

Music Conversation Notes
November 5 + 12, 2023

Goal: To have the opportunity to listen to each other and for Miles and Christy, as the ones who plan our music, to hear from you.

We are particularly focused on the balance between hymns and chants.

- Outdoors → More chant
- Indoors → More hymns
- Want to check in on this balance

Our community is made up of individuals and we will not all be of the same mind, but this is a chance for us to communicate where we each are and gain a better sense of where we are as a gathered community.

What did you learn about your experience of music in our worship through this time of reflection on our music?

- Less concerned/ present with other assigned tasks (i.e.- ushering)
- Enjoy choir! Want more!
- Miles + Kristina are fabulous!
- Importance of prelude (to learn melody)
- Love taize/piano
- Chants allow me to release words... appreciate layering on top
- Hearing voices of neighbors/congregation
- Love call and response + original composition
- Experimentation takes courage and creativity
- Love singing in alto range
- Struggle with piece = harder to go to God
- Importance of balance between slow/contemplative and happy/joyful/uplifting
- Offertory anthem: close eyes and take in
- Appreciate Eucharist chanted by Christy
- Music selection matches service/readings/church year
- Appreciate interesting melody, helpful lyrics
- Do not appreciate "plodding" music (pace)
- Suggest fewer verses
- Singing psalms!
- Older songs → melodious, nostalgia ☺
- Request for more music in bulletins for 4 parts
- More harmonies desired
- Fewer verses at Christmas + large gatherings
- Fast enough recessionals

What did you notice about our music?

- Music very traditional
- More world music/ more contemporary desired
- Indoors instrument is chosen by piece of music
- Getting to hear children's voices!
- Excellence of Miles' musicianship
- Carolyn Winfrey Gillette—traditional hymn setting with new words
- Love Kristina solos!
- Global nature of hymns
- Children!

What blocks/prevents meaningful worship for you?

- Melody so difficult that wrestling with it distracts
- "I am a sinner from my mother's womb" type problematic theology or focus on how awful we are
- Trying to understand words
- Noticing difference between speaking a prayer and singing a prayer (more okay with speaking about sinfulness than singing about it)
- Exclusive theology
- If it is a chore trying to get through it

What does deep and meaningful music feel like for you?

- Crying
- Rich harmonies (vocal)
- Emotion
- Lifting heart and reaching to God
- Connected as community → singing as one
- Immersive! Repetition!
- Less of me, more of whole + holy
- Desire to clap (along with music)
- Desire to applaud in response/appreciation
 - in tension with desire for silence
- Peace
- Out of body
- Focused
- Triumphant
- Joyful
- Transported
- Involvement of body
- Still
- Inner unspeakable truth expressed

Name a piece or two that brought you deep into meaningful worship:

- Song of Simeon
- Let it breathe on me
- All things bright and beautiful
- Lift every voice and sing II
- O God, you search me III
- God of mercy and forgiveness I
- Sanctus- singing in community
- Make me a channel of your peace I
- Kyrie (S-96)
- My tribute
- Lead me, guide me
- Turn our hearts I (with descant)
- One Ohana I
- Anything with Kristina/Miles solo/duet
- Come now, O prince of Peace I
- Open my heart
- Listening as they rise I
- Ripple would be nice (request)
- Finlandia
- 23rd Psalm Bobby McFerrin- 6 marks
- Morning has broken-6
- Anytime Jean sings I
- In the bulb there is a flower III
- Bless the Lord I
- Living water
- Listen as they rise I
- Litany of reconciliation
- Call and response
- Amazing Grace
- Simple Gifts
- Anything by Dan Schutte/ St. Louis Jesuits
- The light shines through the darkness
- I want to walk as a child of the light
- I have decided to follow Jesus I

Name a piece or two that prevented you from deep and meaningful worship:

- Litany of reconciliation I
- Cursillo music
- Litany of peace IIIII
- All things bright and beautiful
- Now the father's blessing... now... now

- Awake my soul stretch every nerve
- When songs drag + are slow
- Make me a channel of your peace
- Steal away
- Listen as they rise

Likes- what did you like about music right now?

- Miles' + others' call + response chants
- "Give me music!"
- Choir + anthems
- Harmonies + descants
- Accessible music
- Sing-able range
- Switching between singing and speaking prayers
- Sound with movement (i.e.- walking up for communion)

Concerns about music right now?

- Long hymns (too many verses)
- Long intro to hymn tune before singing
- Pieces not going well
- 86 #61 (don't want to sing #61 again)
- "Celebrate the season"—desire for Christmas music in December/Advent
 - Desire for carols
- If there is a specific number of repetitions, indicate

Longings, wishes moving forward in what we're doing about music?

- Sing familiar hymns/chants
 - Learned here, repeat regularly
- Songs that stick through the week → ear worms
- More evangelical: Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art, Old Rugged Cross, In the Garden
- Include music for Eucharistic Chant (sursum corda)—don't assume it's known!
- More chanting of Eucharistic Prayer
- Familiar pieces/chants during communion
 - So we can keep singing while walking
- Request list in back of sanctuary

Balance between hymns + chant INDOORS

1 Too many hymns

Just right!

Too many chants



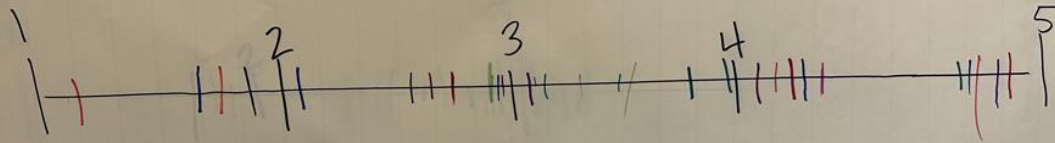
love a mix
of traditional
& chants *
♥

Balance between hymns + chant OUTDOORS

Too many hymns

Just right!

Too many chants



More chants

Balance between 1982 hymnal more traditional Anglican hymns + hymns of other sources/traditions

