Seven Reasons to Write Songs

Songwriting Workshop

Series 1, Sessions 1-3

By Andy Park

Reason #1: He's the creator and you are made in his image!

He is creative, and so are you. So, create! When we move in the creative gifting we inherit from him, we find joy. If you are happier after a session of songwriting, that alone is a good reason to do it.

St. Irenaeus said, "The glory of God is the human person fully alive." If writing makes you "come alive," do it.

Reason #2: For your own edification and inspiration.

One purpose for songwriting is to be "musical journaling." Singing and writing is a way of letting God's truth sink deep into your soul and mind.

If that is one of your purposes for writing, then you are a successful songwriter even if no one besides you hears your song.

Reason #3: The church needs new, fresh music.

You can be a contributor your church's hymnody—not just an anonymous person, but someone who is part of your church family. That makes it even more special.

God wired our minds and emotions so that we need fresh ways of singing ancient truths. New seasons call for new songs. Harness the power of poetry and harmony to take people to another place as they listen and sing.

Reason #4: Use your gifts to serve people.

Use your unique sphere of influence as a place to bring creative gifts. It could be one person, a small group, or thousands. Use what you have and trust God to bring the right effect. Songwriting is *not* primarily about making money. *No* job should be done this way. All work is to be done "unto the Lord." We honor God

and help people in our work, and income is secondary.

[1] Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. [2] Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation **day after day**. Psalm 96

Reason #5 God wants to be glorified

There is one being in the universe who can rightly seek to be glorified: the One Creator, Savior, Eternal, All-powerful God. Music is one way we can make a BIG DEAL out of God and what he has done and who he is.

A few years ago, special music was composed and performed for 60th anniversary of the reign of England's Queen Elizabeth. If a human monarch's reign is celebrated with great fanfare and creativity, shouldn't we be continually exalting the Creator and King of eternity with new music for his great works and unfailing love?

Reason #6 Songs Are Teaching Tools

Through songs, we teach truth. You may primarily function as a musician or singer but you are also a theologian. The way you describe God in your songs shapes peoples view of Him. Some of major movers and shakers in church history were songwriters – John Wesley, Martin Luther, Athanasius. They understood the power of song to change the way people think.

Gordon Fee said: "show me a church's songs and I'll show you their theology."

Reason #7 Music Shapes Culture

Eddie Gibbs, Fuller Seminary professor: "Today, we have the culture of the artist, NOT the orator." Artists are some of the most influential "speakers" of our time. Many winners of national "most influential person of the year" contests are musicians.

Maybe your main venues for performing are not within the four walls of the church. Take truth to the streets through your songs.

Artistic people: use your gifts! You have a talent from God, so invest it. Make It Grow By Using It. Speak words of life. Bring comfort & encouragement!