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Music

GUIDELINES 202030

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Themes and Topics

PAGE 2

Styles and Rhythms

PAGE 6

— CONTENTS —

Method of Delivery

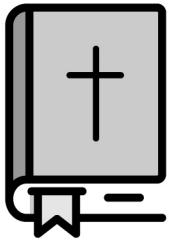
PAGE 10

Process and Plans

PAGE 14

Themes and Topics

WHAT IS THE MUSIC ABOUT?

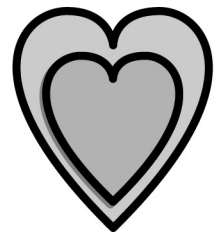


Faithful to the Scriptures

Hymns and sermons based on scriptural texts should not distort the meaning or insert ideas contrary to textual content.

Let the love of Christ be the burden of the speaker's and singer's utterance. Let it be expressed in simple language in every song of praise. Let the inspiration of the Spirit of God dictate the prayers. As the word of life is spoken, let your heartfelt response testify that you receive the message as from heaven.

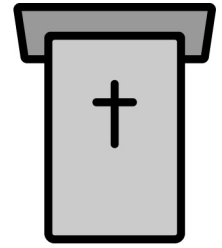
- *Counsels for the Church* p. 241



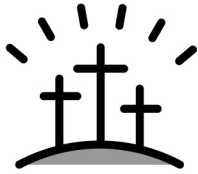
Love of Christ in Every Song

Let not your efforts be to follow the world's way but to follow God's way... Let your hearers understand that you will not charm their senses with music and other things, but to preach the truth in all its solemnity, that it may come to them as a warning, arousing them from their deathlike sleep of self-indulgence. It is the naked truth that, like a sharp, two-edged sword, cuts both ways.

- *Evangelism p. 148*



**Preaches Truth
Rather than Charm
the Senses**



**Salvation is
the Theme**

The science of salvation is to be the burden of every sermon, the theme of every song. Let it be poured forth in every supplication.

- *The Voice in Speech and Song p. 433*

**“The melody of praise is the
atmosphere of Heaven”**

- *Education p. 161*



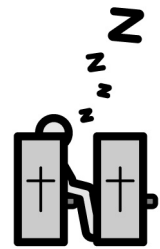
**No Frivolous Songs
or “Pop Music”**

I feel alarmed as I witness everywhere the frivolity of young men and young women who profess to believe the truth. God does not seem to be in their thoughts. Their minds are filled with nonsense. Their conversation is only empty, vain talk. They have a keen ear for music, and Satan knows what organs to excite to animate, engross, and charm the mind so that Christ is not desired. The spiritual longings of the soul for divine knowledge, for a growth in grace, are wanting.

- *Counsels for the Church* p. 241

God designs to come to the people to awaken men out of their carnal security, that they may prepare themselves for the great event right upon us... God will accept no sleepy, tame message at this time.

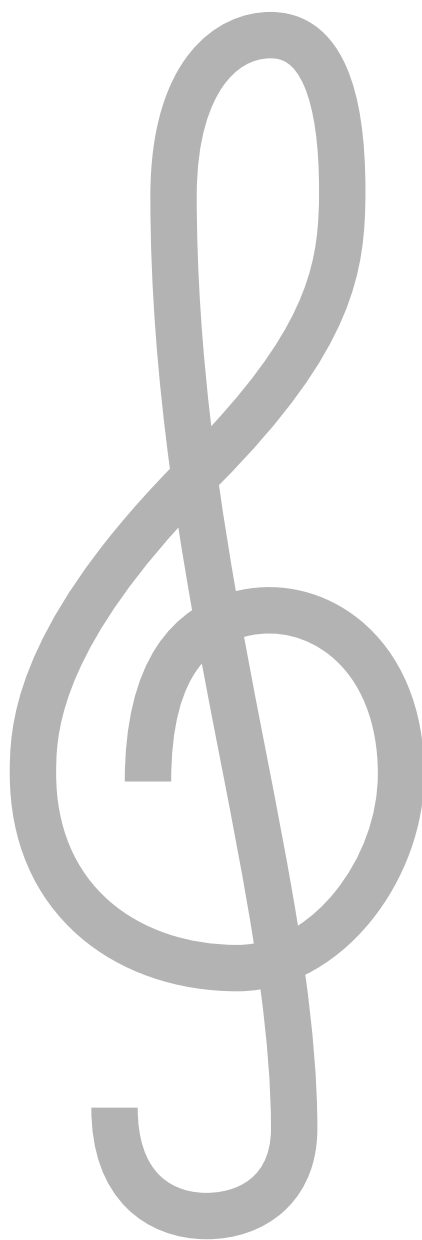
- *The E.G. White 1888 Materials*, p. 1254



**No Sleepy
Messages**

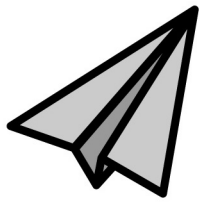
**“If you think you’ll
hear the song in
heaven, then play it”**





Styles and Rythms

THE CHARACTER OF MUSIC



**Shouldn't Detract
from Sacredness**

Singing is just as much the worship of God in a religious meeting as speaking, and any oddity or peculiarity cultivated attracts the attention of the people and destroys the serious, solemn impression which should be the result of sacred music. Anything strange and eccentric in singing detracts from the seriousness and sacredness of religious service.

- *The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 422

Music should have beauty, pathos, and power. Let the voices be lifted in songs of praise and devotion.

- *Evangelism*, p. 505



**Beauty, Pathos,
and Power**

Great improvement can be made in singing. Some think that the louder they sing the more music they make; but noise is not music. Good singing is like the music of the birds—subdued and melodious.

- *The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 415



Subdued and Melodious



No Drums or Shouting

The Holy Spirit never reveals itself...in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. No encouragement should be given to this kind of worship.

- *Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 36, 37

“Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise”

- *James 5:13, ESV*

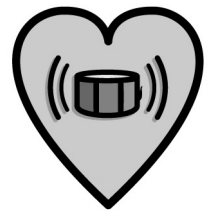


**Instrumental
Music Encouraged**

Call to your aid, if practicable, instrumental music, and let the glorious harmony ascend to God, an acceptable offering.

- *The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 415

Have rhythmic cycles which emphasize the 'down beat' instead of the 'back beat', and are largely **free from syncopation**, and poly-rhythms, so to reinforce the rhythmic cycles of the human body.



**Reinforce the
Internal Beat**

“Beautiful music is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us”

- Martin Luther

A proper balance of all the “Musical Elements” is Essential

- Author Unknown

The melody is the most prominent part of the music. It is the “story line” of a piece of music and consists in the horizontal arrangement of notes.



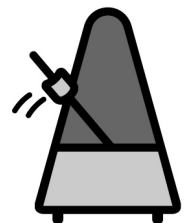
Melody



Harmony

Harmony occurs when two or more tones are sounded at the same time. As the melody provides the “profile” for a piece of music, the harmony is its “personality”.

The melody is the most prominent part of the music. It is the “story line” of a piece of music and consists in the horizontal arrangement of notes.



Rhythm

Method of Delivery

THE WAY MUSIC IS PRESENTED



Simplicity

The high standard of Christ will manifest the simplicity of Christ in all worship. When professing Christians reach the high standard which it is their privilege to reach, the simplicity of Christ will be maintained in all their worship. Forms and ceremonies and musical accomplishments are not the strength of the church.

- *Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 437

The melody of song, poured forth from many hearts in clear, distinct utterance, is one of God's instrumentalities in the work of saving souls. All the service should be conducted with solemnity and awe, as if in the visible presence of the Master of assemblies.

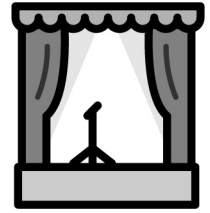
- *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 241



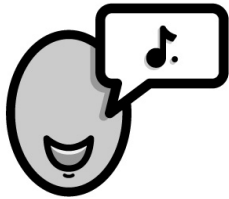
Solemn and Full of Awe

The long-drawn-out notes and the peculiar sounds common in operatic singing are not pleasing to the angels. They delight to hear the simple songs of praise sung in a natural tone. The songs in which every word is uttered clearly, in a musical tone, are the songs that they join us in singing. They take up the refrain that is sung from the heart with the spirit and the understanding.

- *Evangelism p. 510*



No Operatic Singing



Clear Intonation and Pronunciation

It is not loud singing that is needed, but clear intonation, correct pronunciation, and distinct utterance.

- *Voice in Speech and Song, p. 433*

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world”

- *Martin Luther*



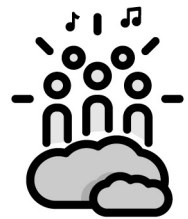
Clear and Soft Tones

Let all take time to cultivate the voice so that God's praise can be sung in clear, soft tones, not with harshness and shrillness that offend the ear. The ability to sing is the gift of God; let it be used to His glory.

- *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 143, 144*

Music forms a part of God's worship in the courts above. We should endeavor in our songs of praise to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs. I have often been pained to hear untrained voices, pitched to the highest key, literally shrieking the sacred words of some hymn of praise. How inappropriate those sharp, rasping voices for the solemn, joyous worship of God. I long to stop my ears, or flee from the place, and I rejoice when the painful exercise is ended.

- *Evangelism, p. 507*



Harmonious as the Heavenly Chorus

“I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being”

- Psalm 104:33, KJV

“Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant”

- *Psalm 135:3, KJV*

This bodily exercise and the harsh, loud voice makes no melody to those who hear on earth and those who listen in heaven. This singing is defective and not acceptable to God as perfect, softened, sweet strains of music. There are no such exhibitions among the angels as I have sometimes seen in our meetings. Such harsh notes and gesticulations are not exhibited among the angel choir. Their singing does not grate upon the ear. It is soft and melodious and comes without this great effort I have witnessed. It is not forced and strained, requiring physical exercise.

- *Selected Messages, Vol. 3, p. 333*



No Harshness



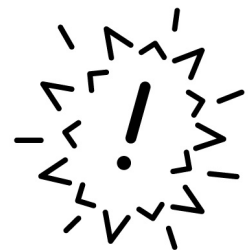
No Haphazard Words

God's representatives upon earth should be in daily communion with Him. Their words should be select, their speech sound. The haphazard words frequently used by ministers who preach not the gospel in sincerity should be forever discarded.

- *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 707*

Excitement in the speaker is not power but weakness. Earnestness and energy are essential in presenting Bible truth, the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation.

- *Selected Messages, Vol. 2, p. 59*



Energy Needed

Process and Plans

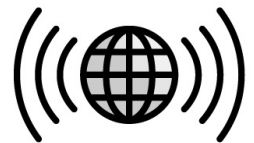
ADDING YOUR MUSIC AND FUTURE PLANS



Board Approval Necessary

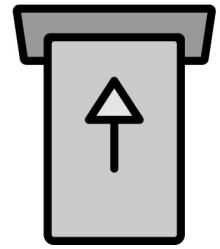
All Songs and Sermons (both in audio & video format, before broadcast on any of our Radio or TV stations, must first pass the approval of the VLMI / HCBN Board or its appointed officers especially content not originating from VLMI or HCBN.

Programs Prepared by **all** VLMI stations will be recorded and shared with VLMI mother station so all sister stations can rebroadcast in their areas.

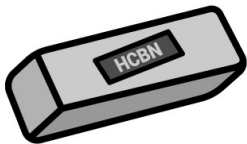


All Programs Shared Globally

As we approach the second coming of Christ, our plan is to dedicate more airtime to sermons and advocacy topics on Health, Mental Health, Family, Youth and Country Living. During this stage, we will still continue to stream hymns and messages of truth so as to not lose any of our listeners.



**Sermon and Advocacy
broadcasting to
increase**



We will be erasing all “contemporary”, “christian rock”, and “new age” music as well as other forms of music that do not conform to the aforementioned guidelines.

Erasing Music

VLMI / HCBN & RiverView will continue to record and produce devotionals, prayers, and fillers. We also plan to record more original compositions with local musicians. This way, our content can have a strong “asian flavor” while still maintaining our music standards.



**Ongoing Recording
of Content**

Praise God!

Let your conversation, your music, your songs all praise Him who has done so much for us. Praise God here, and then you will be fitted to join the heavenly choir when you enter the city of God. Then you can cast your glittering crowns at the feet of Jesus, take your golden harps, and fill all heaven with melody. We shall praise Him with an immortal tongue.”

- *My Life Today* p. 91

Excerpts taken from the following sources:

1. Preparing to Sing in Heaven!
2. Various excerpts on music from the writings of Ellen G. White

Thanks to Heidi Diaz Cerna, DMA Piano, and MM Choral Conducting for compiling this handbook, and to Joshua Pimentel (@buthonestlywhy) for the icon artwork and complete redesign of the manual.