Indoor plumbing
 - Air conditioning
 - English

ARGUING FROM SILENCE

- “I cannot do that because the Bible never tells me to.”
 - OR
- “I can do that because the Bible never tells me not to.”

INSTRUMENTS THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

- Private use
- Pre-Tabernacle
- Tabernacle/Temple
- Captivity (no Temple)
- Heaven

FROM ACTS TO JUDE

- No explicitly addressed.
- But singing Psalms is encouraged.
- If singing Psalms is still acceptable, why not the instruments they mention or used?

ARGUMENT #2

Music is essentially carnal and is a distraction from spiritual worship.

ESOTERIC/GNOSTIC

- Based on the assumption that the physical is bad and the spiritual is good.
- Common pagan ideal.

WHY WAS IT ACCEPTABLE IN THE PAST?

- It WAS okay for David, Asaph, Korah, etc.!
- God was wrong in commanding singing and playing instruments in the past?

ARGUMENT #3

The early churches did not use musical instruments.

DID THEY?

- There is some evidence that instruments may have been used in certain areas or cases.
 - Ephrem the Syrian
 - Coptic and Ethiopian groups
- It does appear that the early churches largely did not use instruments and spoke against their use, but it is not correct to say that they were never used.

PROBLEMS WITH THE ARGUMENT

- It only focuses on one branch of Christianity.
- It assumes this was as important then as it is now.

REASONS WHY INSTRUMENTS WERE NOT USED

- Instruments were impractical to small congregations (often in hiding with no regular meeting place)
- They emphasized the words sung over the music it was sung to.
- They associated most music with pagan rituals or Jewish worship, both of which they strove to separate from to strengthen their identity.
- The science of music was not widespread or taught (most early Christians may have even been illiterate).

PRINCIPLES FOR USING INSTRUMENTS

- They must enhance, instruct, and support vocal music and the message of the words sung. The emphasis must be on what is sung (Ephesians 5:19).
- They must be used in a way to bring glory to God and not the musician (I Corinthians 10:31).
- They must not be used to artificially stimulate the human spirit. God must be the catalyst for worship, not the ambience.
- They must not bring worldly associations with their use (James 4:4).

PRACTICAL NOTES

PIANOS



ORGANS



GUITARS

www.carrickfergusguitar.com

WHICH TYPE OF GUITAR?

ACOUSTIC
GUITAR



PROS:

Doesn't need any amplification
Sounds good on its own

CONS:

Slightly harder than electric
guitar to play

ELECTRIC
GUITAR



PROS:

Easiest to play
Variety of sounds

CONS:

Needs extra equipment
to amplify

SPANISH
GUITAR



PROS:

Nylon strings are kinder to
the fingers.

CONS:

Strings are further apart
than other types of guitar
Difficult to restring

BASS
GUITAR



PROS:

Low notes that the guitar
can't reach
No need to learn chords

CONS:

Very long neck may be
difficult for a child
Doesn't sound as good
by itself

AIR
GUITAR

PROS:

Easy to learn
Portable
Cheap

CONS:

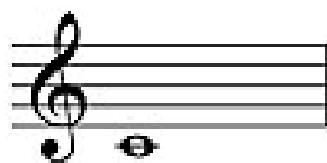
Easy to lose
Very low volume

ORCHESTRA



CONCERT PITCH

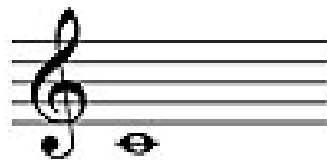
Written note



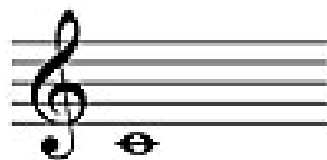
Instrument

B^b clarinet, trumpet, or
soprano saxophone

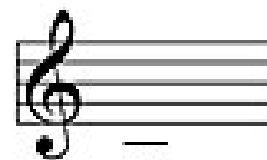
Sounding (concert) pitch



Clarinet in A



Horn in F



PERCUSSION

