**Music**

**Clap your hands, all you peoples;**

**shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

***(Psalm 47:1)***

**They shall lift up their voice,**

**they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord,**

**they shall cry aloud from the sea.**

***(Isaiah 24:14)***

**One of the advantages of pure congregational singing is that you can join in whether you have a voice or not. The disadvantage is that your neighbor can do the same. *(Charles Dudley Warner)***

**An analysis of Top 40 hits over the last 50 years has found that peppy, upbeat songs have dwindled, while most pop songs have become slower and sadder, with negative lyrics. The percentage of songs written in a minor key – which most listeners find gloomy – has doubled since the 1960s. *(Pacific Standard, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 15, 2012)***

**Where words fail, music speaks. *(Hans Christian Andersen)***

**A bird doesn’t sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song. *(Maya Angelou)***

**Louis Armstrong was once asked if jazz is folk music. “Man, all music is folk music,” Armstrong answered. “You ain’t never heard a horse sing a song, have you?” *(Barney Bigard, in With Louis and the Duke)***

**In addition to teaching English at Wando High School in Mount Pleasant, S.C., I sponsored the junior class prom. One Friday evening my husband and I took the band committee to evaluate a local group. On Monday, a student asked, “How was that band you went to hear?” “I liked it, but you might not,” I replied. “They played music that was popular when I was in high school.” “Oh, no,” he said, groaning. “Gregorian chants.” *(Kim McDermott, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When I am with composers, I say I am a conductor. When I am with conductors, I say I am a composer. *(Leonard Bernstein, Conductor and composer)***

**It’s a fowl fact that no bird sings while losing its feathers. No bird fights at molting time, either. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**My teenage son listens to rock music at an ear-piercing volume. one day I heard the familiar boom-boom-boom of drum s coming from the garage. "Turn down the music!" I told him when he walked into the house. "But the radio isn't on," my son protested. "I'm only doing my wash!" He left -- and the racket continued. Exasperated, I went to the garage. In the dryer were my son's sneakers, going boom-boom-boom. *(N. Koga, in Reader's Digest)***

**An interviewer asked Victor Borge if he played any other musical instruments. “Well, yes,” replied Borge. “I have another piano.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Music doesn’t argue, discuss, or quarrel. It just breathes the air of freedom. *(Harold Arlen, composer)***

**Music is like painting in sound. You take it into your inner heart and never lose it. It's eternally mysterious. *(Van Cliburn)***

**It’s not the notes you play. It’s the notes you don’t play. *(Miles Davis)***

**If I may venture my own definition of a folk song. I should call it "an individual flowering on a common stem." *(Ralph Vaughan Williams)***

**The music is all. People should die for it. People are dying for everything else, so why not the music? *(Lou Reed)***

**Earth’s hum: The source of a mysterious low-frequency “hum” emitted by the Earth has been pinpointed, according to seismologists writing in the journal Nature. It has been known for years that the persistent noise – between 2 and 7 millihertz and well below the range of human hearing – is caused by large emissions of energy at or near the Earth’s surface. But University of California at Berkeley experts Junkee Rhie and Barbara Romanowicz have determined that the hum originates mainly in the northern Pacific Ocean during the northern winter, and in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica during the southern winter. They believe storm energy released in deep ocean waves during each winter interacts with the seabed, creating vibrations that cause the hum. *(Steve Newman, Universal Press Syndicate, as it appeared in Rocky Mountain News, October 4, 2004)***

**Life without playing music is inconceivable for me. I live my daydreams in music. *(Albert Einstein)***

**I don’t know anything about music. In my line, you don’t have to. *(Elvis Presley)***

**The way I feel about music is that there is no right and wrong. Only true and false. *(Fiona Apple, singer)***

**There is nothing like walking to get the feel of a country. A fine landscape is like a piece of music; it must be taken at the right tempo. Even a bicycle goes too fast. *(Paul Scott Mowrer, in The House of Europe)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**We are the instruments, and God is the musician. *(Rudy Lawson)***

**My old music instructor told me that when she taught music in elementary schools, she began each session by having the class sing a familiar song. She said that one enthusiastic first grader stood out for his rendition of “God Bless America” when he belted out those stirring lyrics: “Stand beside her and guide her, through the night with a light from a bulb!” *(Paul Lund, in Reader’s Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Music is some kind of electricity that makes a radio out of a man. *(Woody Guthrie)***

**Every fragment of song holds a mirror to a past moment for someone. *(Fanny Cradock, in War Comes to Castle Rising)***

**Too many people die with their music still in them. *(Oliver Wendell Holmes)***

**Music expresses that which cannot be said and which cannot remain silent. *(Victor Hugo)***

**The humpback top 40: Male humpback whales are avid singers, and some of their tunes turn into undersea hits. Scientists have discovered that the giant baleens have a complex musical culture, developing popular songs that rapidly spread from pod to pod across the ocean. “It’s a culturally driven change across a vast scale,” University of Queensland researcher Ellen Garland tells BBCNews.com. The latest hit is usually a variation on a classic, “like splicing an old Beatles song with U2,” Garland says. Other tunes, though, the whales arrange their high-pitched cries, moans, groans, and growls into an original refrain. Researchers analyzed 745 songs performed by Pacific whales over 11 years, and found that new songs tended to originate with the westernmost, Australian whale group. Then the tunes traveled east, often reaching French Polynesia, some 4,000 miles away, within two years. The males’ “quest for song novelty,” Garland says, is driven by “the hope of being that little bit different and perhaps more attractive to the opposite sex.” *(The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)***

**After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music. Music is what feelings sound like. *(Aldous Huxley, in Music at Night and Other Essays)***

**Today is February 8, World Opera Day. The famous saying "It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings" references Brunnhilde's long aria at the end of Richard Wagner's Ring cycle of operas. Brunnhilde is often portrayed by a buxom soprano. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**You can study orchestration, you can study harmony and theory and everything else, but melodies come straight from God. *(Quincy Jones, composer)***

**If music is the language of the world, then just imagine how beautiful a seven-billion-part harmony would be. *(Scott Hoying, musician)***

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**Music is the universal language of mankind – poetry their universal pastime and delight. *(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)***

**And the night shall be filled with music, and the cares, that infest the day, shall fold their tents, like the Arabs, and silently steal away. *(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)***

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**Classical music is one of the best things that ever happened to mankind. If you get introduced to it in the right way, it becomes your friend for life. *(Yo-Yo Ma, on "60 Minutes," CBS)***

**Music is the only language in which you cannot say a mean or sarcastic thing. *(John Erskine)***

**Nicolo Paganini (1782-1840) is still considered one of the greatest violinists of all time. One day as he was about to perform before a sold-out opera house, he walked out on stage to a huge ovation and felt that something was terribly wrong. Suddenly he realized that he had someone else's violin in his hands. Horrified, but knowing he had no other choice, he began to play. That day he gave the performance of his life. After the concert, Paganini was in his dressing room speaking to a fellow musician and he reflected, “Today, I learned the most important lesson of my entire career. Before today I thought the music was in the violin; today I learned that the music is in me.” *(The Friday Letter)***

**Above other arts, music can be possessed without knowledge. Being an expression largely of the subconscious, it has its direct routes from whatever is in our guts, minds and spirits, without need of a detour through the classroom. *(Yehudi Menuhin)***

**The snow-capped “land of the thunder dragon” – Bhutan, north of India – issued a postage stamp that is actually a tiny phonograph record. It plays, naturally, the Bhutanese national anthem. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 423)***

**Many anthropologists think that prehistoric man sang long before he developed the ability to communicate by speech. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 65)***

**Like books and black lives, albums still matter. *(Prince)***

**The pulse of a professional musician can be expected to go up about 40 beats per minute during a performance before a live audience. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When the great drummer Buddy Rich checked into a hospital, the admitting nurse who filled out his admission form asked if he was allergic to anything. “Country and western music,” said Buddy. *(Bill Crow, in Jazz Anecdotes) 521986***

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**I think of music as a menu. I can’t eat the same thing every day. *(Carlos Santana, on "Entertainment Tonight," ABC)***

**The earth has music for those who listen. *(George Santayana)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Scanning brains for pop hits: Hit songs tap into inherent preferences in our brains. This is the conclusion of a new study that found that songs that become highly popular light up areas of the brain linked to reward and anticipation, regardless of whether listeners say they like the tunes. In 2006, researchers at Emory University scanned the brains of teenagers while they were listening to little-known pop songs, and asked them whether they thought the tunes would be popular. Four years later, they compared the results to the songs' sales. It turned out that the teens were no good at guessing which songs would do well. Their brain scans, on the other hand, often registered excitement for many of the songs that did become commercially successful -- even if the teens said they didn't really like the songs. The results are further proof that consumers may not be aware of -- or at least want to admit -- what they like. A new field of research -- neuroeconomics -- studies just that phenomenon, anticipating popular trends by surveying gray matter. "You really can't fake the brain responses," study author Gregory Berns tells LiveScience.com. "That taps into a raw reaction." *(The Week magazine, July 1 - 8, 2011)***

**Guitar is a little island, and music is the ocean surrounding it. *(Segovia)***

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**If music be the food of love, play on. *(William Shakespeare)***

**The man that hath no music in himself, nor is not moved with concord with sweet sounds, is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils. *(William Shakespeare)***

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**Among geographic curiosities in Mississippi is the so-called Singing River, the Pascagoula. It sometimes makes a sound like the humming of bees, and this has never been explained. *(The World Almanac of the USA, p. 172)***

**One tradition in South Korea calls for everybody at a dinner gathering to sing a solo after the meal. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**People don't come to rock shows to learn something. They come to be reminded of something they already know and feel deep down in their gut ... It's the reason true rock 'n' roll will never die. *(Bruce Springsteen)***

**I heard something of mine from 1975 on a record the other day, and I said, "That was about seven or eight lives ago." (Bruce Springsteen, in AARP - THE MAGAZINE)**

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**My Favorite Saying: “The sweetest music comes from an old violin.” *(Charles Ragland, in Reminisce magazine)***

**A great symphony orchestra should be savored like cognac. Lift the filled glass to the light. Admire the amber hue. Swirl. Sniff. Then set it down and talk about it for half an hour. *(Antal Dorati, conductor)***

**“Synesthesia” is the visualization of musical notes in color. A lot of people do it. Deep notes are dark, high notes light. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Most toilets flush in E flat; most electric razors buzz in B flat. (English razors buzz in G.) *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 290)***

**Music is the shorthand of emotion. *(Leo Tolstoy)***

**“This may be corny, but it always gets a laugh and a groan,” says Barbara Oetgen of Fife, Washington. How do you tuna fish?” You run your fingers up and down its scales. *(Reminisce magazine)***

**An ecstasy is a thing that will not go into words; it feels like music. *(Mark Twain, in The Mysterious Stranger and Other Stories)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**As Mary-Elizabeth Brown draws the bow across the violin strings, a dark and mellow sound emanates through the room. Brown has been playing the violin since she was 5, but this one is different. This violin, 3D-printed in polymer plastic for less than $37 (traditional wood violins can sell for thousands), is part of a project to improve access to music education for kids of all economic backgrounds. Says Brown, director of the AVIVA Young Artists Program in Montreal: “It’s my hope that future music students will find these instruments engaging to make, easy to play and an inspiring start to their musical journeys.” (Reader’s Digest, October 2023, page 7)**

**Antonio was an Italian boy who loved music, but whenever he tried to sing the music that was in his heart, it came out so badly that all his friends laughed at him. Next to singing, the boy loved to hear the violin. He had a pocketknife healways carried with him and he would whittle all sorts of things with it. One day Antonio learned that the greatest violin maker in all Italy, the great Nicolo Amati, lived in his village! Antonio began to whittle a violin and worked for many hours on it. When finished, the boy walked to the house of Amati, who just happened to answer the door. The boy handed the master the small violin he had carved and said, “Sir – I love music, but cannot sing. I wish with all my heart I could learn to make violins.” The great Amati smiled, looked at the small gift and said, “Beautifully done! You want to make violins? And so you shall! In time your violins will make the most beautiful music ever heard!” And so, Antonio Stradivari became the pupil of Nicolo Amati and in time made violins that equaled his master’s. *(Bits & Pieces) 19010***

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**Our lives are songs, God writes the words, and we set them to music at pleasure; and the song grows glad, or sweet, or sad, as we choose to fashion the measure. *(Ella Wheeler Wilcox)***

**Without music, life is a journey through a desert. *(Pat Conroy, in Beach Music)***

**Teenage daughter, (as the radio finally grounds out the last notes of the latest hit song:) “Did you ever hear anything so wonderful?” Father: “Only once when a truck loaded with milk cans bumped another truck loaded with live ducks.” *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**Our church held a dinner and hymn-sing last fall during the World Series. Al, one of our parishioners, was eager to get home and watch the game on TV. When the meal was over and people began calling out hymn requests, he could contain himself no longer. “What number is ‘Take Me Out to the Ball Game’?” Al shouted. *(Jimmie L. Hancock, in Reader’s Digest)***

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