The Influence of Music

**Age Group:** appropriate for middle and high school (may take 2-3 sessions if you do the art activity)

**Purpose of lesson:** To explore how music has been used throughout time from the beginning of creation to convey emotion and/or entertainment. Music ties to our emotions, to feel praises, pomp of a parade, sound of war, call to worship, sounds of happiness and sadness.

**Key question:** When, why and how was music used in the scriptures? How does this compare to your music choices?

**Scripture references:**

*(Notes from one of Adam Porter’s sermons)*

*Suggestion for reading: Have students break up into small groups to look up a section of scriptures and report back to the group what they read.*

*First use of instruments*

Genesis 4:21, the harp and organ mentioned.

1st Samuel 16:15-23 soothes Saul

1st Samuel 18: 6,7; Israel triumphs

1st Chronicles 15: 16, 24-29; the ark comes to Jerusalem

2nd Chronicles 29: 20-30; used in cleansing process for the temple

*We find different attitudes in the use of music and song.*

Ether 3: 10-11, Jaredites

1st Nephi 5: 182 Lehi’s sons

Daniel 3: 1-11 false worship forced

1st Nephi 1:7 Lehi witnesses the angles praising in heaven

Exodus 15:1-5 overcoming Pharoah

Revelations 15:2-3, singing a song of eternal victory

Ephesians 5:15-20, melody in your heart

Matthew 26:30, a hymn at the last supper

Moroni 6:9, in our meetings

To feel praise:

Mormon 3:27-29 ceaseless praise

Mosisah 9:66-67 praise forever

Alma 3:11-18 & 46, the song of redeeming love

**Summary:**

Thoughts to consider-

What does Jesus think of your music choices? Are they acceptable to the Lord? Do your choices promote or degrade your belief in Jesus Christ?

If we enjoy a tune, and we say we like the beat, are we listening to the lyrics? What do they express and are these favorite tunes a vehicle to inject a message (positive or negative)?

**Activity: Create a wall plaque that promotes building your faith through music.**

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Materials needed: Artist canvas; 8 x 10, or 12 x 15, acrylic paint, Hodpodge decoupage, scrapbook paper of sheet music (or sheet music), fabric for embellishment, Sharpie marker (bronze, gold or silver), stencils, scissors, paintbrushes.

1. Choose a hymn that you enjoy. I used “It is Well With My Soul” and “Look for the Beautiful”.
2. Paint the canvas. Let it dry for a couple hours.
3. Cut lettering out of scrapbook paper or sheet music using freestyle, stencils, Cricut machine, etc.
4. Prepare decorative embellishment. I cut flowers and butterflies out of fabric.
5. Place letters and decoration on canvas to practice where you want them to be, then remove and set to the side.
6. Apply a coat of decoupage over the canvas.
7. Immediately place letters and decoration on top of the wet decoupage.
8. Apply another coat of decoupage over the lettering and decoration.
9. Let dry completely (couple of hours)
10. Outline the lettering and if you wish the decoration with a marker.