



Tell Out My Soul

There is Little To Say That We Cannot Say Through Song

When I was in high school, my drama teacher told us that when we are creative - whether we are performing, drawing, playing music, etc. - we are participating in our own small way in the holy act of Creation in much the same way that God created all things. It had never occurred to me that something as simple as writing a song was an echo of God creating the universe.

The human voice is the vehicle of the soul - it is the means by which we communicate with one another from the moment we emerge screaming into the delivery room. Song is an illumination of that communication, a way to come together as an entity and speak with one voice. As a congregation, song is a means by which we breathe as one body and pray as one soul. As I've heard it said, "when we sing, we pray twice."

Composing music is not only my form of praying as an individual, but my way of bringing the choir together to pray as one with music written especially for them. It's my way of giving a gift to the congregation as well as using the gifts given to me to participate in my own tiny echo of Creation.

Music can serve as a vehicle for healing, for social justice, for experiencing grief, or for expressing great joy. We see senior choirs form for the benefits to the mind and body, choirs for the unhoused to feel the benefits of community, and social justice choirs form to spread the word of change throughout the world. There is little to say that we cannot say through song - and little more powerful than saying those things as a gathered community of love sharing in the act of Creation. tens.org



Questions for Reflection:

Does art need to be good to be valuable? We talk about sharing the gifts that God gave us - but what about the areas we are not especially gifted in - should we create art anyway - as we Tell Out Our Souls?



Mickey McGroarty is the keyboardist and Choir Director at Church of Our Saviour in Akron, OH in addition to directing the choir at the University of Akron, directing Sing Stark's Vox Audio, playing at Temple Israel in Fairlawn, and composing.



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