

SCRIPTURE NARRATIONS WITH CLASSICAL MUSIC

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Classical Music

“Classical” music is a general term for music composed by famous composers such as Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Dvorak, and others. These compositions are in various forms:

1: A Symphony

A composition for a symphony orchestra, usually consisting of four sections called, “movements”. There are some symphonies of just two movements and some of more than four movements, depending upon the inspiration of the composer.

2: A symphony orchestra is composed of only instruments being played. No vocals.

3: A chorus is any group of vocalists.

Sometimes a chorus is added to the composition by the composer. Usually this is done for only one movement of a symphony.

4: A choral composition that is written with orchestra accompaniment is an Oratorio, if the lyrics for the entire composition are from the Bible, such as a Requiem.

5: Classical Orchestra Music will include many or all of the “orchestral instruments”. These are; the violins (1st and 2nd sections); the violas, the celli, the string basses; the winds (flutes, clarinets, oboes, English horn, piccolo); the brass (trumpets, trombones, French horns, tuba); the percussion instruments, and other instruments as needed by the score. (The score is the entire written composition). Each section of the various instruments will have a definite and unique sound. The composer uses these unique sounds to convey his/her ideas within the music.

Each section, depending upon how it is played, will direct the audience/listeners to various emotional or thought-provoking feelings. These variances in the music stir our thoughts, individually. The intention of the narrator for Scripture and Symphonies is to awaken the listener to more imperative thoughts. The music, when combined with the Scripture, may allow the listener to be hearing great words that are having more of an impact, only by emphasizing their importance once more. I am not implying that the “words” are not as impacting by themselves. Absolutely, not! We, however, as hearers of the Word, and many which we have committed to memory, have become, perhaps, too repeated and need to be revived. There are many noisy sounds in today’s world that compete with the Word of God. Music can refresh these with the help of Our Lord.

6: The Music and the Word

My system of narrating is not to accompany the Scripture with “background” music, for this would defeat the purpose of the music. The music has been chosen as the launching of the Word, so that we may hear it more clearly, and so that our emotions and thoughts may hear more than before. The narrations need not be dramatic – just spoken – as if someone would be just reading them to us as we languished in a hospital bed or at the brink of some important event of life. In many of our lives, every day commands us to seek more encouragement and hope. A prominent football coach said once, “A good offense is a good defense.” Jesus said (more importantly), “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupts and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:20) I think, the noise of every-day life often takes over the more important thoughts that we should remember.

7: The Very Best Music for the Lord Jesus

The music performances which are selected are based on selecting the very best orchestras in the world. Only the very best have been even considered to accompany such a monumental task. It is a thousand times more a greater privilege to speak the Words of Jesus.

Frequent Questions Regarding Scripture and Symphonies

1: Why are not the words of Jesus chosen rather to be spoken by a man?

Answer: The aim of these narrations is to only read from the Bible as if one would be reading to the listener, in person, not with actors. Personally, the narrator feels, “who would be worthy to imitate the voice of Jesus?” Which accent would be best? New York, Chicago, Louisiana? The words, themselves, hold the impact. In Paradise God spoke His creation into existence. After each day, it is written, “And God saw that it was good.” When Adam and Eve had to leave Paradise, because of their sin, there were cherubim who guarded the entrance to Paradise with flaming swords. It is interesting that in the New Testament we read of the “sword of the spirit”, which is the Word of God. With that “sword” our path back to God is carved out with the Word when we are brought to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

2: Why is the music so loud in some sections?

The contrasts of loud and soft are in the music as written by the composer and those variances are kept true by the orchestra and conductor. Those should not be lessened. Sometimes thunder is good.

3. Sometimes the narration is too fast. Hopefully, that doesn't happen too often, and it is best to listen when you are doing nothing else.

4. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, and Luke 21:33. I think the Lord wants us to hear a few things.

Karen