



*Music Makes the  
World Go Round*



## Music Makes the World Go Round

“Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke, saying: ‘I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.’”  
Exodus 15:1-2

Music and songs are important elements in the lives of most people. Whether we are listening to a radio, a compact disc or to a live performance, music plays as a sound track for our lives. There are various genres and styles of music, from country to pop to classical. Some of us like all of it and some of us stick with our favorite variety. We are moved both by the lyrics of the songs and also by the melodies and harmonies that we hear.

When the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, they watched as the Egyptians were drowned in the sea. They sang a song of triumph that is recorded for us. This song exalts the power and majesty of God. It also extolls the purposes of God in bringing his chosen people out of bondage and into the land which he had promised to them, “You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance” (Ex. 15:17).

Music is powerful and has the ability to move us. Throughout history armies have marched to war to the sound of music. The notion of march music began to be borrowed from the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. The Ottomans were believed to have introduced the first military bands in the thirteenth century, called mehter or Janissary bands. The music is characterized by an often shrill sound combining bass drums, horns



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## DID YOU KNOW?

As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full-frontal view - it is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments!

### DID YOU KNOW?

As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door.

### DID YOU KNOW?

As you sit inside the courtroom, you can see the wall, right above where the Supreme Court judges sit, a display of the Ten Commandments!

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington, D.C.

### DID YOU KNOW?

James Madison, the fourth president, known as "The Father of Our Constitution" made the following statement "We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

### DID YOU KNOW?

Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

## DID YOU KNOW?

Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayer since 1777.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution were members of the established orthodox churches in the colonies.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin making law....an oligarchy...the rule of few over many.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The very first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, said, "Americans should select and prefer Christians as their rulers."

How, then, have we gotten to the point that everything we have done for 220 years in this country is now suddenly wrong and unconstitutional?

Via email - 4/27/04

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## CURSING AND THE CIVIL WAR

By: Larry Ray Hafley

Filthy language is a breathed form of ear pollution. Worse, it is a symbol of the heart's corruption (Matt. 15:18, 19). Cursing has been a taint of the tongue through the ages (2 Sam. 16:5-7). It fouls the air, stains the soul, and mars the mind. It is invasive and pervasive. Rotting meat, manure, lice, and flies go together as do bitter, perverse hearts and coarse, crude cursing.

During the American civil war, "A number of leaders on both sides tried to do something about the language in the ranks, (but)....It was a pointless attempt. 'Oaths, blasphemies, imprecations, obscenity, are hourly heard ringing in your ears until your mind is almost filled with them,' a Mississippi recruit complained, and a fellow Confederate chaplain lamented that in camp he 'heard more cursing and swearing in twenty-four hours than in all my life before'" (Davis, *The Civil War*, 440).

Where cursing and swearing are accepted as part of the cultural fabric, purity and modesty are sure to be subject to ridicule. Filthy mouths will not praise pure minds. When a nation's language is depraved, its values will not be centered in virtue. Do you deem this judgment too harsh and severe? Perhaps the state of our country's conversation makes our conclusions fearful in their consequences. They ought to do so, for they are not our views. We borrowed them from one who said, "You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man out of his good treasure brings forth good things: and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil things. And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned" (Matt. 12:34-37).

*ABBA, Nov. 21, 2003*

*Via: "The Spirit's Sword"*

(boru), bells, the triangle and cymbals (zil) and several other traditional instruments. The sound associated with the mehterân exercised an influence on European classical music, with such composers as Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig van Beethoven all writing compositions inspired by or designed to imitate the Ottoman music. Marching songs, typically with patriotic and sometimes nostalgic lyrics,

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are often sung by soldiers as they march. The songs invariably feature a rhythm timed to the cadence of the march. There are many examples from the American Civil War, such as "Marching Song of the First Arkansas" and "John Brown's Body". "P'tit quinquin was popular during the Franco Prussian War of 1870. The Boer War generated numerous marching songs among which "Marching to Pretoria" is well known. "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" was a marching song of World War I that became a popular hit. (Wikipedia)

Music is a central part of our entertainment, weddings, funer-

als, processions, dedications and a host of other events in our lives. Music is also an important part of our worship. The Apostle Paul admonished the Ephesian church not to be drunk and under the influence of wine but to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit, "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:18-19). We must not miss the implications of this metaphor that Paul uses. A drunk man is under the influence of the alcohol he has ingested. It causes him to act and respond in certain ways. As Christians we are to be under the influence of the Spirit and it will produce certain actions and responses in us. Paul implies in this passage that the psalms, hymns and spiritual songs that we sing together help to produce this Spiritual influence in our lives.

In another passage Paul links spiritual singing with instruction and admonition, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16). This passage affirms that the wisdom from God's word is implanted in our hearts through the medium of singing. Of course, we must be singing spiritual songs for it

to have this intended impact on our lives.

Since we know the power of music to shape our thinking and our lives, it behooves us to take a closer look at the music to which we listen. Andrew Fletcher, a Scottish political activist (1655-1716), is reported to have said, "Let me write the songs of a nation--I don't care who writes its laws." This idea attributes great power to music. Is it really true that the poets and song writers of a nation exercise this kind of power? We know for certain it is true that many political movements from Women's Suffrage to Civil Rights have marched to the tune of the music they created.

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"Let me write the songs of a nation--I don't care who writes its laws."

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Some time ago my wife came home one day from the school where she works, and she was terribly upset by the lyrics to a song. Some of the kids listen to the song and she remarked that it is no wonder they have some of the problems they do. It made me think of my own musical history. Of course, I grew up in the church and I first learned the music of the church. I went to singing schools and learned the do, re mi's and was fed a steady diet of psalms, hymns and spir-

itual songs. However, as I grew older I found musical influences outside of the church setting.

I grew up in the 1960's. I remember some 45 rpm records that my older sisters had. I would spin them on our record player and listen to Elvis Presley bemoan his lazy old hound dog that never caught a rabbit and wasn't much of a friend. This popular version recorded by Elvis in 1956 was more about the musical genre than the words. "Hound Dog" is a twelve-bar blues song written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Recorded originally by Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton on August 13, 1952, in Los Angeles and released by Peacock Records in late February 1953, "Hound Dog" was Thornton's only hit record, selling over 500,000 copies (Wikipedia). Hound Dog would go through over 250 different recordings and would make a lot of lawyers happy with the various laws suits that were filed over the years.

By the time I got to junior high school I had become a Beatles fan. I am still a fan of much of their earlier music, but I must admit that the Beatles went in directions that my faith would not allow me to follow. Songs like "I Want to Hold Your Hand," released in 1964 and the song the Beatles performed on the Ed Sullivan Show, were simple and innocent lyrically. The

The song is driven along with these words, "If it's meant to be, it'll be, it'll be / Baby, just let it be; If it's meant to be, it'll be, it'll be / Baby, just let it be. / So, won't you ride with me, ride with me? See where this thing goes / If it's meant to be, it'll be, it'll be / Baby, if it's meant to be." The song does not contain any curse words and as Billboard says it is a song of love and fate. The video unfolds a kind of fairy tale story of rags to riches, from the humble beginnings of a small town to the glitter and lights of the big stage.

My purpose in making the comparisons of these songs from 1968 and 2018 is to emphasize the general trend toward more vulgar lyrics and disrespectful tones in the music we are hearing today. I have not reviewed every song on the market. I intentionally chose the top ten from Playlist in 1968 and the top three on Billboard's chart for August 18, 2018. One of these, "Meant to Be", was also number one the same week on the Country chart. I was interested in looking at the top songs from these lists which are fifty years apart and comparing the words. While many of the themes remain the same (young love) the words used to describe the themes have grown coarser in many instances. Curse words are often used in the lyrics of today's songs; fifty years ago, this did not happen, for the most

part. I am not the "music nazi" telling you what you can and cannot listen to. I want you to be aware of the power that music can have in your life and in your thinking.

Music is an integral part of our lives, and we would be wise to examine the music we enjoy. I pray that psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are among your top ten.

...lsg

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"Reach Out To Jesus"

Is your burden heavy as you bear it all alone? Does the road you travel harbor danger yet unknown? Are you growing weary in the struggle of it all? Jesus will help you when on his name you call.

Is the life you're living filled with sorrow and despair? Does the future press you with its worry and its care? Are you tired and friendless, have you almost lost your way? Jesus will help you just come to him today.

He is always there hearing every prayer, faithful and true. Walking by our side in his love abide all the day through. When you get discouraged, just remember what to do; reach out to Jesus; he's reaching out to you.

Ralph Carmichael, 1968

ences I see in the words of fifty years ago and the words of this song is the blatant vulgarity and disrespect.

Let's move on to number two from this list for August 18, 2018. Maroon 5 and Adam Levine come in at number two with "Girls Like You". Here is a short quote from Billboard about this song: "Frontman Adam Levine croons about a woman he doesn't deserve in the pop ballad "Girls Like You" by Maroon 5. The song delves into spending late nights, weekends and days with a special significant other. The music video sprinkles in a bevy of powerful female artists, actresses and advocates, from Jennifer Lopez and Ellen DeGeneres to gymnast Aly Raisman wearing an "Always Speak Your Truth" T-shirt. Levine sings his own truth of needing a girl who loves fun and brings out his wife and daughter at the end of the video for a touching family tribute" (<https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/lyrics/8460692/maroon-5-girls-like-you-lyrics>).

When one watches the video of this song there seems to be a carousel of girls bouncing around Adam but at the end Adam's wife and daughter appear. The effect is at least a little posi-

tive and there is only one curse word in the song. The video can be interpreted that Adam had gone through a lot of relationships that were shallow but had finally found something solid with his wife and daughter. In the end all the other girls are left standing in a circle staring at each other. The song is fun and light, and, of course, has a neat guitar riff and beat.

The third song we will review for the comparison was the number one Country song on August 18, 2018 "Meant to Be". Playlist gives this short summary of the song: "The latest collaboration from Bebe Rexha is "Meant to Be," a country-pop ballad pairing her with the duo Florida Georgia Line. In the last few years, Rexha has built her portfolio by teaming with the likes of David Guetta and Nicki Minaj, as well as G-Eazy. Her latest with FGL is an archetypal tale of love and fate, complete with a video that features the singer as a hitchhiking waitress-turned-eventual pop star.

The video begins with the hitchhiking waitress carrying her stuff in a couple of trash bags and sporting some shiny, slick boots. She jumps into the back of a pickup truck and then later into a car. We see her working in a café serving the duo with whom she later sings at the Wild West A Go Go. After teaming up they go from the lowly Wild West A Go Go to the Big Time.

lyric mainly talked about a boy who wanted to be the boyfriend of a girl and was asking to hold her hand because it made him feel happy inside and it was a feeling he could not hide. According to John Lennon he wrote the first two lines of the song "I Am the Walrus" (1967) during two separate acid trips (drug trips). Lennon said he wrote the first line one weekend and the second the next weekend. This song also incorporated ideas of a nursery rhyme that Lennon and some of his schoolmates sang on the playground. These later ventures into the psychedelic by the Beatles were not my favorite; some of the themes of the songs were not healthy lyrically.

I began wondering how the top ten pop songs of today compared to those of fifty years ago. I began to research this idea. I am mainly interested in the words of the songs and not the musical styles. I found a list of top ten hits of 1968 by Playlist. Here is that list from 10 down to 1:

10. The Crazy World of Arthur Brown – Fire
9. The Lemon Pipers – Green Tambourine
8. Diana Ross & the Supremes – Love Child
7. Aretha Franklin – I Say a Little Prayer
6. The Moody Blues – Nights in White Satin
5. Sly and the Family Stone – Dance to the Music

4. James Brown – Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud
3. The Beatles – Hey Jude
2. Joe Cocker – With a Little Help from My Friends
1. The Rolling Stones – Jumpin' Jack Flash

Many of us may remember some of these songs; we likely may remember more about the music than we do the words. Certain musical passages of the song may jump from our memory, and we may even remember a few words.

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These songs have a wide range thematically and even from the standpoint of musical styles. The Beatles actually have two songs that they wrote in the list. Joe Cocker's song, "With a Little Help From My Friends", was actually written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney for Ringo Starr to sing on their album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. Cocker's version was a cover of the song, but one that Paul McCartney called a "soul anthem".

The song "Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud" was written with the Civil Rights Movement as a backdrop. The main theme of the song is that black

men had been working for someone else for years but now they were going to get what they deserved. It is a social protest theme.

Playlist writes this about the song "Love Child": "A change of direction was required away from the classic but sugar-coated ditties that had served the group so well, and accordingly "Love Child", the tale of an illegitimate girl who feared bringing up her own child with the same stigma, was composed to order. "Love Child's" message, mirroring the changing social conditions of America, struck a chord with audiences and became the Supremes' 11th US number one – and of course features an exemplary Diana Ross performance."

Songs like "Love Child" helped shape cultural attitudes toward having children out of wedlock. One of the lines from the song reflects this new attitude toward illegitimacy: "No child of mine'll be bearing the name of shame I've been wearin'." Now children out of wedlock are celebrated on the covers of magazines. We read about celebrities who are not married having children with little regard for any consequences. These attitudes have undermined the traditional family and the values they established for the care and nurture of children. An illegitimate child is not responsible for his/her situation; however, it is a mistake to celebrate illegitimacy. There are

numerous problems created for society by these changes in belief. Government attempts to step in and provide financial aid for absent fathers, and our schools are burdened with the emotional handicaps that children often bring with them from such broken homes. What we especially want to note is the powerful impact that music wields on society. It has the power through a combination of words and music to change the thinking of people.

A significant point in our look at this music from fifty years ago is the fact that there were no curse words in any of the lyrics. While some of them may have contained inuendo regarding questionable behavior, the words of the songs contained no vulgar language. It is interesting to find the inspiration for the number one song according to Playlist. Here is the story on how the song began to be written:

Who is "Jack Flash"? His name is Jack Dyer, and he was Keith Richards' gardener. Richards explained to Rolling Stone in 2010: "The lyrics came from a gray dawn at Redlands. Mick and I had been up all night, it was raining outside, and there was the sound of these boots near the window, belonging to my gardener, Jack Dyer. It woke Mick up. He said, 'What's that?' I said, 'Oh,

that's Jack. That's jumping Jack.' I started to work around the phrase on the guitar, which was in open tuning, singing the phrase 'Jumping Jack.' Mick said, 'Flash,' and suddenly we had this phrase with a great rhythm and ring to it."

This is not the whole story about the writing of "Jumping Jack Flash", but it is the origin of the idea. Mick Jagger would later

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say this about the song: "It's about having a hard time and getting out. Just a metaphor for getting out of all the acid things" (<http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?id=506>). The words to many of the songs may be more about the beat and rhythmic pattern; in fact, the words even at times are non-sensical. The words are just fuel for the beat. Especially in Rock Music the main element is the melodic riff more than a pure melody. While a melody is built upon a musical motif, a riff is more rhythmic and dominated by the beat. The words may be cho-

sen because in some way they seem to fit the beat, or they provide a hook on which to hang the beat.

When we compare the words of Playlist's Top Ten Songs of 1968 to just the top 3 songs on August 18, 2018, there is a marked difference in the vulgarity of the lyrics. While much of the musical genre remains the same in many ways, the words are crude and disrespectful.

The number one song on this list is Drake's "In My Feelings". Here is a short quote from Billboard about the song: "The infectious tune is much more than a viral dance record, though, as the OVO rapper penned a quasi-love letter directed at former lovers and women he's been fascinated with in his life. The potential summer banger is peppered with New Orleans bounce flavor and Drake makes sure to pay homage to a couple of 504 legends by sampling Lil Wayne and the late Magnolia Shorty" (<https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/hip-hop/8465272/drake-in-my-feelings-lyrics-decoded>).

I will not quote from the lyrics to this song, but I will only say that it is cocky and brash in tone and various curse words are strewn here and there throughout the song in disrespectful ways. Of course, the song has a beat that drives rough shod over the words. One of the main differ-