

# **Music in the Bible**

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Published by L&R Hartley

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# Music in the Bible

## Introduction

The very first musical instruments were invented by Jubal the son of Lamech — Genesis 4:21

Musical instruments were also invented by David — 1 Chronicles 23:5; 2 Chronicles 7:6

The Jews were celebrated for inventing musical instruments — Amos 6:5

Musical instruments were often expensively ornamented — Ezekiel 28:13

There is a great diversity of Musical instruments— Ecclesiastes 2:8

Musical instruments were appointed to be used in the temple — 1 Chronicles 16:4–6; 23:5,6;25:1; 2 Chronicles 29:25

It appears that there was a custom of sending away friends with music — Genesis 31:27 (...that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp?)

## Music in the Bible is divided into:

**Vocal** — 2 Samuel 19:35 talks about both men and women singing, and Acts 16:25 tells us the apostle Paul and Silas sang praises unto God while they were in prison

**Instrumental** — Daniel 6:18

Instrumental music was designed to promote joy — Ecclesiastes 2:8,10

Unsanctified musical instruments are vanity — Ecclesiastes 2:8,11

Instrumental music was considered efficacious in mental disorders — 1 Samuel 16:14–17,23

Instrumental music was also linked with prophetic activity — 1 Samuel 10:5,6; 2 Kings 3:15

## The Instruments

There are a variety of musical instruments listed in the Bible:

Cymbals — 1 Chronicles 16:5; Psalms 150:5

Cornet — Psalms 98:6; Hosea 5:8

Dulcimer — Daniel 3:5

Flute — Daniel 3:5

Harp — Psalms 137:2; Ezekiel 26:13

Organ — Genesis 4:21; Job 21:12; Psalms 150:4

Pipe — 1 Kings 1:40; Isaiah 5:12; Jeremiah 48:36

Psaltery — Psalms 33:2; 71:22

Sackbut — Daniel 3:5

Tabret — 1 Samuel 10:5; Isaiah 24:8

Timbrel — Exodus 15:20; Psalms 68:25

Trumpet — 2 Kings 11:14; 2 Chronicles 29:27

Viol — Isaiah 14:11; Amos 5:23

Instruments made of fir wood — 2 Samuel 6:5

Instruments made of almug wood — 1 Kings 10:12

Instruments made of brass — 1 Corinthians 13:1

Instruments made of silver — Numbers 10:2

Instruments made of horns of animals — Joshua 6:8

Instruments made with strings — Psalms 33:2; 150:4

## **The Use of Music**

According to the Bible, the Jews used music in a number of different ways:  
In sacred processions — 2 Samuel 6:4,5,15; 1 Chronicles 13:6–8;15:27,28  
At laying foundation of temple — Ezra 3:9,10  
At consecration of temple — 2 Chronicles 5:11–13  
At coronation of kings — 2 Chronicles 23:11,13  
At dedication of city walls — Nehemiah 12:27,28  
To celebrate victories — Exodus 15:20; 1 Samuel 18:6,7  
In religious feasts — 2 Chronicles 30:21  
In private entertainments — Isaiah 5:12; Amos 6:5  
In dances — Matthew 11:17; Luke 15:25  
In funeral ceremonies — Matthew 9:23  
In commemorating great men — 2 Chronicles 35:25  
Sadly, in idol worship — Daniel 3:5  
The movements of armies were oftentimes regulated by music — Joshua 6:8;  
1 Corinthians 14:8  
And it appears that music was generally put aside in times of affliction —  
Psalms 137:2–4; Daniel 6:18

## **Symbolic Use of Music**

Music is also used symbolically in the Bible:  
Music is symbolic of joy and gladness — Zephaniah 3:17; Ephesians 5:19  
Music is symbolic of heavenly felicity — Revelation 5:8,9  
Music is symbolic of the ceasing of calamities — Isaiah 24:8,9; Revelation 18:22

*So to live is heaven:  
To make undying music in the world,  
Breathing as beauteous order that controls  
With growing sway the growing life of man.  
This is life to come,  
Which martyred men have made more glorious  
For us who strive to follow. May I reach  
That purest heaven, be to other souls  
The cup of strength in some great agony,  
Enkindle generous ardor, feed pure love,  
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty —  
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,  
And in diffusion ever more intense.  
So shall I join the choir invisible  
Whose music is the gladness of the world.  
— George Eliot.*

*A few can touch the magic string,  
And noisy Fame is proud to win them;  
Alas for those that never sing,  
But die with all their music in them!*  
— O. W. Holmes.

### **Clapping in the Bible:**

Some argue that clapping should always be a part of worship. What does the Bible say? There are eight verses in the Bible which specifically mention clapping. Only one of these has to do with worship: Psa 47:1 KJV - To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah. O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

Two verses refer to *nature* clapping: Psa 98:8 KJV - Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together and Isa 55:12 KJV - For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

One refers to clapping at a *coronation*: 2 Ki 11:12 KJV - And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.

And the other four view clapping as *negative*:

Job 27:23 KJV - Men shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.

Lam 2:15 KJV - All that pass by clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?

Ezek 25:6 KJV - For thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast clapped thine hands, and stamped with the feet, and rejoiced in heart with all thy despite against the land of Israel;...

Nahum 3:19 KJV - There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

*Happy those who have a lyre in their heart,  
and music in their minds  
which their actions perform.*  
— Joseph Joubert.

### **Congregational worship:**

The Psalmist tells us that music is appropriate for congregational worship and that we need not fear *new* songs of praise: Psa 149:1 KJV - Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. (Just because of the fact that we *sing* doesn't make our singing worship - Isa 23:15 talks about an harlot singing for customers.)

## **Dancing in the Bible:**

Solomon says that there is a time for dancing: Eccl 3:4 KJV - A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. And this was considered to be a part of ancient worship: Psa 149:3 KJV - Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. (Psa 150:4 KJV) Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. However, as we see from the following incident with David, 'dancing before the Lord' did not always have a positive outcome - 2 Sam 6:14 KJV - And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod: (2 Sam 6:16 KJV - And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. / 1 Chr 15:29 KJV- And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart.) The very first reference to dancing in the Bible is in the context of worship in an open rebellion against God: Exo 32:19 KJV - And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

Other references to dancing are:

(Judg 21:21 KJV) And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

(Judg 21:23 KJV) And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them.

(1 Sam 18:6 KJV) And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.

(1 Sam 30:16 KJV) And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.

(Job 21:11 KJV) They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.

(Psa 30:11 KJV) Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

(Isa 13:21 KJV) But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there.

(Jer 31:13 KJV) Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.

(Lam 5:15 KJV) The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.

(Mat 11:17 KJV) And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.

(Mat 14:6 KJV) But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.

(Mark 6:22 KJV) And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

(Luke 7:32 KJV) They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

(Luke 15:25 KJV) Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing.

## What Type of Music is Appropriate For Worship?

Maybe this is best answered by analysing one of the items of music in the Bible, written especially for Sabbath worship, Psalm 92.

- 1 A Psalm or Song for the Sabbath day. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:
- 2 To show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,
- 3 Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound.
- 4 For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.
- 5 O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.
- 6 A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.
- 7 When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:
- 8 But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore.
- 9 For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.
- 10 But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.
- 11 Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me.
- 12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- 13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.
- 14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;
- 15 To show that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Verses 1 tell us the **Object** of our worship: The Lord, the most high God.

Verses 1 & 3 tell us **how** to worship: with thanksgiving and with music, what to sing (praises), to include musical instruments if available\*, and for the music to be solemn (Hebrew *Higgaion*, meditation, solemn sound, not boisterous)

Verses 2 & 4 tell us **why** worship: To acknowledge God's loving kindness, faithfulness and the works He has done. (Verse 5 describes these works)

Verse 6 **warns against** foolishness (Hebrew *keciyl* – foolish, stupid, silly, not taken seriously) & brutish (Hebrew *Ba'ar* – fiery, greedy, wasteful) behaviour.

Verses 7 & 8 **contrast** the transitory life of wicked man with the eternity of God

Verse 9 highlight the **fate of the wicked** to contrast verses 10-14, which highlight the **blessings of acknowledging God**.

The Psalm concludes with **another reason** for worship, i.e.: To show that the LORD is upright: he is (our) rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him

### So how do we summarise:

Music in worship should be joyful yet solemn, remembering that we are in the presence of the Most High God.

Music in worship should spring from gratitude within our hearts (thankfulness) and an acknowledgement of who God is and what He has done.

Music in worship should be taken seriously

Music in worship should not be conducted foolishly, flippantly and without regard to the Object of our worship.

Music in worship is for the benefit of:

1. God – He is the Object of our worship and deserves our thankfulness and praise (Verse 1, 2, 5, & 8)
2. The worshipper: (Verses 10-14) and
3. Observers and other worshippers: the music should lead others to see the righteousness and surety of God (Verse 15)

\* I have written to include musical instruments *if available* because this Psalm is a worship item not a commandment.

*To left and right,  
The cuckoo told his name to all the hills;  
The mellow ouzel fluted in the elm;  
The redcap whistled, and the nightingale  
Sang loud, as tho' he were a bird of day.*  
— Alfred Tennyson.

## **A Shorter Concordance of *Music* in the Bible**

(Compiled by the Lionel Hartley, expressly for this publication)

(Gen 31:27 KJV) Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp?

(Exo 15:1 KJV) Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

(Exo 15:21 KJV) And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

(Exo 32:18 KJV) And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.

(Num 21:17 KJV) Then Israel sang this song, Spring up, O well; sing ye unto it:

(Judg 5:1 KJV) Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying,

(Judg 5:3 KJV) Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

(1 Sam 18:6 KJV) And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.

(1 Sam 21:11 KJV) And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

(1 Sam 29:5 KJV) Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

(2 Sam 19:35 KJV) I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

(2 Sam 22:50 KJV) Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

(1 Ki 4:32 KJV) And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

(1 Ki 10:12 KJV) And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.

(1 Chr 6:32 KJV) And they ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation with singing, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem: and then they waited on their office according to their order.

(1 Chr 6:33 KJV) And these are they that waited with their children. Of the sons of the Kohathites: Heman a singer, the son of Joel, the son of Shemuel,

(1 Chr 9:33 KJV) And these are the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, who remaining in the chambers were free: for they were employed in that work day and night.

(1 Chr 13:8 KJV) And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

(1 Chr 15:16 KJV) And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.

(1 Chr 15:19 KJV) So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound with cymbals of brass;

(1 Chr 15:27 KJV) And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen.

(1 Chr 16:9 KJV) Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.

(1 Chr 16:23 KJV) Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; show forth from day to day his salvation.

(1 Chr 16:33 KJV) Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because he cometh to judge the earth.

(1 Chr 16:42 KJV) And with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of Jeduthun were porters.

(1 Chr 25:7 KJV) So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD,

even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight.

(2 Chr 5:12 KJV) Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

(2 Chr 5:13 KJV) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;

(2 Chr 7:6 KJV) And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of music of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

(2 Chr 9:11 KJV) And the king made of the alnum trees terraces to the house of the LORD, and to the king's palace, and harps and psalteries for singers: and there were none such seen before in the land of Judah.

(2 Chr 20:21 KJV) And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

(2 Chr 20:22 KJV) And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

(2 Chr 23:13 KJV) And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of music, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason.

(2 Chr 23:18 KJV) Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by David.

(2 Chr 29:28 KJV) And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

(2 Chr 29:30 KJV) Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

(2 Chr 30:21 KJV) And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the LORD.

(2 Chr 34:12 KJV) And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of music.

(2 Chr 35:15 KJV) And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.

(2 Chr 35:25 KJV) And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.

(Ezra 2:41 KJV) The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.

(Ezra 2:65 KJV) Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

(Ezra 2:70 KJV) So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

(Ezra 3:11 KJV) And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

(Ezra 7:7 KJV) And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

(Ezra 7:24 KJV) Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

(Ezra 10:24 KJV) Of the singers also; Eliashib: and of the porters; Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.

(Neh 7:1 KJV) Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,

(Neh 7:44 KJV) The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred forty and eight.

(Neh 7:67 KJV) Beside their manservants and their maidservants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and they had two hundred forty and five singing men and singing women.

(Neh 7:73 KJV) So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and



the Nethinims, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

(Neh 10:28 KJV) And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding;

(Neh 10:39 KJV) For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.

(Neh 11:22 KJV) The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha. Of the sons of Asaph, the singers were over the business of the house of God.

(Neh 11:23 KJV) For it was the king's commandment concerning them, that a certain portion should be for the singers, due for every day.

(Neh 12:27 KJV) And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

(Neh 12:28 KJV) And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi;

(Neh 12:29 KJV) Also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth: for the singers had builded them villages round about Jerusalem.

(Neh 12:36 KJV) And his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them.

(Neh 12:42 KJV) And Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah their overseer.

(Neh 12:45 KJV) And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son.

(Neh 12:46 KJV) For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God.

(Neh 12:47 KJV) And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron.

(Neh 13:5 KJV) And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.

(Neh 13:10 KJV) And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field.

(Job 29:13 KJV) The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

(Job 35:10 KJV) But none saith, Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night;

(Job 38:7 KJV) When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

(Psa 7:1 KJV) Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto the LORD, concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite. O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:

(Psa 7:17 KJV) I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

(Psa 9:2 KJV) I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

(Psa 9:11 KJV) Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.

(Psa 13:6 KJV) I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

(Psa 18:49 KJV) Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.

(Psa 21:13 KJV) Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

(Psa 27:6 KJV) And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

(Psa 30:4 KJV) Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

(Psa 30:12 KJV) To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

(Psa 32:7 KJV) Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

(Psa 33:2 KJV) Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.

(Psa 33:3 KJV) Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

(Psa 47:6 KJV) Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

(Psa 47:7 KJV) For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

(Psa 51:14 KJV) Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

(Psa 57:7 KJV) My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

(Psa 57:9 KJV) I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.

(Psa 59:16 KJV) But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.

(Psa 59:17 KJV) Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

(Psa 61:8 KJV) So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.

(Psa 65:13 KJV) The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

(Psa 66:2 KJV) Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.

(Psa 66:4 KJV) All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah.

(Psa 67:4 KJV) O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

(Psa 68:4 KJV) Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.

(Psa 68:25 KJV) The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; among them were the damsels playing with timbrels.

(Psa 68:32 KJV) Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah:

(Psa 71:22 KJV) I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel.

(Psa 71:23 KJV) My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.

(Psa 75:9 KJV) But I will declare for ever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

(Psa 81:1 KJV) To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of Asaph. Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.

(Psa 87:7 KJV) As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee.

(Psa 89:1 KJV) Maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite. I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

(Psa 92:1 KJV) A Psalm or Song for the sabbath day. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

(Psa 95:1 KJV) O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

(Psa 96:1 KJV) O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.

(Psa 96:2 KJV) Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day.

(Psa 98:1 KJV) A Psalm. O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

(Psa 98:4 KJV) Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

(Psa 98:5 KJV) Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

(Psa 100:2 KJV) Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

(Psa 101:1 KJV) A Psalm of David. I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.

(Psa 104:12 KJV) By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.

(Psa 104:33 KJV) I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

(Psa 105:2 KJV) Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.

(Psa 106:12 KJV) Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

(Psa 108:1 KJV) A Song or Psalm of David. O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.

(Psa 108:3 KJV) I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.

(Psa 119:54 KJV) Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

(Psa 126:2 KJV) Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

(Psa 135:3 KJV) Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.

(Psa 137:3 KJV) For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

(Psa 137:4 KJV) How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

(Psa 138:1 KJV) A Psalm of David. I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

(Psa 138:5 KJV) Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.

(Psa 144:9 KJV) I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.

(Psa 145:7 KJV) They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

(Psa 146:2 KJV) While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

(Psa 147:1 KJV) Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.

(Psa 147:7 KJV) Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:

(Psa 149:1 KJV) Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

(Psa 149:3 KJV) Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

(Psa 149:5 KJV) Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

(Prov 25:20 KJV) As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.

(Prov 29:6 KJV) In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

(Eccl 2:8 KJV) I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

(Eccl 12:4 KJV) And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;

(Song 1:1 KJV) The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

(Song 2:12 KJV) The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;

(Isa 5:1 KJV) Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

(Isa 12:5 KJV) Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

(Isa 14:7 KJV) The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

(Isa 16:10 KJV) And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the plentiful field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither shall there be shouting: the treaders shall tread out no wine in their presses; I have made their vintage shouting to cease.

(Isa 23:15 KJV) And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot.

(Isa 23:16 KJV) Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be remembered.

(Isa 24:14 KJV) They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea.

(Isa 24:16 KJV) From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. But I said, My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.

(Isa 26:1 KJV) In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

(Isa 26:19 KJV) Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

(Isa 27:2 KJV) In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine.

(Isa 35:2 KJV) It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

(Isa 35:6 KJV) Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

(Isa 35:10 KJV) And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

(Isa 38:20 KJV) The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.

(Isa 42:10 KJV) Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

(Isa 42:11 KJV) Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.

(Isa 44:23 KJV) Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break

forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.

(Isa 48:20 KJV) Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

(Isa 49:13 KJV) Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

(Isa 51:11 KJV) Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

(Isa 52:8 KJV) Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.

(Isa 52:9 KJV) Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

(Isa 54:1 KJV) Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.

(Isa 55:12 KJV) For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

(Isa 65:14 KJV) Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit.

(Jer 20:13 KJV) Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers.

(Jer 31:7 KJV) For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.

(Jer 31:12 KJV) Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

(Jer 51:48 KJV) Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the LORD.

(Lam 3:63 KJV) Behold their sitting down, and their rising up; I am their music.

(Lam 5:14 KJV) The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their music.

(Ezek 26:13 KJV) And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.

(Ezek 27:25 KJV) The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas.

(Ezek 40:44 KJV) And without the inner gate were the chambers of the singers in the inner court, which was at the side of the north gate; and their prospect was toward the south: one at the side of the east gate having the prospect toward the north.

(Dan 3:5 KJV) That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

(Dan 3:7 KJV) Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

(Dan 3:10 KJV) Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

(Dan 3:15 KJV) Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

(Dan 6:18 KJV) Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

(Hosea 2:15 KJV) And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

(Amos 5:23 KJV) Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

(Amos 6:5 KJV) That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of music, like David;

(Amos 8:3 KJV) And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.

(Amos 8:10 KJV) And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

(Hab 3:19 KJV) The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

(Zep 2:14 KJV) And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; their voice shall sing in the windows; desolation shall be in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work.

(Zep 3:14 KJV) Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

(Zep 3:17 KJV) The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

(Zec 2:10 KJV) Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

(Mat 26:30 KJV) And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

(Mark 14:26 KJV) And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

(Luke 15:25 KJV) Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing.

(Acts 16:25 KJV) And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

(Rom 15:9 KJV) And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

(1 Cor 14:15 KJV) What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

(Eph 5:19 KJV) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

(Col 3:16 KJV) 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.

(Heb 2:12 KJV) Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

(James 5:13 KJV) Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

(Rev 5:9 KJV) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

(Rev 14:3 KJV) And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

(Rev 15:3 KJV) And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

*Thy sounds are echoes, which angels snatch  
from the second world's tones of gladness  
to convey down into our mute hearts,  
into our dreary night the faint spring melodies  
of heavens flying far above us!*

Jean Paul Richter.