

A Life of Music (Performance)

There is something about the feeling of exhilaration that you see in a great singer when they are singing their heart out. The music soars to a climax and peaks with tremendous energy and our hearts are filled. We all feel a kinship, a resonance, with the singer even though we could never make the beautiful sounds that they do. In our longing we end up searching for a way to keep that feeling forever, for the songs always end. And I always wonder why we get such a feeling of power filling us.

I feel privileged to be a part of the team of worship singers, and even though I know that my voice is inadequate, we blend together well for a common purpose. I once told our leader that I was merely a “B” grade singer (if that), but he gave me great encouragement. He has given me tips, and thought I have hopefully become better, I know I will never raise my grade. I have the feelings, but just don’t have the voice. But I have been helped to see that it is in our daily walk with God that we truly sing like a star! Those around us may hear music from us that we don’t even realize¹. But God hears, sees, and even smells² our performance. Sometimes we may be asked to hush (as I have been many times while whistling in my office).

But rather than being the greatest singer I realize that we have the privilege of singing the greatest song. Think of the day when true worship will be as common as silver in the time of Solomon³. And that is something to look forward to!

I mentioned how our hearts become full of glory while engaged in something truly Good. It feels so full it could burst, but that is not the same as having it break. When our heart becomes full, it overflows instead. God wants to see it come close to bursting, but He will keep it intact by letting it stretch⁴. It dawned on me one day that God knew that life is best when we go into it with our whole heart⁵ (as He asked us to do). This leads to the full and more abundant life that Jesus tells us about⁶.

God doesn’t have a heart in the human, physical sense, but He is a God of powerful feelings. I know that in some way His being is filled with joy when we worship Him by doing Good. Jesus’ heart was physical, though, and it was definitely full. When it was pierced (for our sake), His love flowed from His side onto us with such power that it cleanses and saves us.

Sometimes our hearts simply must be broken as well. God may strike them to get the flow going⁷, but He desires to obtain it by speaking to us⁸. God’s flow of love is continuous, but our reception of it usually is not. Our weekly communion helps us to align ourselves so that we receive the full flow.

1. Matthew 25:31-46
2. 2 Corinthians 2:14-15
3. 1 Kings 10:27
4. Luke 5:36ff
5. Deuteronomy 6:5-6
6. John 10:10
7. Exodus 17:6
8. Numbers 20:8

Cain; as though he had a beautiful physical voice, but no heart?; contrast with Abel
Work as though you work for God (scrip)

A fellow singer's thoughts? Or mine?

1. Soar – why?

Story of someone feeling the exhilaration of a singer belting it their heart out; concert

Not thinking that they could ever do that, but longing for it...

The “high”; reverb after the song ends

Peak note: like the high note in “O Night Divine!”; the background rises in pitch on the second beat

Speaking to someone (song leader, singer, ?) that knows her well

“You may not have the physical vocal cords and power, but you live that in your life in your everyday actions” as they flow from your heart; Mt 25; not save the world, but working to save those we can

“You sing like this every day as you walk with God!” God hears it this way! (like the aroma of a sacrifice)

Telling Tommy: I am a “B” singer

Blessing the community as part of a team; worship & comfort

Perhaps there is a tv or movie star “hidden” in the group, blending in without standing out

2. Mt 25 – live the life; not as a performance

Bells of the priest as you move all of the time; bell the cat (as a warning), they have to work to keep quiet

Reveal the inner self (Good)

Whistle, or hum while you work – all the time (too loud?); the 7 dwarfs

Ref: Dreyfuss movie about his great symphony; Mr. Holland's Opus

Spouse not appreciating...

Someone asking me if they could shut my door when I was whistling (piercing) – flood over everyone – be careful

Similar (perhaps someone else in the conversation): Wanting to write the “great story”; and then I realize that every time I teach the class or write an article I deal with the greatest story every told and all the subtexts (like singing the greatest music); committed to the story; Thinking maybe it is a special thing, when in reality it is all around us, common as dirt (silver as common...) Joke about rich man bringing pavement into heaven?

When worship is as common as Solomon's silver

Heartburst; not the same as heartbreak; when the heart is full; cloudburst?

Of course it does not really burst; the heart stretches like the new wineskins

3. Full

Christ's heart was pierced ... (broken for us)

God knew that life is best when we go into it with our whole heart; John 10:10, the full life

Deut 6:5-6; Love God with all of our hearts, etc.; all = full

Relatively “full” – anyone can fill their own heart, no matter what size; we cannot all be the 10-talent person

God wants to see it close to bursting... but He will keep us intact; push the limit until you think it is about to go; it will not burst catastrophically, but make love slow into the

“filled with compassion”; Prodigal Son; Luke 15:20

Heartburst; not actually bursting, but being filled; more than just seeping onto others; new (flexible) wineskins not bursting; glaucoma – need a valve as an outlet

[Luke 4:1](#)

[*Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness*] Jesus, **full** of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

[Luke 10:21](#)

At that time Jesus, **full** of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

[John 1:14](#)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full** of grace and truth.

Prophet: as though I were a singer of beautiful music

Think of Moses getting water from the rock; hard heart; speak (not strike) to the heart; God's main plan
Sometimes break the rock (heart)

In one sense it does burst: when love flows forth; not in waves but continuous (our response spikes at the communion)

Conclusion

The universe rejoices and is jubilant (singing?); Zeph? 3:17