

## Pure Music

In the movie Here Comes the Boom! (recommended for all teachers), there is a moment at the beginning and the end where the high school band is playing in the music room. In the beginning, the music outside the room sounds perfect, but as the room is entered, the music transitions into more of the screeching and wailing that you might expect from musicians learning how to play. Near the movie's end, the situation was reversed, and the music turned into something beautiful again.

The key is a matter of perception. From the outside, it was as though some kind of filter allowed you to hear how the music was supposed to sound, in spite of the reality. I think that God perceives our assembly here in that same way – it's how our hearts and souls truly respond to him, though our ability to express it is very limited. In our attempt to worship, we are like an immature band that doesn't really sound too good if you scrutinize the music too closely.

When I was in the Junior High band, I remember my parents' joy at our band's performance (mostly because I was in it). I had to confess that I was faking most of it. But they were hearing it through a parent's eyes. Love may be blind, but it sometimes deaf as well. I was a French Horn player with a trumpet mentality, and that didn't work out very well. In fact, the band director once told my section that we sounded like someone throwing around a bunch of (metal) garbage cans! That is perhaps like the terrible sounds we are making in our worship.

God knows that we are trying, but He knows that we are not “playing the right notes with the right timing.” His Grace converts the cacophony (noise) of our collective hearts as we worship -- to the sweetest of sounds. He transforms it into something perfect. The Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27) in our worship individually, and I believe that intercedes for us as a group -- especially here in this communion. And thus our worship becomes acceptable in His sight (Ps 19).