

Music in the Worship of the Church

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- What the New Testament Teaches
- The History of Instrumental Music in Worship
- Examination of Arguments in Favor of Instrumental Music in Worship

Ephesians 5:18-20 ESV

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,
19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Colossians 3:16-17 ESV

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, **teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

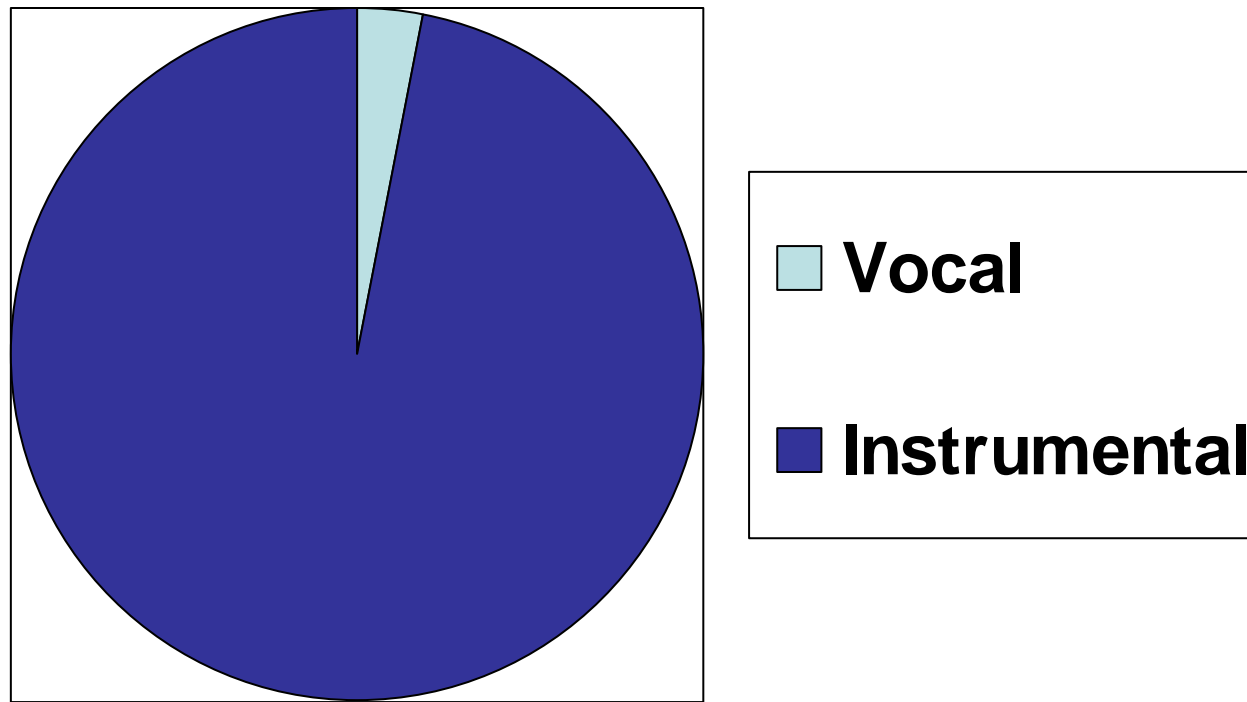
NT Passages Describing Music in Earthly Worship

- Vocal
 - Mt. 26:30
 - Mk. 14:26
 - Acts 16:25
 - Rom. 15:9
 - 1 Cor. 14:15
 - Eph. 5:19
 - Col. 3:16
 - Heb. 2:12
 - Heb. 13:15
 - Jas. 5:13
- Instrumental
 - No mention!

Music in the Worship of the Church

- What the New Testament teaches
- The History of Instrumental Music in Worship

Present-Day Experience



The History of Instrumental Music in Worship

"The first organ certainly known to exist and be used in a church was put in the cathedral at Aix-la-Chapel by the German Emperor Charlemagne, who came to the throne in 768. It met with great opposition among the Romanists, especially among the monks, and it made its way ... slowly into common use. So great was the opposition even as late as the sixteenth century that it probably would have been abolished by the Council of Trent but for the influence of the emperor Ferdinand."

- SCHAFF-HERZOG ENCYCLOPEDIA
(Vol. II, pg. 1702)

The History of Instrumental Music in Worship

"Vocal music, which is the most natural, may be considered to have existed before any other..."

"Instrumental music is also of very ancient date, its invention being ascribed to Tubal, the sixth descendant from Cain. Instrumental music was not practiced by the early Christians, but was an aid to devotion to later times is evident from church history."

- FESSENDEN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA
(Art and Music, pg. 852)

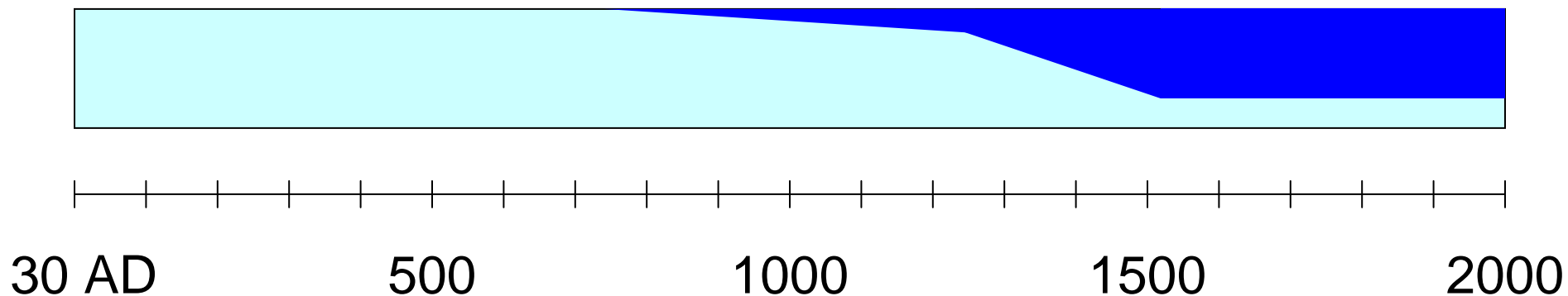
The History of Instrumental Music in Worship

"Sir John Hawkins, following the Romanish writers in his work on the history of music, made Pope Vitalian, in A.D. 660, the first who introduced organs into the churches. But students of Ecclesiastical Archaeology are generally agreed that instrumental music was not used in churches until a much later date; for Thomas Aquinas (A.D. 1250, Catholic scholar) has these remarkable words: "Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may seem not to Judaize."

- McCLINTOCK AND STRONG'S
ENCYCLOPEDIA.

The History of Instrumental Music in Worship

Catholic



Martin Luther (Lutheran)

"The organ in the
worship is an
insignia of Baal."

1483 –1546



John Calvin (Presbyterian)



"It is no more suitable than the burning of incense." The Catholics "borrowed it from the Jews."

1509-1564

John Wesley (Methodist)

"I have no objections to the organs in our chapels, provided they are neither seen nor heard."

1703-1791



Adam Clarke (Methodist)



"Instrumental music
in worship to God
has never been
productive of
good, it is an
abomination to the
Lord."

1760-1830

Charles H. Spurgeon (Baptist)

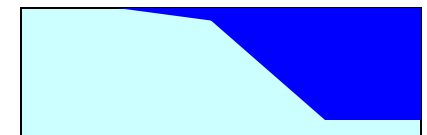
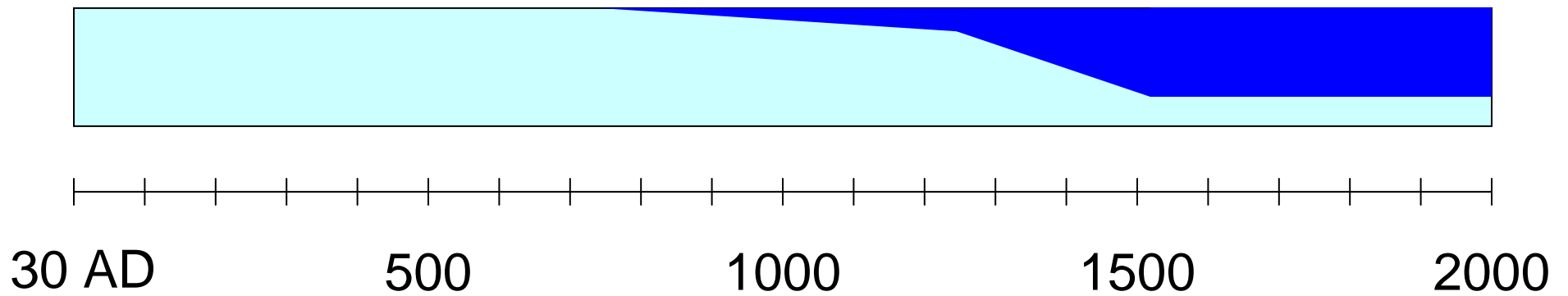
"I would just as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery."

1834-1892



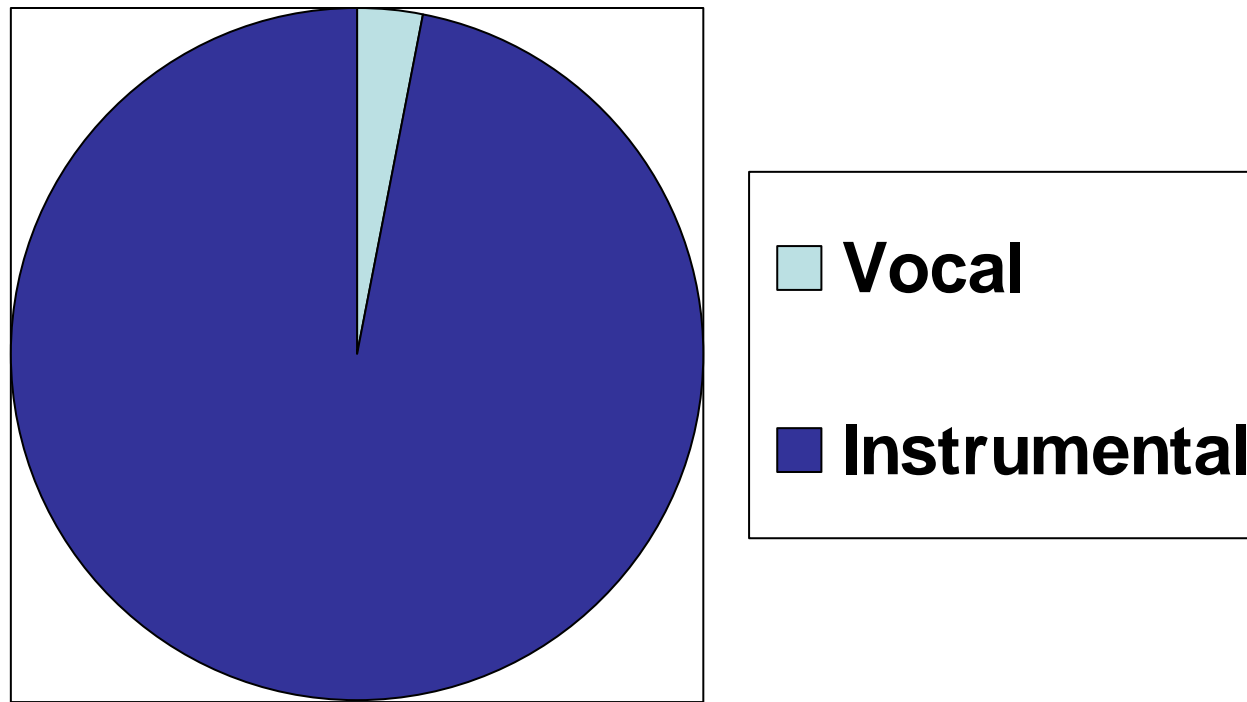
The History of Instrumental Music in Worship

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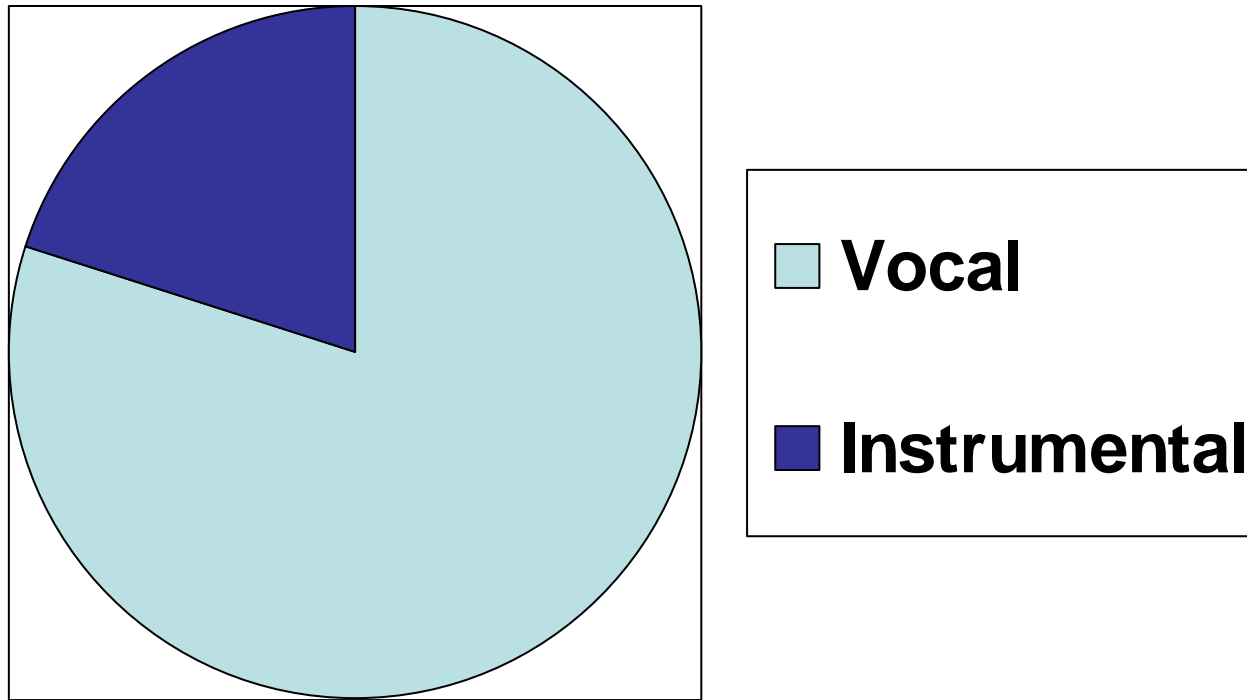


Protestant

Present-Day Experience



Historical Reality



Arguments FOR Instrumental Music in Worship

- It was used in the Old Testament
- David used it
- The Greek word “psallo” authorizes it
- The Bible does not say NOT to use it
- There is instrumental music in heaven

Argument #1: It was used in the Old Testament

- Yes, it was...
- BUT, we are NOT under the Old Testament (Matt 5:7; Luke 24:44; Heb. 9:15-17; Heb 7:11-15; Col 2:14; Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 17:1-5; Gal. 5:1-4; 2 Cor 3:6-13)

Argument #2: David used it

- Yes, he did...
- BUT, he had a command from God to use it (2 Chr. 29:25)
- If it is commanded, we must do it, otherwise it is forbidden (2 Sam. 7:1-7)

2 Chronicles 29:25 ESV

And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets.

Argument #3: The Greek word “psallo” in Eph. 5:19 authorizes it

- Yes, psallo had a root meaning of plucking the strings of an instrument
- BUT, by New Testament times, the primary meaning was to sing and no playing was necessarily implied by the word – Vine’s Expository Dictionary of NT Words
- That is why it is translated “sing” or “make melody” in every verse and every translation made in history into any language

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Argument #3: The Greek word “psallo” in Eph. 5:19 authorizes it

- Yes, psallo had a root meaning of plucking the strings of an instrument
- BUT, by New Testament times, the primary meaning was to sing
- That is why Christians who heard and read the New Testament commands to sing did nothing else for over 600 years
- That is why The Greek Orthodox church does not and never has used instrumental music

Argument #3: The Greek word “psallo” in Eph. 5:19 authorizes it

- If “psallo” means sing and play...
- Both commands **MUST BE** obeyed
- The instrument **MUST BE** specified

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Argument #3: The Greek word “psallo” in Eph. 5:19 authorizes it

- If “psallo” means sing and play...
- Both commands **MUST BE** obeyed
- No one knew it for 600-1200 years
- The instrument **MUST BE** specified
 - We are to “psallo” with the heart
 - No other instrument is authorized!

A cappella

- **A cappella** music is solo or group vocal or singing without instrumental sound (Italian for “In The Manner of The Church”)

Argument #4: The Bible does not say NOT to use it

- Yes, the New Testament says nothing about it...
- BUT the silence of God does not permit, it forbids (Rom. 10:17; Col. 3:17; Gen. 6; Matt. 26:26-29)

Argument #5: There is instrumental music in heaven

- Yes, the symbolic pictures of heaven mention harps - Rev. 14:1-3; 5:8...
- BUT they are seen and not heard
- If we want to worship like they do in heaven, we need to worship as God authorized on earth
- We can no more add the harps and incense of heaven than we can add the harps, incense and animal sacrifices of the Old Testament

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