

Music

Note: any activities involving photographing pupils must have parental permission.

Introduction

Discuss what we can do with words: we can speak them, write them, sing them, act them, sign them, etc. Christians do all of these with the words of the Bible. Music has always been a popular way of expressing the words of the Bible.

Core material

Select from the following activities:

Use the download *the Bible behind the music*

Words and music: styles and times

1. Lyrics and text

Explore the relationship of lyrics and the biblical text in some of the music that follows. How closely do the lyrics reflect the words of the Bible? Use Handel's *Messiah* 'Glory to God . . .'
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Messiah>

Luke 2:14 King James Bible

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

2. Mood and meaning

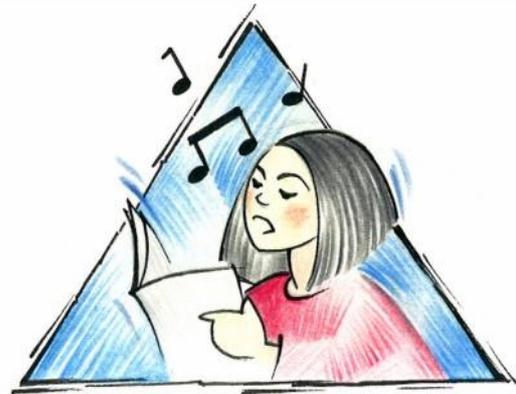
How well does the music reflect the mood and meaning of the lyrics? Listen to the section of

Handel's *Messiah* 'Glory to God . . .'

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Messiah>

Luke 2:14 King James Bible

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



3. Singing

Sing the first verse of 'The Lord's my shepherd'. Work on expression and rhythm.

Verse 1 of the sung version

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; He leadeth me

The quiet waters by.

<http://nethymnal.org/html/m/lmysheph.htm> Lyrics and traditional tune for 23rd Psalm

Psalm 23:1-2 King James Bible

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he

leadeth me beside the still waters.

4. Styles and periods of time

Listen to the Choirboys modern version of Psalm 23 and compare it with the older version. For lyrics and tune or the older version see <http://nethymnal.org/html/m/lmysheph.htm>.

What is different? What is the same? The Choirboys version is found on the Vicar of Dibley DVDs and can be purchased on line.

5. Expression

Encourage pupils to express their feelings about the music in words, dance and signing. Pupils can learn some basic signs and use them as part of a signing choir where the signs are used to music but without spoken words.



Details of music based on the Bible

What follows is a range of music; select small pieces according to age and ability and suitability of the text.

All people that on earth do dwell

Psalm 100 by William Kethe, 1561. Tune 'The Old Hundredth' Louis Berger 1551.

This version of Psalm 100 is one of the sung psalms, a popular tradition in Scotland. The early Psalters (collections of psalms) rhymed the words of the Bible to make them easier to sing and remember. This was composed before the King James Bible was written.

Psalm 100:1-2 King James Bible

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
Serve the LORD with gladness: Come before his presence with singing.

Verse 1 of the sung version

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Note: fear means respect here

www.cyberhymnal.org/html/a/allpeopl.htm Lyrics and traditional tune

The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalm 23. Scottish sung psalm, 1650. Sung to the tune Crimond by Jesse Irvine 1872.

This version of Psalm 23 – the one most people know – comes from the Scottish Psalter which rhymes the words of the Bible to make them easier to sing and remember. How does this differ from the King James Bible?

Psalm 23:1-2 King James Bible

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Verse 1 of the sung version

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

www.psalmsinging.org/ Highland choir singing this version

<http://nethymnal.org/html/l/m/lmysheph.htm> Lyrics and traditional tune

The modern version by 'The Choirboys' (Theme to the Vicar of Dibley) uses the King James Bible.



Handel's Messiah

Mid 18th century, oratorio. *The Messiah* uses the King James Bible. Sound files can be found on <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Messiah>

- Every Valley

Isaiah 40:4 King James Bible

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.

- Glory to God

Luke 2:14 King James Bible

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

You shall go out with joy

by Stuart Dauermann and Steffi Geiser Rubins
1975 Christian worship song.

Isaiah 55:12 King James Bible

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.

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HWW_Yo_u_shall_go_out_with_joy.ogg

Millennium prayer

(Lord's Prayer) sung by Cliff Richard
1999, popular song. This is the Lord's Prayer sung to *Auld Lang Syne* and follows the text of Matthew 6:9-13 with some adaptation from the King James Bible version of this prayer.

Matthew 6:9-13 King James Bible

. . . Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

Reflection

Ask pupils to choose a piece of biblical music to listen to quietly.

