

Worship — Music

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2024

It's no secret that music played an important role for the people of the old and new testaments. Just look at the references to music from the King James Version:

hymn/hymns, found 4 times
melody, found 4 times
musical, found 3 times
musick (music), found 16 times
psalm/psalm, found 15 times

Selah, found 74 times, Selah is a word that means to pause the singing. This would probably have been used between verses of a hymn.
sing/singer/singers, found 159 times
song/songs, found 67 times

The Bible mentions a dozen instruments that were used to accompany voice:

cornet/cornets 9
cymbal/cymbals 17
dulcimer 3
flute 4
harp/harps/harped/harpers/harping 54
organ/organs 3

pipe/pipes/piped/pipers 15
psaltery/psalteries 27
sackbut (modern day trombone) 4
timbrel/timbrels 10
trumpet/trumpets/trumpeters 116
viol/viols 2

I wonder how these instruments sounded and what materials they were made from. Pretty crude, I would think, compared to the instruments of today. But nonetheless, they were used to praise God and to express their adoration.

By the 1700s, some church services could last for hours requiring substantial music. Bach wrote many pieces which were over an hour in length. Even in our own hour-long service we have a prelude and a postlude, a song of adoration, two congregational hymns, the doxology and the blessing. What a wonderful way to praise the Lord together.

From Bach's world of pipe organs, chorales, and meticulous counterpoint—crafted for choirs and congregations reading from hymnals—church music has expanded dramatically. The 19th–20th centuries brought larger romantic organs, gospel and revival songs, and wider congregational participation. Global hymnody, jazz and folk influences, microphones, and recorded sound followed, reshaping texture and scale. Today, digital organs and electronic keyboards place hundreds of sounds at a player's fingertips, from authentic organ pipe stops to strings and percussion but, no matter what the mix, the goal is still the same: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.



Dave Steel, Service Leader



Since 1957, CityTeam has made it a priority to serve those facing extreme poverty and help them transform their lives, their families and their communities. CityTeam's mission is to share Christ's unconditional love by caring for immediate needs and enabling lasting solutions. In our work, that looks like meeting individuals and families during their periods of crisis, financial strife, food insecurity and more. Our services offer necessary resources like fresh produce, shelf stable pantry items, clothing, diapers, wipes, formula and household items as well as the opportunity for housing, career and educational support in our residential programs. With the help of our incredible volunteers, church partners like Concord Liberty Presbyterian Church and more committed community members we are able to deeply impact the lives of our neighbors in need.

City Team Chester

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PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CITYTEAM CHESTER

- Please pray for food and toys to provide for families during Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Please pray for open Women's TP staff position.
- Please pray for food for our food pantry.
- Please pray generosity towards our fundraising needs.