THE MUSIC OF HEAVEN

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Charles Spurgeon said "Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song. By grace we learn to sing, and in glory we continue to sing." Billy Graham added, "I believe that angels have the capacity to employ heavenly celestial music. In heaven we will be taught the language and music of the celestial world."

Music takes place in the celestial theater. It is like nothing we have ever seen. To describe it we must use the language of comparison.

Music In heaven occurs continually and absolutely perfectly. Can you imagine the textures of tones? What kind of musical scales are there?

Where do we find these songs recorded? Who has heard these songs? The answer is people like Ezekiel, Daniel, and John the cousin of Jesus.

You can find these songs as indentations in some Bible translations. In Revelation, scholars say phrases in quotations are called songs because of the nature of the address to God. Most of the passages that refer to speaking can be singing, especially when alluding to angelic beings. However the word for speaking is consistent with singing, so we can regard it as such.[1]
Some historians regard these poetic verses as hymns, or portions of songs. And they were actually sung by the early Christians and part of their worship ministry to God.
Song is the deepest expression of adoration from those who, with unveiled face, have seen Lord God Almighty

These songs when lifted up to God in melody transcend time and space. These songs are the unifying element in our story of a church militant on earth that moves through struggle and martyrdom to become the church triumphant in heaven. We sing in the struggle and we sing in victorious celebration on the other side.
Who was singing in these celestial songs?

THE SINGERS

In Revelation seven there is a multi-ethnical multitude that are crying out loudly to the One on the throne and to Jesus the Lamb of God

"After these things I looked, and this is what I saw: a vast multitude which no one could count, [gathered] from every nation and from all the tribes and peoples and languages [of the earth], standing before the throne and before the Lamb (Christ), dressed in white robes, with [d]palm branches in their hands; 10 and in a loud voice they cried out, saying,

(expressing) “Salvation [belongs] to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb [our salvation is the Trinity’s to give, and to God the Trinity we owe our deliverance].” (Rev 7:9-10) AMP
Every nation, all tribes and people groups, and every language are there singing for all they are worth in gratitude to Jesus and His heavenly Father. Their position is standing in front of the Throne of God and in front of the Lamb of God. They are dressed in white vestments – stately robes of priests or kings symbolizing purity and victory. They have come out of the great ordeal - possibly martyred.

They have washed their robes clean and white in the blood of the Lamb.[2] The verbs are in the past tense indicating the finished and atoning sacrifice of Jesus the lamb of God

They each had palm branches, depicting the feast of tabernacles where they lived in booths made of branches. On last day was a ceremony of sacrifice of a choral procession would sing while going down to the pool of Siloam to draw water in a golden pitcher. When returning to the temple trumpets would sound. They poured the water into a silver basin in the courtyard. When the vessel was emptied the Levites lifted their voices and begin to sing the Hallal (Ps 113-118). When the singers came to the words “Give thanks to the Lord” the people would sing with them and wave their palm branches toward the altar.

The meaning was thanking God for the water for the harvest but the spiritual meaning is the outpouring of the water of His Holy Spirit. It too was for international blessing. All nations were in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit was poured out. They all spoke in different languages (as in this scene in heaven). They all hand branches of fire on their heads and they experienced the same sound – a sound from heaven.

Here in heaven the harvest from the nations is gathered and palm branches are waved and the song of salvation is song. They are all screaming out their praise with a loud and raucous voice for their great salvation.

[1] Leon Morris, The Revelation of St. John (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1969), 100
[2] The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. (1989). (Re 7:13–14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.