

The Musical Mind of God ... Chapter 2

Musical gifts to Man

As we continue our search into the “Musical Mind of God,” I would like to focus on how man is instilled with the “creative powers” of God, namely that of music.

Today, those in favor of an evolutionary perspective that the human brain came into existence through a series of mutations, over a span of millennia, without anything but the wind to direct its progress, find it difficult to explain how structured musical sounds can be created in the “grey matter” of the brain through a “random” series of electrical impulses and chemical reactions.

Their conclusions are tenuous at best.

Mindless connections do not produce intricately woven harmonic melodies that require the use of an orchestra with one hundred different instruments to replicate its sound.

The classical music masters of the 18th century freely admit in their writings that they could see and hear whole movements of their compositions, in their minds, before they ever put paper to pen.

They would simply transcribe the note arrangements, already composed, from their mind, onto a musical score. This was not the case on every occasion but it happened with tremendous frequency throughout the course of their careers.

Listen to what Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart said about his method of composing music; “Nor do I hear in my imagination the parts successively, I hear them all at once.” ...All this inventing, this producing, takes place in a pleasing, lively dream.

How can these pitches, which run in ever-changing harmonic intervals and complicated mathematical sequences (music is based on mathematics), be seen and heard in the “minds-eye” without the use of an instrument?

James Taylor, a popular singer of our time, said in a recent interview with Charlie Rose, “Some of the songs I have written are a gift of the gods. I can’t really take credit for them. All I did was just write them down.”

When asked about how they composed their songs, the Bee Gee’s, a popular singing group back in the 70s, explained in an interview;

“It’s like we sit at the radio and change the channels to select different songs. The problem is not coming up with a song, it’s choosing which songs we want to sing.”

Just like the 18th century musical masters, our modern composers speak to us of the same phenomenon; musical pieces already composed in their minds, ready to be transcribed.

Are these examples of random acts of creativity that occur in the human brain? Is it the result of electrical impulses and chemical reactions coinciding in a unique combination once every millennia or is this a part of the musical mind of God that has been bestowed on man because he is indeed in his image?

As we have seen, the sound of music that occurs in the human mind transcends the physical realm. It resides in the spiritual realm. Its origins come from a supernatural source, a highly ordered and creative spirit that has no boundaries.

The scriptures talk of a “Spirit in man” that is given to him at birth (1 Corinthians 2:11). I feel that it is “within this spirit” that God instilled in man the ability to appreciate the higher arts, and one of those arts is music. Those gifted in this area are able to “tap-into” this reservoir of sound and create beautiful and complex melodies.

Throughout the ages, many musicians have taken credit for their works without ever acknowledging God. Although their creator gave the gift of music to them, they decided to shower themselves with many compliments for their own “great abilities.”

To be fair though, there are indeed those who clearly acknowledged a higher being for their talents.

Johann Sebastian Bach said, “The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul.”

Many others have also acknowledged the fact that one must work diligently to develop a particular gift that one possesses. Furthermore, it doesn't always come easy! A high level of commitment is necessary to complete, in terms of our discussion, a musical project.

Thomas Edison declared, “It's one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.”

Johann Brahms said, “Without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind.”

There are many mysteries associated with this concept we call “music.” Today, we know much more than ever before about how the human brain functions. Nonetheless, scientists, rejecting the spiritual realm entirely, have only scratched the surface in understanding how it is “wired for music.”

The question man needs to ask now is, “Who wired it?”

Mark Rusinko