



Adventist Philosophy of Music

Adventists believe that God intends music to be one means of fostering spiritual development. Musical understanding and expression help comprise the worship and faith that draw us to Him. Through the experience of carefully crafted music we may pursue a relationship with Him, and be helped to enter His eternal kingdom.



Music, as one of the arts, is an essential part of the curriculum, and should play a major role in the educational program of every student. It is an academic discipline that requires memory work, intellectual understanding and creativity. All are important elements working together in our educational development because they have the potential to bring balance to our learning experiences. This balance occurs because our learning and performance of music require emotional and moral sensitivity, intellectual effort, and spiritual experience.

Music is also valuable because its interpretation demands creativity. When we interpret and com-

pose music, we need to portray feelings, experiences, purposes, forms, styles, meaning, and synthesize these musical elements creatively. The musical experiences will enable students to appreciate the God of beauty, and to express their faith through aesthetic growth and creativity.

Creating music for others involves effective communication. The activities of performing and discussing music draw on the ability to communicate a range of ideas and feelings to others, and to God.

Music is important to emotional, intellectual, psychological, and spiritual development of the total person. Music requires serious study. Through understanding music, we learn how to refine and direct emotions, we find the sense of awe, inner harmony and calm that are part of personal balance.

At times music appears to bypass reason and communicate directly with the feelings. It is therefore important that music education develop awareness of this possibility, with its power to influence the emotions and actions of students. Most of all, students should be given the opportunity to express themselves to the limits of their potential in the discipline of music.

Overall, music helps us develop a kind of communication, and emotional expression that forms an indispensable part of our aesthetic development. It is a gift from God, designed to give us balance, to uplift us, and to lead us to Him.

Adventist Rationale for Music

The general goals of Adventist music education are to develop aesthetic awareness, increase technical proficiency, and provide a body of knowledge for the student which will heighten his or her capacity to experience and appreciate the best musical literature.

The rationale for music instruction in Adventist music education are to enable students to:

1. Reinforce the spiritual nature of the student, bringing meaning to his or her relationship with God and worship of Him.
2. Encourage musical responsiveness, involvement, discrimination.
3. Acquire basic music skills to become musically literate.
4. Develop musically to the fullest extent of his or her ability.
5. Become a better citizen of the world through opportunities for cultural enrichment through music.
6. Develop a basis for selecting wholesome music.
7. Find interest in and enjoyment of music as God intended.
8. Understand the spiritual, emotional, and moral implication of music.
9. Construct a hierarchy of Christian values for judging musical value.
10. Develop musical talents for the purpose of Christian witnessing, to bring glory to God, and to bless others.

