

Arguments for Mechanical Music in Worship

I. It is a God-given talent

Gn.1:28

- Animal trainers have great talent...
- Could Cain/Abel use animal trainers to worship God 'by faith'?
- Hb.11⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.
- God did not tell them (or us) to worship according to whatever talent we have.

How most express their views...

1. Major premise: – all talents are acceptable in our worship.
2. Minor premise: Playing music is a talent.
3. Therefore, we may play in worship.
 - Beer commercials require talent...
 - Chefs have talent...
 - Athletes have talent
 - **A dose of reality:** Mt.7:21-23

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II. **We use them at home**

Gn.4:21, Jubal...

1. Major premise: all things acceptable in the home are acceptable in worship.
2. Minor premise: we may play music at home
3. Therefore, we may play in worship.
 - We may wash feet and hands at home (Mk.7:8-9) . . .
 - We may eat meals at home (1 Co.11) . . .

Many things are morally right
but religiously wrong.

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**III. NT does not condemn
instruments in worship**

Parallels

People	General Authority	Specific Authority
Noah	Wood “Pine?”	Gopher
Naaman	Water “Abana?”	Jordan
Church	Music “Orchestra”	Sing

Minor premise fallacy

1. Major premise: we may include in worship everything not specifically condemned in NT
2. Minor premise: NT does not specifically condemn musical instruments
3. Therefore, we may play in worship.
 - Does NT condemn flagellation? kissing pope's toe? animal sacrifice?
 - Ac.15:24 – violates Ac.2:42...
 - Travel . . . Cookbook . . .

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IV. It is an aid to worship

Aid to worship?

Instruction	Aid	Addition
Gn.6, ark	Tools	Pine?
Mt.28, baptism	Baptistry	Apple pie, ice cream
Ep.5, sing	Book / Notes	Piano

Ps.150

- Musical instruments were not an aid, but a separate form of worship.
 - Glasses aid sight
 - Cane aids walking
 - “May I carry a cane?”
 - “May I ride in a car...?”
- What do musical instruments aid when no one sings?
- 1 Co.10:23

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Definition

To pull and let go again, twang with the fingers.
Used of an instrument, a bow-string,
a carpenter's line, the hair, etc.

Only context can determine the object.

Cf. baptize: to dip, immerse.

- We usually apply the word to water
- NT also uses it of **fire**, **suffering**, and **HS**.
- Only context can determine its application.
- Same true of psallo.

English translations

Don't have to know Greek

- Would you get the idea that we should sing by reading your English translation? Yes!
- Would you get the idea that we should play?
- Many NT translators are members of churches that use instruments, yet remained true to facts.

OT named the instrument with psallo

- Ps.98⁵, Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm.

NT names the instrument to psallo (pluck)

- Ep.5¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody [psallo] in your heart to the Lord
 - What if it said 'on your harp'?

Each would be required to play one

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VII. They will be in heaven; why not in the church?

Revelation communicated in symbols

- Rev.1¹, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and **signified** it by His angel to His servant John
- A symbol does not symbolize itself
- Rv.1:16, 20, stars do not mean stars
- Rv.5:6, Lamb?
- Rv.14:2, AS three times

Revelation 14:2, ASV

- And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and the voice which I heard was as the voice of harpers harping with their harps [NASB / ESV 'like' 3x]
- Mt.22³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.
 - No marriage in heaven; on earth, Hb.13:4

- If people could find mechanical instruments in NT worship, would not have to argue about what may be in heaven.
1. Major premise: every law that will exist in heaven applies to us on earth now.
 2. Minor premise: God's law forbids marriage in heaven
 3. Therefore, we cannot marry on earth ? ? ?

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VI. They will be in heaven; why not . . . ?

VII. David used them in O.T.

David also offered animal sacrifices, Ps.66:13-15

1. Major premise: the church can do everything David did.
2. Minor premise: David played musical instruments in worship to God.
3. Therefore, we can play instruments . . .
BUT David also offered animal sacrifices

David also offered animal sacrifices, Ps.66:13-15

- Man enters building with a lamb...
 - “You can’t do that!”
 - “But David did”
 - “That was OT, not NT.”
- Man enters building with incense...
- Man enters building with a harp...

David also offered animal sacrifices, Ps.66:13-15

- David also had many wives.
- Gal.5³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.
 - We cannot keep part of the law; it's all or nothing.
 - Hb.7¹² For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law

Eph.5:19

“Throughout the whole passage there is a contrast implied between the Heathen and the Christian practice, q.d. When you meet, let your enjoyment consist not in fulness of wine, but fulness of the Spirit; let your songs be, not the drinking-songs of heathen feasts, but psalms and hymns; and their accompaniment, not the music of the lyre, but the melody of the heart; while you sing them to the praise, not of Bacchus or Venus, but of the Lord Jesus Christ” – Conybeare and Howson, 714f.

If at first you don't succeed...

- 1920: required by the Greek (inheres in psallo) – O. E. Payne
- 1923: *permitted* by the Greek – J. B. Briney
- 1950s: only an aid – Julian Hunt
- 1985: congregational singing is unauthorized – Don DeWelt
- 1987: no authority needed – Given Blakely