

Walk Your Talk

The Music You Were Born to Play

Sunday, October 18, 2026 | By Rev. Blaine Tinsley

Many Names One Song

Adam and I opened with “Whose One First,” a parody of Abbott and Costello’s “Who’s on First?” Adam played the bewildered Costello, and I played Abbott, explaining names for the Divine. “I Am.” “Go ahead.” “I AM!” The answer kept arriving, and the confusion kept growing.

Behind the laughter was a truth: one Divine Presence answers to many names—Om, Allah, Divine Mother, Love, Source. No single name can hold the Infinite. No single instrument can express all music. Your voice belongs in this harmony, too.

The Tower of Babel

In Genesis 11, people speaking one language build a tower toward heaven. Their language becomes confused, and they scatter. Metaphysically, the tower can represent the ego’s attempt to reach God through sameness: identical bricks, words, and beliefs. What if the scattering invites a wider expression of life? This is one possible reading. Harmony begins when different notes have room to sound.

Diversity Is Not a Flaw in Creation

Our diverse cultures, experiences, personalities, and gifts can enrich the music we make together. The Infinite expresses through your particular life. Before comparing yourself with someone else, ask: What can I contribute by bringing the voice that is actually mine?

The Name That Is Also Your Song

At the burning bush, Moses hears “I AM THAT I AM” (Exodus 3:14). Unity understands this I AM as the Christ presence within us. Notice what you attach to those words: “I am too old.” “I am not creative.” “I am not enough.” These may be borrowed lyrics from an old wound or someone else’s judgment. You can question them and choose words that honor your own song.

Om Ohm and Resistance

In our skit, Om became confused with ohm, the electrical unit of resistance. In Hindu tradition, Om points toward sacred primordial sound and the unity of existence. Our “ohm” offers a playful reminder of the resistance we feel about expressing ourselves. Comparison, fear, and seeking approval can keep our music quiet.

I once tried to copy Michael Beckwith’s speaking style. It was fun—and exhausting! I realized I must speak the way I speak. Let admiration inspire you, then take one small step in your own voice.

Unity Without Uniformity

A ukulele, cello, slack-key guitar, and conch shell can express one Spirit through very different sounds. Our congregation grows richer when each person brings a real gift and listens. Make room for another person’s note without giving up your own.

Seeing Each Other As Whole

“Wait, what did he call me?” “As-whole!” The joke carries a tender truth: each person is a complete original composition, worthy of love before meeting our expectations. Wholeness does not excuse harmful behavior or eliminate our need to grow. It means our deepest spiritual worth is already present. We can offer accountability and compassion while recognizing the Divine within one another.

Practice Seeing Yourself As Whole

Begin with kindness toward the person you are today. You do not have to earn permission to play your song. Carry this message into the week through two simple practices.

Step One: Notice the Borrowed Song

Notice when you have been trying to play someone else’s song. Do you hide a gift because someone else seems better? Chase approval? Follow a definition of success that leaves your heart untouched? Pause without scolding yourself. Ask: Whose approval am I seeking? What would sound more honest to me? Choose one small action that honors your own voice.

Step Two: Write a New I Am Statement

Write a statement that reflects your spiritual worth and what you are willing to practice. Speak it aloud each morning, then express it through a small action. Here are five examples:

- I am an original composition, and no one else can play my song.
- I am in harmony with others without giving up my own note.
- I am willing to sound imperfect on my way to sounding true.
- I am free to set down the old lyrics and sing what is mine.
- I am whole, complete, and enough, just as I am.

Offer your idea. Sing along. Ask for help. Speak honestly and kindly. Your voice may tremble; you can still use it. The world needs the song only you can bring.

Affirmation

I am an original expression of the Divine. My songs are needed exactly as they are.

Blessing

May you hear the song that was written in you before you ever learned the notes. May you play it boldly, even when your fingers fumble and your voice shakes.

May you set down every borrowed tune and every old lyric that was never yours. May you find your place in the great harmony, adding your note without losing it.

And as you go out into this beautiful island and this beautiful world, may you see yourself, and every person you meet, as-whole.

Go now and play the music you were born to play. And so it is.