



How Singing Touches the Heart of God

By Pastor Jason Triplett

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice, to worship You, oh, my soul, rejoice!

Take joy my King, in what You hear. Let it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

-from the song *I Love You Lord*, by Petra, 1997.

I am a child of the 80's and came of age in the 90's. In each of these decades, the music I loved became a significant part of my story. In the 80's I remember bands like Genesis, REO Speedwagon, the Cars, the Police and whatever pop music phenomenon came along that shaped my days and wired my psyche. The music of individual artists, like Prince, Peter Gabriel, Phil Collins, and many others are still pressed into my brain. I wake up some mornings with these songs playing on a loop in my mind. The other morning, MC Hammer's "You Can't Touch This" greeted me when I opened my eyes. I be-bopped around the house goofily singing it to my kids to great annoyance as they got ready for school.

In my teens, the music I listened to was dark and rebellious. Much of the music I took in then I'd rather forget now. But still, I roll over in the morning and there's "Killing in the Name" by Rage Against the Machine or "Bring the Pain" by Method Man. I wake and the songs are playing, like I left the radio on overnight and am rising to join the early morning programming. The songs are parked in my mind, bass line, melody, lyrics, and all.

I didn't begin to understand this phenomenon spiritually until a friend of mine went to an REO Speedwagon concert in the early 2000's. I asked him if he liked it. He frowned and said, "It was disappointing, they didn't even play some of their best songs." As we talked, I realized that he had an expectation of the band playing the songs that connected with him the most. The songs he wanted to hear may have been obscure to some, but to him, the songs were in his personal soundtrack. Some

years later, as I reflected on that conversation, I realized something spiritual about art.

Once an artist makes something that deeply connects with their audience, it no longer belongs to just the artist. Artists produce work for many reasons. A main reason is for others to consider what they make, discuss it, love, or hate it. When a piece of art strikes something deep inside the beholder, when it touches the soul, it can become part of that person forever. Whether my innocent listening to the music of the 80's or my agitated state of the 90's, that music touched something deep and came to define me. It was pressed into my soul and became mine.

A worship pastor friend of mine said, "Singing is unique because when we use our voices to create a joyful noise, we are creating something that God doesn't already own."

I think this may be how singing spiritually connects us to God.

The King James version of Psalm 22:3 says that God "inhabits the praises" of His people. We are made in the image of God. I've found that when it comes to art and creativity, we resemble Him. In the same way that my preteen soul inhabited REO Speedwagon's song, "Take it on the Run", God joyfully inhabits our wholehearted singing of "Unstoppable God" or "Come Thou Fount". It touches God's heart when we praise His name in singing. And that touch, much like the intimate exchange of a capacity crowd singing every word with a famous stadium rocker, inspires the producer and perceiver of that art forever. Except the touch of God when we worship Him in singing has no trace of the brokenness that exists in the heart of the human artist or human beholder. The offering of our voices is made perfect by Christ and is a sweet, pleasing sound to God.

People sometimes ask me, "Do I *have to* sing in Church?" I can't and won't force anyone to sing in our Church gatherings. Your genuine worship would be ruined by me stating that you *must* sing. All I can say is that God inhabits the earnest praise of His people. All I can do is invite you to make a sincere offering of praise with the voice God created in you.



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People pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Churches and groups collect these boxes the third week of November. Then, thousands of volunteers inspect and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping.



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Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the Gospel and bless children.



OUTREACH EVENTS

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After receiving a shoebox gift, children have the opportunity to enroll in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. As a result of what they learn, boys and girls grow in Christ and share Him with others. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed.



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YOUTH GROUP SUNDAYS

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6:00 - 7:30 High School

MEN'S GROUP
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TO CONTACT PASTOR JASON
(309)331-0200 (talk/text)
jasontriplett99@gmail.com

TO SUBMIT NEWS CONTACT
Mindy Crum (217)473-3473
Or Email to RushvilleCC@gmail.com

Prayers & Praises

Updated: 9/29/2021

Praise and continued prayers for a safe and bountiful harvest

Leaders of our country & military as we face the crisis in Afghanistan

Unity in Schuyler County

Family of Eldon Lashbrook (Veronica's father)

David Cook, boyfriend of Ashley Hood, recovering from Covid at home

Ava—daughter of Jessica Davis - recovery from broken clavical

Cheryl Snow's friend

Family of Sylvia DeCroix

Twin girls & family of Michael and Megan Barton, Pioneer Bible Translators

Families affected by governmental mandates of vaccine

Sara Barrientos - Praise! Tests showed no Auto immune disorder

Brian Ralston health

Nathan Ralston

Garrett Collins - Cancer

10 year old James Pax (Thelma's cousin's grandson) has Stage 4 Cancer

Rick Ashcraft - Cancer

Janet Detrick - Cancer

Alisha's grandmother - Cancer

Thelma - health

Kailey Orwig - deployed to Ft. Campbell, TN

Abigail Norton - is HOME!

Dan Norton - stroke recovery

SEPTEMBER OFFERINGS:

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Sept 12 -	\$ 2135.60
Sept 19 -	\$ 3091.92
Sept 26 -	\$ 2155.72

SPECIAL GIVING:

Good Neighbor
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rushvillechurchofchrist.com/steps

Prayer Requests can be submitted and updated through the online Prayer card. Find it at rushvillechurchofchrist.com