

MUSIC

Article - 1

WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?
WHAT IS ITS EFFECT?

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INTRODUCTION

Words about music are secondary to music itself.

The true meaning of music lies in the aural experience.

Other experiences are merely adjuncts or glosses on the acoustical event.

Music is inseparable from function as is the case of music in the Bible.

Since music affects and has a direct effect in forming personalities, then it is vital and critical to:

- 1-Definition of music,
- 2-Praising in the OT & NT churches
- 3-Music in the OT,
- 4-Music in the NT,
- 5-Musical instruments,
- 6-Singing with instruments in heaven,
- 7-What did famous people say about music,
- 8-What did the fathers of the Church say,
- 9-Music and its spiritual meaning,
- 10-Music has its effect on human aspects,
- 11-You are the Paradise of my soul, O God.

I. DEFINITION of the word *Music*:

The science or art of incorporating pleasing, expressive or intelligible combinations of vocal or instrumental tones into a composition having definite structure and continuity.

(Webster Third New International Dictionary, vol. II).

MUSIC is the most abstract of the arts. Its components: pitch, duration, texture, rhythm, color and ultimately form, speak their own language. The composing experience which brings these together in a satisfying

wholeness, is to be matched in the listening experience, which then must comprehend this wholeness. (Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible, vol. IV ,p. 311).

MUSIC is considered to be an essential component of the creation in the human soul, to balance the human soul and the human feelings.

MUSIC is gone as soon as it is made. It is a time art: its sounds do not co-exist as the parts of a painting do; they succeed each other chronorhythmically. The **first musical instrument was created by God in the human body which is the 'larynx' or 'throat',** (King Solomon called it; 'daughters of music'-Ecclesiastics 4:12). equipped with Vocal cords' to cause musical voices expressing their joy , sorrow, love, dislikes, anger, thanks, etc.

PRAISING AND SINGING IN THE **CHURCHES OF** **THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS :**

INTRODUCTORY Word about PRAISE:

Praising is the most elite of the music, for it nourishes the soul by tunes, and elevate the spirit closer to The Creator, ***“Who is like You, O Lord, .. glorified in holiness, marvelous in praises, doing wonders?”*** [Exodus 15:11].

Praising was among the first signs of reconciliation between God and man, when the angels appeared unto the shepherds saying; ***“Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth and good will towards men”*** [Luke 2:12].

Praising has an active factor in its music, that is **The Holy Spirit**, "*Who spoke by the prophets*" [The Christian Creed] in The Old Testament, and also works in the church of The New Testament.

Praising and singing is the work of the Angels and the heavenly hosts, with all their ranks, as the Lord said to Job; "*Where were you ... when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*" (Job 38:4,7).

Praising is mainly and foremost is the work of all the Angels, but rather their food, as saint **John Chrysostom** said; that praising attracts the angels to serve , that's why the Church of the Old and the New Testaments are Churches of praises, glorifications and singing.

David the prophet appointed 4,000 of the Levites " *to praise the Lord with musical instruments, which David made, to give praise*" (1 Chr. 23:5//2Chr. 5:11-14).

Praising is meditating in the works of God who loves mankind, and does great marvels for their sake.

Praising is expressing the joy and happiness of man to his Creator, who gave him the grace of existence, and the grace of knowing Him, experiencing Him and tasting Him.

Praising is lifting the heart, mind, feelings and desires upward where Christ is seated on the right of His Father.

Praising and church hymns are supplications, beseeching and praising offered to the Holy God to receive blessings, grace and thanking Him for His great love.

Praising is, man forgetting his existence on earth, and mingling in spiritual feelings which makes him among the angelic chorus.

Praising is meeting between the human spirit and its Heavenly Groom, were the first talks expressing its spiritual desire and its love, as the bride in the Song of Solomon says; "*My beloved is mine, and I am His*" (Song 2:16).

Praising then becomes a powerful spiritual gift to man who feels the extreme need for a holy unity with God, and this is where praising reaches its peak in the Divine Liturgy by partaking of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the back-bone for the life of the Christian believer.

Praising turns earth into heaven!

MUSIC in the Old Testament:

Music in the Old Testament was inseparable from all life. It accompanied work, worship, merrymaking and military activities (*Gen. 31:27; Exod. 32:17,18; Num. 27:17; Judg. 11:34,35; Isa 16:10; Jer. 48:33*). **There are instances of music making connected with specific acts of God:** the collapse of the walls of Jericho (*Josh. 6:4-20*), the enthronement of kings (*I Kings 1:39,40; II Kings 11:14; II Chron. 13:14; 20:28*), music for the court (*II Sam. 19:35; Eccl. 2:8*), and for feasting (*Isa. 5:12; 24:8,9*), as well as for the restoration of prophetic gifts (*II Kings 3:15*) and the soothing of personality disturbances (*I Sam. 16:14-23*). These latter two instances seem to belong to the psycho-musical realm.

GENESIS 4:21,22 “.. *Jubal is the one who invented the psaltery and harp .. Tubal-Cain, a smith and manufacturer of bronze and iron*” .. we see Jubal as the proto-musician. He is first described as the 'father of all those who play the psaltery and harp [lyre and pipe]'. **Tubal-Cain** came to be known as the father of the bronze and iron instruments.

Jubal's music making is not religiously caused or primarily associated with worship, nor is it necessarily an activity which, by contrast, bears only the association of any number of so-called secular activities. Even though Yahweh, God, was

to be worshipped in His sanctuary, the earth and all its fullness was also His; and as man's habitat, and with command given him to be its steward, **the world was to be an arena for praise.** This proves to us that Adam and Eve have received- 'tradition'-the importance of 'praise' and its value from God and the angels, then they deposited that tradition to their children and their grand-children, after.

Moses the prophet is a genius and creative musical personality. He was able to compose the greatest song ever known in history. This song was composed by Moses after they crossed the Red Sea with the people of Israel. Many consider Moses the prophet the founder of 'worship with music', and David put the theory 'specifics in worship with music'.

Accordingly, the use of music is as much an integral part of the gathering of harvest as the worship in the sanctuary. The uniqueness is that while harvest songs are sung, **they are sung to the Lord of harvest; that while battle songs are sung, God is to win the battle.**

MUSIC in the New Testament:

The First Chorus for PRAISING in The New Testament is mentioned in the Gospel of St. Mark 14:26; ***"And when they sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives"***.

After they thanked and partook of the Holy Communion, praise started having a new phase.

The Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ handed the praise to their followers, as is mentioned in their epistles; ***"speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,***

singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” [Ephesians 5:19].

The Book of Revelation specially, depicts music as part of a rich eschatological drama. There are about a dozen more passages in the entire NT which shed light on music making. Of these, five only mention music metaphorically (Matt. 6:2; 11:17; Luke 7:32; I Cor. 13:1; 14:7,8). The remaining cast important light, especially when seen in broader context, that of the rich heritage of Temple and synagogue worship known and practiced by the early Christians. **Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26** mention the use of a hymn by Christ and His disciples at the conclusion of the Last Supper. This is the only specific mention in the NT of Jesus Christ Himself singing, although it is certainly probable that when He read in the synagogue (**Luke 4:16-20**) He did so in the accustomed vocal manner.

There are two other passages in the Gospels mention instrumental music and dance: the mourning for the death of a girl (**Matt. 9:23**) and the merriment upon the return of the prodigal son of Jesus' parable (**Luke 15:25**).

Finally, when Paul and Silas were jailed for their activities, they spent some of the time singing (**Acts 16:25**).

The basic concept still stands in the NT as well as the OT: that music accompanied the varied activities in the Jewish community as well as the Christian. **Saint Paul brings three terms together, they are psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.** Psalms are considered to be of the OT.

Hymns, or songs of praise, would perhaps be those newly composed texts directed to Christ.

Songs, the most general of the types, comprising all kinds of songs, secular or sacred, accompanied or unaccompanied, are distinguished by the adjective spiritual, which seems to

set these apart from all other general lands of songs as inspired by the Spirit, and perhaps composed spontaneously.

The Church Hymns are ‘Theology in tunes’.

It has many benefits and gives power in changing the evil desires to good, as it leads the audience or those hymning/singing the words to humbleness and contrition, and remains in the soul the spirit of virtue and the love of goodness, as they try to put aside sin, progressing to hating it as it softens the heart and elevate the soul to God, thus, sharing with the heavenly hosts in heavenly praises. **[Coptic Hymns, George Kiryllos, p.42, 2002]**

Hymns and music occupy a major part of worship inside the Coptic Orthodox Church. The priest prays in hymns, the deacon calls on the people in hymns, and the congregation respond in hymns, also.

Hymns allow the believers to converse with God through their emotions and feelings, sharing in what God offers or grants to them in the sacraments.

Church hymns are rich in its music through its tones and tunes.

It expresses the spiritual meaning which is engulfed in its words.

These hymns have its performance which were put by the early fathers aided by the Spirit. **[Coptic Hymns, George Kiryllos, p.53, 2002]**

Those who learn the ‘church hymns’ becomes a pillar in the church, and is considered a ‘gifted servant’, carrying and acquiring a very dear mystery: **‘The Mystery of Praising God’.**

Praising in the church is between two choruses; better known as ‘Antiphonal Singing’ .. north and south before the Royal

door, where the deacons chorus is. [Coptic Hymns, George Kyrillos, p.57, 2002]

This is copied from the heavenly hosts from the Book of Isaiah; “.. *I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of His glory. Around Him stood Seraphim: each one with six wings, .. one cried to another and said; ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory’ .. and the house was filled with smoke*” [Isaiah 6:1-4].

Supernatural and Eschatological mention of music :

The bulk of these have to do with the trumpet sound of the Lord at the raising of the dead (I Cor. 15:52; I Thess. 4:16), or the gathering of the elect (Matt. 24:31). They certainly are extensions of the many associations of musical sounds accompanying specific acts of God which appear throughout the OT. The ultimate instances of this are found throughout the Book of Revelation in which the final, cumulative acts in history are announced by trumpet sounds, and where singing would seem to be a part of the eternal round of praise to be rendered to God.

MUSICAL Instruments in the Bible:

I-Idiophones (made of naturally sonorous materials).

- a) Pairs of similar instruments struck together. The usual word is cymbals (*Ps. 150:5*).
- b) Shaken , refers to 'quiver, waver, shake¹, and denotes a shaken idiophone.
- c) Struck, bells are mentioned in Exodus 28:33,34; 39:25,26; Zechariah 14:20.

II- Membrano-phones (drums).

The KJV translates this word as either timbrel or tabret with apparently no difference in meaning. The fact that women used it in dance (**Exod. 15:20**) suggests that it was usually a small (hand-beaten) drum or tambourine.

III- Aero-phones (blown).

a) Lips vibrating; designates an instrument (**Dan.3**) which can be more specifically described as a ram's horn by two words, related to Assyrian *supparu*-(wild sheep), *mdyobel* (**Exod. 19:13**), related to Phoen. *ybl* (ram). Both words are used in Joshua 6 and Exodus 19 but it is not evident that there is a distinction between them.

b) Pipes- all other blown instruments can be called pipes. (Jeremiah 48:36, Gen 4:21; Job 21:12; 30:31).

IV- Chordophones- strings (Ps. 150:4)

a) **Lutes** (guitar and violin like instruments).

b) **Harps** (Ps. 33:2; 144:9; Rev. 14:2).

c) **Lyres** (Dan. 3).

d) **Zithers** (I Sam. 18:6).

SINGING WITH INSTRUMENTS IN HEAVEN:

“And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. And they sang as it were a new song before the Throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders..” (**Rev. 14:2,3**).

“And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. And they sing a song of

Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb,...” (Rev. 15:2).

So, music in heaven is a source of heavenly rejoice and happiness in a divine spiritual way, where our emotions and desires are moved toward God and eternity in a humble , calm and tranquil way which bring peace and tranquility to the soul, body and spirit.

“ For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength” (Isaiah 30:15).

WHAT DID FAMOUS PEOPLE SAY ABOUT MUSIC :

Beethoven said: Music is the ultimate way to the other world.

De Cartes said: Among all arts, there is none that unite in harmony with religion as music does.

Mr. Eric Holmberg the writer and composer of two video tapes titled;

Hells Bells : The Dangers of Rock ‘n Roll’, said in his first video the following; ‘Music has its effect on society as well as the life of humans’. He mentioned, for instance, that in China, 2,000 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, certain music rites were composed to fit society.

Many directors, composers and musicians worked together for the progress of man for a better life.

The Greek philosopher PLATO said; ‘ When we change the style of music, we are changing the conformity or organization of the government! Plato criticizes those who did not study music to comprehend its effect on the life of man and/or the society, but makes their measure for it, the extent of the pleasure they receive through it, saying; ‘Foolishly, they deceived themselves, thinking that

music does not contain what's good and bad, but rather, judging it for the pleasure they receive only ...”

Aristotle said; Music has the power to form a personality’.

While Vlademir Lenin says; ‘ Music is the only way to destruct a society, if misused .

WHAT DID THE EARLY FATHERS OF THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT MUSIC :

Clement of Alexandria : A great Father of the second century, wrote in his book *The Instructor*’ *distinguishing between the lewd music of Satanic odes, and another art of music saying;* ‘For the various spells of the broken starains and plaintive numbers of the Carian muse corrupt men’s morals, drawing to gradual disturbance of the mind (perturbation), by the licentious and mischievous art of music.

The Spirit, distinguishing from such revelry the divine service, sings, *“Praise Him with the sound of trumpet;”* for with sound of trumpet He shall raise the dead. *“Praise Him on the psaltery;”* for the tongue is the psaltery of the Lord. *“And praise Him on the lyre.* “ By the lyre is meant the mouth struck by the Spirit, as it were by a plectrum. *“Praise with timbrel and the dance,”* refers to the Church meditating on the resurrection of the dead in the resounding skin. *“Praise Him on the chords and organ.* “ Our body He calls an organ, and its nerves are the strings, by which it has received harmonious tension, and when struck by the Spirit, it gives forth human voices. *“Praise Him on the clashing cymbals.”* He calls the tongue the cymbal of the mouth, which resounds with the pulsation of the lips. Therefore He cried to humanity, *“Let every breath praise the Lord,* “ because He cares for every breathing

thing which He has made. For man is truly a pacific instrument; while other instruments, if you investigate, you will find to be warlike, inflaming to lusts, or kindling up armors, or rousing wrath..... Finally, before partaking of sleep, it is a sacred duty to give thanks to God, and confess to Him in songs of the lips, because in His command all His good pleasure is done, and there is no deficiency in His salvation. “ (*Vol. II, The Ante-Nicene Fathers, p. 248,249*).

Saint Clement also said in his ‘STROMATA’ :

“The lyre, according to its primary signification, may by the Psalmist be used figuratively for the Lord; according to its secondary, for those who continually strike the chords of their souls under the direction of the Choir-Master, the Lord. And if the people saved be called the lyre, it will be understood to be in consequence of their giving glory musically, through the inspiration of the Word and the knowledge of God, being struck by the Word so as to produce faith.... Music is then to be handled for the sake of the embellishment-adorn-, and composure of manners. For instance, at a banquet we pledge each other while the music is playing; soothing by song the eagerness of our desires, and glorifying God for the abundant gift of human enjoyments, for His perpetual supply of the food necessary for the growth of the body and of the soul. But we must reject superfluous (unnecessary) music, which enervates (weakens) men’s souls, and leads to variety,-now mournful, and then licentious and voluptuous (pleasure of the senses), and then frenzied (fury) and frantic (mad with rage). “ (*Vol. II, p. 499, 500*).

He said this contemplation on Psalm 150 :

PSALM 150
CONTEMPLATIONS
BY
ST. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA
[The Instructor]
The Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol.2, p.248, 249

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“Praise Him on the psaltery ; “ for the tongue is the psaltery of the Lord.

“And praise Him on the lyre.” By the lyre is meant the mouth struck by the Spirit as it were by a plectrum.

“Praise with the timbrel and the dance,” refers to the Church met. On the resurrection of the dead in the resounding skin.

“Praise Him on the chords and organ” Our body He calls an organ, and its nerves the strings, by which it has received harmonious tension, and when struck by the Spirit, it gives forth human voices.

“Praise Him on the clashing cymbals.” He calls the tongue the cymbal of the mouth, which resounds with the pulsation of the lips.

Therefore He cried to humanity **“Let every breath praise the LORD,”** because He cares for every breathing thing which He has made.

For man is truly a pacific instrument while other instruments, if you investigate, will find to be warlike, inflaming to lusts, or kindling up amours, or rousing wrath.

In their wars, therefore, the Etruscans use the trumpet, the Arcadians the pipe, the Sicilians the pectides, the Cretans the lyre, the Lacedaemonians the flute, the Thracians the horn, the Egyptians the drum, and the Arabians the cymbal.

The one instrument of peace, the Word alone by which we honor God, is what we employ. We no longer employ the ancient psaltery, and trumpet, and timbrel, and flute, which those experts in war and condemners of the fear of God were wont to make use of also in the choruses at their festive assemblies; that by such strains they might raise their dejected minds.

Saint Augustine wrote in his letter ‘On The Origin of The Human Soul’, 415 A.D., addressed to St. Jerome:

‘For if a man, when composing a song which is to suit a particular melody, knows how to distribute the length of time allowed to each word so as to make the song flow and pass on in most beautiful adaptation to the ever-changing notes of the melody, how much more shall God, whose wisdom is to be esteemed as infinitely transcending human arts, make infallible provisions’ (*The Nicene & Post Nicene Fathers, Vol. I, p.527*)

* * * * *

MUSIC and its Spiritual means :

The Holy Bible connected between the music and praising God, as David said; “*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from upright is beautiful. Praise the Lord with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument often strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy*” (*Psalms 33:1-3*).

The spiritual music is composed and played by spiritual people, where its tone and rhythm are inspired by the Spirit, and its goal is to glorify God, thank Him, and praise the Most High, thus, expressing our love and adoration to the Pantocrator, as the Apostle Paul said; “ *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*” (Ephesians 5:19).

This type and style of music is a spiritual means which edifies and is a great gift which quenches the heart, disciplines the soul, and elevates the spirit to heaven.

The good Lord has granted our beloved Coptic Orthodox Church a wonderful treasure of hymns, songs and praises, which depict a deep spiritual effect. The Coptic Church has a variety of tunes and tones , expressing the different Church occasion, where each has its own taste and feel, such as; the annual, the festal, for great Lent, for Palm Sunday, for funerals. Some of it are Pharaonic, and dates back to almost 5,000 years !

Music has its effect on humans in all aspects forming the person; flesh, soul and spirit.

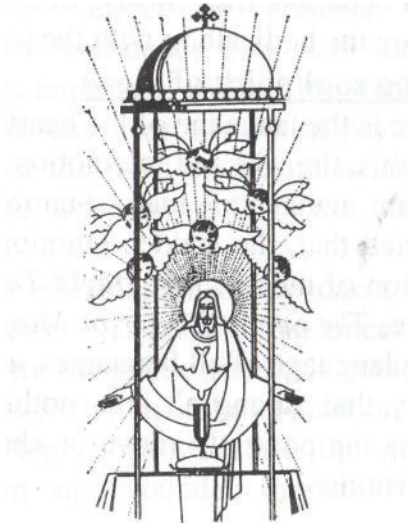
We will discuss these aspects ;

- 1- From the flesh point of view
- 2- From the soul point of view
- 3- From the spirit point of view

1- From the body point of view:

Music has its effect on the human body. When one listens to the Washington Postmark Army music, the whole body moves involuntarily. His head moves, and his feet hit the ground hard.

For this reason, the martial music was used since old times



to support the men in the army, to offer the bodies for their country in enthusiasm and strength.

In the book titled, *Music in Hospital*’ written by Vanderhall, it said that music has its effect on the patients. Music affects the heart beats as well as the blood pressure and the digestive system. Also, affects the *endorphins*, which are the natural analgesics through the nervous system of man. Vanderhall stresses that music has its imprints on the nervous system, thus affecting his emotions, which shows in his arm movements or his involuntary feet movements, unless controlled by his mind, could stop it.

It has been said that, misuse of music can kill or destroy the body along with the soul.

2- From the soul point of view:

Music is the language of the heart. It talks to the thoughts, the will and to emotions. It guides the psychic nature of man. Stanford University reported that, the sudden emotions results as a reaction of music. **Mr. David Tame** said in his article, *The Secret Power of Music*, that music is the language of all languages, and we are safe to say that among all arts, nothing like music carries the power to move or change emotions and feelings.

Nothing competes against drugs as music does affect the human soul. Music can be more dangerous than drugs, if one neglects its damaging effect.

One of the preachers in South East Asia, called *Philostead*, said; *'The Rock music is a lie. It almost ended my life completely'*.

One of the American Recording companies tried offering music to the public with a 'specific rhythm' in the market, thus the selling volume increased !

For instance, the soft music has a hypnotic effect . **Dr. Chroan, who holds his Ph.D. in the Psychology of Music in America**, said that music can offer calmness as it could cause an emotional struggle psychologically, as a result, music can be destructive. Tests proved that other arts take longer time to get one out of the dilemma of the aggressive effect of Rock music, since it deprives one from concentrating.

Professor Garloft, who studied 'Music in the Mental Hospitals', said: 'Music had its psychological effect on patients, were it penetrated to their depth. The result was 80% of the patients improved, while 20% were affected badly. The latter was a result of psychological problems in the lives of the musicians, which affected the listeners, in this case, the mental patients.

As for the effect of music on one's emotions and reactions, it is known that once he/she is caught in its 'magnetic field', it could destroy them emotionally, once the control on the mind is lost. Reports proved that the number of people hurt and wounded increased with the increase of the aggressiveness in concerts.'

Professor Garloft continues; 'The musician has his affect on his audience, even if he did not utter one word.' He repeatedly said, from personal experience, 'The musician has the ability to converse with his audience, without saying a word!'

3- From the spirit point of view:

The Church believes in the role of music in the spiritual life of man, and the strong relationship between music and the spirit.

Praising is the utmost work of the heavenly hosts. As if all these ranks and hosts in heaven are like 'musical chorus'' announcing their love to God, not by musical instruments or fleshly voices, but by their natures and will, were they offer a wonderful note beyond comprehension.

When man elevates spiritually and become submissive to the Holy Spirit, he feels that all his inner nature; spirit, emotions and feelings, are transformed into a unique spiritual instrument, the Spirit of God plays on it, to offer and compose an unutterable song.

The Rock musician *Jimi Hendrix*, the researcher in music, and composer of; *Music is Spirit*, said; 'The word music is derived from *Muse*, meaning *a state of deep thought*.

It has also been said, concerning music, that it carries a spiritual strength beyond explanation. If a person plays on musical instruments, in reality I instrument, which plays on the strings of man, and guide him as it wills.

The guitar player, *John McLaughlin*, said; ‘One night as I was playing my guitar, suddenly a spirit embraced me, and I felt it was not me that was playing the guitar.’

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Mr. Eric Holmberg, the composer of; ‘*Hells Bells*’ and ‘*The Dangers of Rock ‘n Roll*’, said, that there are 6 spiritual facts proved by the Holy Bible, were the Rock ‘n Roll music is used for Satan’s benefit:

- 1- The very truth is Spirit; **“God is a Spirit”** (*John 4:24*).
- 2- Man is a spiritual creature; for he has been created **“in the image of God”** (*Gen. 1:27*).
God is the source of life for every living being. He is the source of love and the strength of gift for others.
- 3- The goal of music is to experience God; as the Lord Jesus Christ said: **“And this is life eternal, that they might know You the only True God, and Jesus Christ, whom You has sent”** (*John 17:3*).
As the great musician, J. S. Bach, said; ‘The essence of every music is to glorify God and edify the human spirituality.’
- 4- As through music, God is glorified by man, by the same token, **through music sin can separate man from God.**

In one of the Rock songs for *Sicruxsie and the Bomshees*, the singer repeats in great pride this phrase; ***Sin in my heart***, were the enemy-Satan, **“works in the children of disobedience”** (*Ephesians 2:2*).

Mr. Eric Holmberg says; the words in this song brings the fume of death from the mouth of the singer, which he diffuses in hundreds, rather thousands of young youth all over the world, as they incorporate themselves with the music, without realizing the danger they will befall.

- 5- Many songs are offered in adoration for Satan, as the prince of this world, (*II Peter 2:9*).
- 6- Sometimes music is used to obstruct and offend the redemptive work of God, where Satan strategically justifies sin (*II Cor. 4:4*), and conforms himself into an illuminated angel (*II Cor. 11:4*).

* * * * *

YOU ARE THE PARADISE OF MY SOUL, O GOD [Rev. Fr.

Tadros Y. Malaty]

O Lord I confess to You, Whenever the enemy rages war
against me to destruct

me,

My heart is a-flamed more with Your divine love, His war
proves to me Your love to me is abundant,

His war proves to me the glory which You have prepared for
me, and waiting for all who believes in You,

My soul and spirit for all those who have fallen,

How do you trust one who lost light and glory ?!

How do you worship the one who is calling for the
destruction of humanity?!

How do you love, that which is hatred itself?!

God is waiting for you, He wants you only,

God does not want anything from you but your growth,
your salvation, to be in glory forever with Him, whom

He loves you. Very strange ! I marvel at man who refuses love,
and throw himself into the bosom of hatred!

He belittles purity, and glorifies immorality !

He mocks at compassion, and honors aggressiveness
and murder ! By his own will closes the doors of hope in

heaven, and seeks despair ! He loses his inner sight, and rejects
the truth, and search for vain ! Despite of the vicious war raged
against God and His

image, the man, in the last days, The doors of Hades shall
never prevail over it!

In every war, throughout the centuries, Your Church,
O God, will be victorious always ! Your Church will
transfigure, and illuminate in You ,

It will transfigure more to show her inner glory ! Surrounded
by Your fiery Holy Spirit, as a heavenly
fence !

What a unique war !

Our victorious Christ is glorified in it,
Our beloved Church will be crowned,
And be steadfast till the end, and forever.

AMEN



MUSIC

Article 2

THE WORLD & SATAN'S MUSIC

Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty October – 1999,
Fr. Markos R. Hanna Revised October - 2009

INTRODUCTION

In our first article concerning music, we presented what music is all about and its heavenly origin .

The nature of music is to give peace, calmness and tranquility to the soul, body and spirit.

Yet some of the recent music of Rock 'n Roll, not to stereotype, the Disco and the Rap music, are very damaging to the listeners, according to medical tests, which have proven hemorrhage in the brain, in some cases, which lead to death !

At a lesser degree, this type of loud music affects the fine veins and the cells in the brain, which causes psychological effects which could last for six months.

The famous German Philosopher *Shhopinhauer* said; You love calmness, therefore you are an intellectual person.

Before the cultural abomination, comes the deterioration of songs and music.

May the good Lord protect us from the evil in the world, and from the traps of Satan, which are planted for the destruction of man-kind.

Remember us in your prayers.

Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Fr. Markos R. Hanna

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THE ROCK MUSIC & SATANISM !

On September 28th, 1991, a young musician in Australia was invited to deliver a speech to the Coptic youth about 'Rock & Roll' and he titled it :

' A Message for the Young Youth'.

He started by introducing a singer, who was also a musician , playing in a very aggressive way, while wearing weird clothes, and has heavy 'make-up' in a variety of colors. The picture was horrible, to say the least. He commented saying; ' This is me before I knew the Lord Jesus Christ!' Everyone marveled for the courageous change . He really changed in all aspects of his life, even his features !

He spoke about music as a language of the spirit, where the divine inspiration used it in the Book of Psalms, as previously mentioned. He also said that music converses with the soul, as a living element which expresses its relationship with God.

Mr. Tony Knight introduced in a video tape titled '*Flash Dance Demons*', the effect of music in all aspects of life.

Eric Holmberg said that the Rock music sometimes uses the *Voo Doo* dance, which is used by some African tribes as they *worship the devil !*

It has been noted that these tribes and the Rock music share many of their movements in their dances, such as bowing and prostrating before the fire !

Also the musician and singer, *Cosby*, adopted many of the old African traditions, where a woman appears cutting a chicken's neck, and drinking its blood ! That is exactly what's happens in the *Satanic Church!*

Eric Holmberg sees that the '*Voo Doo*' dance has been imported from the African tribes to America centuries ago, then modified its outward appearance calling it *Jazz music*, yet holding and carrying its essence. Then it became lately the **Rock Music**.

Jimi Hendrix sang many songs for the *Voo Doo*, like *Voo Doo Child*.

ROCK MUSIC BLASPHEMES AND REJECTS GOD:

A musical group called *XTC* sang a song titled; *Dear God*, its words are :

Dear God, I cannot believe ...

I do not want to believe ...

I do not want to believe in heaven or Hades ...

There are no saints, nor sinners, not even the devil ...

There are no doors of pearls, nor crown of thorns ...

*You always put man down to the pits ...
You cause wars, and drown infants ...
People are lost in the sea and are not found ...
If there is anything I do not want to believe in,
it is You !!!*

In which spirit, and by which words is this singer singing ? I think it is very clear that it is the spirit of this disobedient spirit which challenges God Himself !

If Satan announced his disobedience against God, and fell, after being the of the greatest heavenly rank, so he breathes his evil spirit in the lives of his followers .

It is very clear then, that this movement urges people to blaspheme, and pushes them to glorify Satan, to replace God in the hearts of men. As if he wants to fulfill what he desired, as he fell when he boasted, to become a god !

Pitiful is the one who thinks that he can demolish the Body of Christ, for he will be '*kicking against the goads*' (Acts 9:5).

THE ROCK MUSIC AND THE ANTI-CHRIST!

The writer of the *Satanic Bible* said: 'I dip my thumb in the blood mixed with water, which is for your crazy Savior ... and write on the crown of thorns on His forehead: the chief of true evil, the king of slaves' (1:6).

-No one of the heathens or idol worshipers and atheists throughout the ages and centuries, dared to utter or say what Satan dares to say through his followers in these last days !

-This reveals how much Satan hates our Master Jesus Christ, for his time is very near for judgment and condemnation.

John Lennon sang a song titled: **God**, in a movie called; **Imagine**, where he said: *'I do not believe in Jesus, nor do I believe in Elvis; ; mocking and equating Christ who died for the salvation of the world, to Elvis Presley, who committed suicide !*

Linnon Symons sang a song titled '**Immaculate Deception**', the words said:

The fear of God ... The fear of God ...

It's just a book He is just a man ... Son of who ?

It's all lies Deception without blemish .

The cover for an album 'Coven', which depicted the devil holding Jesus' hand on the cross and burning Him ! The singer said:

O Son of God confess your sins ...

Enter into Hades by yourself

Your god fell ... and the devil will forgive him ... !

When the singer of these words was asked, why did he write these words?

He answered and said, it's just for *fun*, but he does not believe it.

All of the above examples reveal the desire of Satan to destruct us, for through the 'Rock Music' he fights Redemption, opposes the Bible, and encourages sexual immorality, to destruct our souls.

Satan knows he cannot stand before Jesus Christ, but he is exerting his utmost efforts to ruin and destruct humans, so they can fall and taste the wrath of God, like he did.

Poor and miserable is the man who makes fun of Jesus Christ, for he is destructing his eternal future. For this, the Lord Jesus Christ warned us saying: ***"And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder"*** (Matt. 21:44).

A strong connection between the Rock music and the Anti-Christ, is shown clearly when the ***Iron Maiden*** group quoted many of the verses from the Book of Revelation, which concerns; Satan, the Beast and the Anti-Christ, as number 666 (Rev. 13:15-18) and incorporated it in their musical songs.

Those who listen to this type of music cannot say; *this is only for fun*, because they are practicing what's related to the Anti-Christ, which our Lord God and Savior and Redeemer warned us of, almost 2,000 years ago.

-The Satanic believers use the upside-down cross in their worship, to mock and belittle at the Cross of Jesus.

-The known singer and musician, *Johny Rock*, produced a T-shirt which has this sign, and written on it *Destroy the World* . Unfortunately, many young people are wearing it in parties without realizing that it is the sign of the devil who opposes the Cross of Jesus Christ!

-Sad enough, that some western churches encourage and make groups to chant hymns using the Rock music, ignoring the dangerous effect of this music on the soul, body and spirit.

Rock music urges and could brain wash the audience, directly or indirectly, to steal, be engaged in immoral activities, and blaspheming against God.

Rock music also calls and encourages suicide ..

Many of the Rock music stars, such as :

<i>Jimi Hendrix</i>	<i>Marc Bolan</i>
<i>Keith Moon</i>	<i>Bon Scott</i>
<i>Jimi Morrison</i>	<i>John Bonham</i>
<i>Pigpen Mckeman</i>	<i>Brian Jones</i>
<i>Sid Vicious</i>	<i>Elvis Presley</i>

Janis Joplin

All the above committed suicide by overdosing themselves with drugs, or in aggressive accidents!

The opposite is true, for our Christ grants us victory over death.

The known scholar Origen, of the early Church, says in his comment on **Matthew 16:8 & 20:25-28**: *'All those who are with Christ, will be above the power of death'.*

"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1), who through Him, reconciled us with the Father by the divine sacrifice of His precious Blood on the Cross ...

THE FRUITS OF THE ROCK MUSIC:

1- Mixed the truth with lies, thus, offered man a state of **confusion**, where one loses his/her wisdom and fall into derangement and ailment.

2- The main characteristics of this music originated from the Satanic worshipers, where it urges one to kill, destruct and be aggressive.

3- It urges one to commit suicide.

4- It urges one to use drugs, as the song which says;

Drug it's not dying, it's shinning!

5-It encourages immoral activities and relations, as *Prince* says in his song;

Sex is connected to fantasy this is all what my mind sees...

6- It makes one loses his/her inner sight to not comprehend the divine truth, and not seek salvation from his/her sins, and lose the enjoyment of life eternal.

"And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14).

If God is long-suffering and patient toward the corrupted humanity, let us remember the words of the Holy Bible: ***"And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matt. 3:10).***

THE MUSICAL ABILITY OF SATAN:

The Holy Bible tells us about the fall of Satan, known in the Book of Ezekiel as 'king of Tyrus' (Ez.28:12), saying: *".. you seal up the sum, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty... you are the anointed cherub that covers; and I have set you so; you were upon the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:11-15).*

As a cherub, he was a musician, not by materialistic instruments as the lyre, harp and cymbals or by human voices, but a heavenly musician knowing how to praise by his full inner spiritual depth. He was a great musician, having his own musical experience before the creation of man. When he strayed, he used the songs and music to accomplish his evil goals, in destructing the souls and blaspheming against the Lord God.

The famous singer **Barry Manilou**, says in; *'I Write the Songs'*, the following:

'I live forever. I wrote the first song.

I am the music. I write the song.

My dwelling is deep in you.

I compose the music that makes you dance.

Which grants you the spirit to find a chance ...'

Do you think that Barry Manilou spoke these words?

Definitely not! He speaks on behalf of Satan who offered the first song when he was a cherub, and was a great musician. Now he enters into the soul of the audience to rock and shake man's nature with evil!

Another famous singer, **Tony Knight**, offers the strategy of Satan, as a great musician and deceiver, in three points:

- a) Satan has a special musical ability.
- b) Satan realizes the effect of music on the body as well as the soul.
- c) Satan knows that the days are short, and his condemnation is near.

These three facts urges Satan to work through music to deceive the souls and capture it for him in full control and power. As the Book of Revelation mentions: *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time."* (Rev. 12:12).

ROCK MUSIC AND THE LAST DAYS:

The Book of Revelation warns us that the devil will come down in the last days (Rev. 12:12), while saint Paul describes these days in his second Epistle to Timothy, showing in great details what the Rock music offers today, saying: ***"This know***

also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:" (1 Tim. 3:1-5).

To Summarize, the above characteristics are:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| a) blasphemy | b) disobedient |
| c) immoral relations | d) aggressiveness |
| e) incontinent | f) traitors |
| g) lover of pleasures more than God | |
| h) having the form of godliness, but denying it | |

This picture repeats itself throughout the ages, but differs slightly from age to another in its design.

What is happening today is nothing more than a preparation for the coming of the Anti-Christ, then the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, to conquer forever and ever. "Who will finish him-Satan-by the breath of His mouth" []

As was the situation before the flood; "*But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son on Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark.*" (Matt. 24:37-39).

There is no doubt that Satan realizes it's the last days, so God allowed him to come down to earth in power (Rev. 12:12), and exert all power to enter into every soul, which is not accepting Christ as Savior and Redeemer, to carry the previous evil characteristics.

Satan knows the Bible, “for the devils believe and shiver” [] and he acknowledges that it’s the last days and it is at hand, very near, that is why he is using music as a language to enter into people’s life, and their minds, and force them to adore him as they blaspheme and deny the faith in Jesus Christ and defiling the holy things.

No one can deny that the Rock music, through the many tapes and CD’s, are inviting everyone to abuse sex, drugs, practice aggressiveness, to be incontinent and rebellious, commit crimes and suicides, to blaspheme against God, and accept Satan as master and prince, etc. All this affects the audience and their behavior.

Satan starts in a subtle way, as *fun*, and later shows the real face of these actions by brain washing the minds audiences, to deny them control on their will, and lose their concepts and goals in life.

Many see the Rock music and superstition as Satanic acts, portrayed in a movie, proving the ‘*end of times*’ is definitely at hand.

PAGANISM IS THE ORIGIN OF THE <i>ROCK ‘N ROLL</i> MUSIC:

The main characteristics of this type of music is the usage of drums and songs, the pagan style.

The music beat of the Rock ‘n Roll is adopted from the beats of the African pagans who worship the spirits ... It is the same music which the spirits respond to, and become present in the pagan’s or heathen’s temples.

The African-Americans took this music with them to the United States of America.

The first one to publicize it in the USA was the famous singer *Elvis Presley*.

The danger of the situation is that in the old it used to be limited to some African tribes worshipping the devil, but now with the worldwide media and internet around the world, made the world like a small village !

We should not take this matter lightly.

Some of these African tribes poke pins in their faces and cheeks, and we see some of the youth practicing so to go with the flow of Rock 'n Roll.

We also notice that many are returning to the primitive barbaric ways, which are taken and adopted from paganism. This is clear in the *Rap Dancing*.

The 1984 issue of 'The Rolling Stone Magazine', page 97, said that the Rap-dancer-Malcolm McLaren, mixed the Rock music with the primitive.

+ + +

The History of Rap Music

The history of rap music from its inner-city roots to its breakthrough in the 80's with rappers like the Sugar Hill Gang and artists like Salt-n-Pepa.

Every so often a new style of music emerges that takes America by storm and comes to represent the generation that grows up with it. In the 50's it was rock'n roll, followed by the Mowtown sound of the 60's. The 1970's brought folk music and disco. But in the 80's it was rap.

-Perhaps no other form of music has crossed as many boundaries and become a bridge between America's many cultures as rap has. Rap evolved from African people in general and black people born in the U.S. in particular.

-Its origins can be traced to West Africa where tribesmen held "men of words" in high regard. Later when slaves were brought to the New World, the captives mixed American music with the beats they remembered from Africa.

-Another origin of rap is a form of Jamaican folk stories called "toasts." These are narrative poems that tell stories in rhyme.

Over a hundred years later, rapping was a street art.

Just as doo-wop in the 1950's, rap began in inner-city schoolyards and street corners in the 1970's.

Early raps were boastful tales, and put-downs directed at other rappers. This music style was slowly growing in popularity among black teens in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

As early as 1974 neighborhood block parties in New York featured early forms of rapping. But it wasn't until the commercial success of "Rapper's Delight" by the Sugar Hill Gang in 1979 that major record labels took notice of this explosive new sound.

Rap's audience started to grow tremendously and gain notoriety with acts like Public Enemy, N.W.A., and Ice-T. More than 20 years have now passed and rap still has a huge following among people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. But the musical style is not without its critics. In the 80's many raps were **commentaries on the hardships of ghetto life**, warnings **about drugs and about teenage love or lust**.

Those topics led some parents to fear that **rap encouraged youths to turn to violence, and illegal substance use**. Organizations such as the Parents' Music Resource Center had fits over **lyrics in rap and hip-hop which contained explicit references to sex, drugs and racism**.

The performers don't deny that rap music speaks openly about harsh topics.

But they argue that audiences should be able to distinguish between fantasy and reality, right and wrong.! **Our comment to them is, 'why offer evil stuff to hurt people and offend God'?**

So, these evil characteristics are associated with rap:

- Gang association
 - Cop Hatred and engaging in killing them
 - Degradation of women big time and gang raping
 - Drug dealing and making lots of dope money and
- THUS
- Abusing the female for their desires and lusts, having fast cars, gold chains showing the lavish lives they live
 - Hatred towards other races specially whites (of course)
 - Violence and gang initiations
 - Violence from within their community 'a nigga killin' a nigga' as they say
 - Many other lude acts
 - Early pregnancies and abortion is one of the bi-products
 - Fills its listeners and promotes hatred and violence and insensitivity and use of guns stealing in cases to get your dope.

May God protect His children from these satanic practices.

MUSIC

Article –3

THE GREATNESS OF THE CHURCH MUSIC. IS IT IN DANGER?

Fr. Markos R. Hanna – 2000, 2009

Our Coptic Church has a very rich musical heritage, for music has its deep effect on the soul, as mentioned before. Saint Paul said; *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).*

Music is used, since old, to move the believers’ desires and emotions for praying and worshipping.

When one hears a sad hymn or song, it moves the tender emotions, thus, elevating the human feelings, and subliming the human thought. This causes one to come to one’s self - wake one’s senses, and remember the Lord and seek repentance and reform.

By the same token, the joyful tones-the festal hymns, gives one’s soul peace and spiritual happiness.

This is the nature of the Church hymns and songs, which present special words with theological meaning, and specific dogma, for certain occasions .

Music and songs affect the believer; where the tone of music affects the intuition, while the meaning affects the mind and thoughts.

THE COPTIC HYMNS:

The Coptic Orthodox Church has been blessed by this wonderful treasure and precious gift, not only for the Church but for the whole Christendom.

We feel proud in the different Ecumenical councils; whether it be the Middle East Council, the African, or the World Council of Churches, as all members appreciate highly our hymns and songs, which carries an authentic and true theological teachings .

It is of vital interest that our children and youth learn the Church hymns and the many replies of the Divine Liturgy, so they will not feel strangers in their Church.

For when they participate they become part of the Liturgy, interacting with the words which have been divinely put , knowing the Church theology and dogma, through the Church rites and the beautiful tones and tunes.

THE COMPOSURE OF THE CHURCH HYMNS:

1- The words used in chanting church hymns carry a deep theological, dogmatic, and spiritual meaning.

Looking at the Four Canticles (*Ode*), the Psalm's, and the Theotokia's, give us an assurance that the holy Church uses it in:

- + Presenting Theology and Dogma to the believers
- + Explaining it in suitable words,
- + Using words to give precise meanings,
- + Pointing its importance for salvation,
- + Composing a tune which fits the meaning,
- + Compose the words in a poetic form, to ease understanding it and reciting it .

Definition of words; Canticles-Ode, Psali and Theotokia.

Canticles – Ode:

Psalm:

Theotokia:

Doxology:

- 2- As for the **Doxologies**, meaning glorifying God in the life of the martyrs and saints, it is to attract us to their lives, so they can be our guide, source of strength, and intercessors, through the poetic words and its tunes.
- 3- The **hymns and songs of the Divine Liturgy**, whether it be the Priests words or the deacons response along with the congregation, it has its theological depth, dogmatic meanings, biblical evidences, and intuition, which prepares the believers for partaking of the Body and Blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, leading us throughout the path of life into the Kingdom of Heaven .. to Eternity.
- 4- As for **Passion Week**, *The Holy Pascha Week*, with its rich readings, and expositions/commentaries, it all invites us to feel sorry and be deeply saddened for our sins caused our Redeemer to suffer on our behalf. It also calls on us to have hope and rejoice for the glorious act of Redemption, which our Lord offered to us through the Cross.
- 5- As for the month of December, better known in the Coptic calendar as :
The **Month of 'Kiahk'**, were the believers stay up late in joy, were its prayers prepare us for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ 'in our hearts', celebrating The Glorious Nativity.
- 6- Also the **other Church events**, such as; Baptism, Matrimony, Funerals, etc. were the Church teaches the believers the deep meaning of its teachings, along with the spiritual and intuitive effects, accordingly.

WE HAVE TO BE ALERT:

- 1- Non Ecclesiastic chants and songs are superficial in the meaning of its words, compared to the rich level of the Church hymns and the Psalmody. ***These type of chants or songs have to be checked before publicizing it.***
Those who use it and listen to it have no sense for the Coptic music beauty, and degrade their sense of listening by their ears by stooping low to replace a seven star music, down to a one star or even no star!
- 2- These chants and songs do not coincide and/or coordinate with our rich; heavenly music expressing theological, dogmatic and musical heritage.
- 3- Using the ‘dancing music’ of the world, to compose these chants are not spiritual, but fleshly, the least to say. ***This type of music is not to be used in the Church.***
- 4- Not any one should compose chants and songs and deliver to the public ... ***This type of songs have no theological or dogmatic depths in its meaning, besides the weak wording of the composure.***
- 5- Utilize the musical and vocal efforts of the youth by teaching them the rich and satisfying Coptic heritage, and presenting it in the various occasions, in a spiritual manner, and a humble and edifying way, pleasing the people and to give the youth satisfaction.

THE NATURE OF PRAISING IN THE COPTIC CHURCH:

The nature of chanting and praising in the Coptic Orthodox Church, as delivered to us from the early fathers, is by **VOCAL MUSIC** only, meaning the human voice is the source for depicting the Church's rites through its Liturgy, prayers and praises.

As Ms. Margaret Duke wrote in her book; *The Coptic Church*, 1978, that;

The human voice only offers glory to God.

She also said; that the instruments stands between God and man.

The 'cymbals' and the 'trianto' are allowed to be used in Church only to control the tune.

As these instruments are used calmly and in a quite way, the beauty of the hymns prevail .

Some prefer not to use these instruments during Great Lent.

As for Passion Week, their usage are forbidden, for the reverence and awe of the occasion.

Nowadays, the Church uses the 'cymbals', known in Greek as '*Kimvalon*', while in Arabic they mistaken it for 'timbrel'.

The word 'cymbals' was mentioned in Psalm 150 twice; Praise Him with pleasant sounding ***cymbals***. Praise Him, upon the ***cymbals*** of joy.

* * * * *

The cymbals in the old, are huge and heavy, and causes a loud sound when used to play music constantly. Which proves that it was used only to control and adjust the beginning of the chant or when needed to change tunes, to alert the chanters to harmonize their voices.

They are kept in our Coptic Monasteries.

CONCLUSION:

May the good Lord grant us to "*sing unto Him a new song*" (*Psalms 149:1*), and chant with understanding, from the depth of the heart in the spirit of prayer and worship. May He accept the service of praising, which is for the Seraphim, from our mouths as a sweet savor before Him.

Through the intercessions of our blessed Mother of God, the holy Virgin Mary, and the great chief of the heavenly hosts Archangel Michael, and our beloved Evangelist St. Mark the Apostle, martyr, and beholder-of-God, and our beloved father, the great among the Patriarchs H.H.Pope Shenouda III, and his partner in the Apostolic ministry His Grace Bishop Serapion. **Amen.**



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