

Conversation Café

Music

Music is an art form and cultural activity whose environment (medium) is sound. The creation, performance, significance, and even the definition of music can vary according to culture. Music often expresses feelings in a richer sense than words alone. An African proverb says: "*Music speaks louder than words.*"



Henry W. Longfellow once said: "Music is the universal language of mankind." And to quote the Greek philosopher Plato: "Music and rhythm find their way into the secret places of the soul." Confucius once said: "Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."

Discussion Questions:

1. What kinds of music do you enjoy? Can you name any of your favorite singers (artists) and one of their songs?
2. Can music change your mood? Do you like to hear music in the background when you are working?
3. Talk about the music in your culture? How is it different from music here in Canada?
4. Some of the genre (types) of music include Classical, Folk, Blues, Jazz, Country, Rock, Rap, and Electronic. Do you like to listen to any of these?
5. Do you listen to music on the radio or on you iPod?
6. Do you have a music collection?
7. Have you ever attended a concert? Tell about it.
8. Do you play a musical instrument? Can you sing? Do you like karaoke?
9. If you could play any musical instrument, which type would you choose?
10. Do you think music can help heal sick people?



Jesus tells a story that ends with **music and dancing**

Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 15

**Take turns reading paragraphs of this story*

¹¹... Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. ¹²The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

¹³"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. ¹⁴About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. ¹⁵He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"

²⁰"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced

him, and kissed him. ²¹His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

²²"But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

²⁵"Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard **music and dancing** in the house, ²⁶and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ²⁷The servant said, 'Your brother has come back. Your father killed the fat calf to eat because your brother came home safely!' ²⁸The older son was angry and would not go in to the feast. So his father went out and begged him to come in.

²⁹The son said to his father, 'I have served you like a slave for many years! I have always obeyed your commands. But you never even killed a young goat for me to have a feast with my friends. ³⁰But your other son has wasted all your money on prostitutes. Then he comes home, and you kill the fat calf for him!' ³¹The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me. All that I have is yours. ³²**We had to celebrate and be happy** because your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.'"

- ❖ Why did the father have a party **with music** for the younger son? Do you agree with this?
- ❖ In Jesus story, who does the father represent? Who does the youngest son represent?

Idioms:

Dancing on air - To be very happy, enough as if to dance on air. *I was so happy, I could have danced on air.*



It's not over till the fat lady sings - One should not assume the outcome of a situation until it reaches its end, because the circumstances can change. *'The game isn't over till the fat lady sings.'*



Sing someone's praises - To praise someone highly and enthusiastically. *The theater critics are singing the praises of the young actor.*



MUSIC TO MY EARS

definition

something that someone says that is pleasant to hear



example

His offer to lend me money was **music to my ears**.