



The Spiritual Indelibility of Music

What a magnificent season we have recently passed through. I was deeply moved by the series of worship experiences on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Of course, the multilayered message of the season is powerful in itself. However, I have been through many such seasons without being so profoundly moved.

Something transcendent was taking place, at least within me. My spirit was more deeply invaded by God's Holy Spirit than ever before. In retrospect, I have become aware that in each case it was the *music* that lifted these moments beyond the ordinary. It was the music that elevated the experience to a celestial level.

When music is attached to meaningful thoughts and words, it opens up a whole new dimension. The *dry bones* of thoughts and ideas we have heard countless times come to life when they are infused with inspired music. It then becomes an extraordinary spiritual experience.

This sort of music can come only from God. It is a gift. I am profoundly grateful to those persons who created the music, to our wonderful music staff and to the many musicians for bringing this gift to us in such a dynamic fashion.

This multilayered message of the season, when fused with music has another fascinating dimension. It has *staying power*. Music has the mysterious power to imprint itself on our minds/memories in indelible form. The words and music continue to replay in our minds—sometimes for day—even for a lifetime.

This can be witnessed in long-term care facilities. In these situations the residents may not be able to carry on a reasonable conversation, but if someone starts to play familiar hymns on the piano and singing begins, many of these people come alive and sing with gusto. Music has the power to enliven God's message and give it *staying power*. I call it *the spiritual indelibility of music!!*

