

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper is an exploration of movement music through the screen of past, present and future trends. The past will be reviewed in terms of the manner in which movement music has reflected society, sustained the individual, and created the movement. The present is examined through the recovery of the pop standards, the use of harmony, and the appropriation of the cabaret dynamic. The future of music in the movement is discussed around the themes of the goodness of life, secular spirit tools, and the secular sustenance dynamic. This brooding is an attempt to pull together the wisdom of the past as we look to present and future criteria for determining the journey of movement music.

PAST

MUSIC
REFLECTS
SOCIETY

2. Songs sustain the individual or group and reflect society and the social mood of the times. Songs touch the heartbeat of society, affirm life as it comes, and capture the struggle of the times. This allows everyman to see that he is not alone in his experience of joy, desire, hope and sorrow, but rather a participant in humanness. The insights embodied in such old favorites as "Ole Man River" and "My Blue Heaven" allow detachment from the immediacies of life and poeticize the ordinary. Songs like "Whistle a Happy Tune" give society a tool to enable courage. Songs express in art form the profound dimensions of human existence and are an essential vehicle of individual and social sustenance.

MUSIC
SUSTAINS
THE
INDIVIDUAL

3. Since the dawn of consciousness the spirit of man has been sustained by the rhythm and language of musical form. The marriage of words and melody in song express the ontological deeps of the ordinary man's experience in life, thus releasing the creative impulse to articulate a self-story. It occasions the release of passion for life wherein the singer can pour out his being into every word. It is in this passion that one is aware that he sings not from the throat but from his toes, with his whole body. Singing celebrates the personal relationship that man takes to his situation, thereby expending his whole interior montage. This conscious embodiment of his internal state of being sets the stage for an exchange of the common experiences of every man and allows the individual to relate to every other man, sustains in his society and finally appropriates his global participation.

MUSIC
MISSIONALIZES
THE
MOVEMENT

4. Another one of the functions of singing songs is that of sustaining the movement in its task, by reflecting the task in the songs. The style of the movement songs prior to 1968 reflected the stance of church renewal breakopen, as manifested in using the traditional poetry of the church and singing them to 20th Century tunes (e.g. "The Lord's Prayer" to "Waltzing Matilda"). The style of the songs of the movement from 1968 to 1972 reflected the stance of probing the spiritual deeps and local church reconstruction, as shown forth in writing or appropriating spirit poetry and singing them to either 20th Century tunes or more classical tunes which reflect the mood of the poetry (e.g. "The Pentecost Song" to "A New Day a Coming"). The style of songs that the movement is now beginning to use reflects that stance of turning toward the world and revealing the mystery as being transparently grounded in all of life as exemplified in the recovery of the pop standard songs of other period of resurgence (e.g. "Some Enchanted Evening"). During these shifts within the movement some songs have remained appropriate to all, which reflect that they are anchored in the fundamental aspects of being a movement in history (e.g. "The Vision" to "The Sounds of Silence").

PRESENT

RECOVERY
OF
POPULAR
SECULAR
SONGS

5. The music of the 20th Century, in exemplifying the incredible alterations of consciousness and Society's expression of that consciousness, must be recovered as an authentic method for man to recover his depth humanness. Pop music expresses society's sensitivity to the mood of the times and the needs of the world. Man's need to be conscious of his spirit depths is met through popular songs which articulate his commonality within society, sustain him by allowing him detachment, and celebrate his individual uniqueness. Every man's need to be affirmed is met in popular music's embracing of all forms of human showed-upness and its propensity to bleed the meaning out of every situation. The use of popular songs will increase the awareness of the omnipresence of the Mystery in the secular world.

THE
USE
OF
HARMONY

6. The Spirit Movement has moved from a stance of confrontation to a stance of sensitive permeation of society and this shift in style is reflected in a shift in movement singing towards various styles of harmony and towards small group singing. Harmony is an inclusive form which allows each person to offer his

musical uniqueness and his passion at his own level as a full participant in the song. Another new style in movement singing involves a shift from a fairly uniform type of large group singing to the use of small groups or individuals to sing part of a song or to sing as a small choir. The present use of harmony and of small group singing are not encouraging individualism or professionalism but rather call each person to risk offering his unique personality in the corporate creative musical mosaic. The use of harmony and of small groups for singing is also a sign of the recovery of choral and quartet music which were powerful tools for permeating society in the 19th Century.

APPROPRIATION
OF THE
CABARET
DYNAMIC

7. The use of the pop song as a tool that relates people to the Mystery can be possible through song conversations and the use of the song within the cabaret dynamic. Popular songs authentically reflect man's common experience and the song leader invites the group to participate in the singing by contexting with appropriate images. Reflective conversation is aimed at allowing the transparency to break through as the mundane situations of life are spiritized. The cabaret dynamic emphasizes both the depth passion of songs and use of the song as satire.

FUTURE

GOODNESS
OF
LIFE

8. Popular music holds the particular struggle of the times. It tends to reflect both the changing moods of society and the shift in the creators of music itself. Popular music also has a profound effect on society, rather than showing up as a result of the way society feels. The singing of popular songs by large groups of people allows them to articulate a commonality and yet allows a detachment from the pain of the times. At the same time popular music serves as an affirmation of the way life is. It seems the happening is happening, or the time of resurgence is well under way. Popular songs can accelerate and support the resurgence. The line, "leave your worries on the doorstep -- life can be so sweet" from the song "On the Sunny Side of the Street", illustrates the affirmation that life is good and will be forever. The use of popular songs with the resurgence message can be intentionally used as a tool for transforming society.

SECULAR
SPIRIT
TOOLS

9. The movement's turn to the world, and therefore, the need to address secular men with non-religious language, illuminates a myriad of possibilities of using secular songs as spirit tools. As with all the courses taught, singing plays an integral part in the participant's experience of spirit dynamics; therefore, the Great Turn, having occasioned the creation of secular courses, such as LENS, secular songs will have to be found that play the same kind of evangelical/spirit role as in the courses of the religious curricula. The resources are many, such as wisdom from the resurgence songs that have been used, popular songs of our time, or new secular songs written by movement colleagues. One gift is the insight that new lyrics can be written to old tunes or new tunes to old lyrics, in a way that will authentically disclose the presence of the awe in life. Singing is more than a mood-changing dynamic. Secular singing has the possibility of revealing the spirit mood of a particular group and the transparency of the mystery. It will take a stance of radical caring for all men as loved of the Lord to impact secular man with the spirit. Secular singing will be an invaluable tool.

SECULAR
SUSTAINING
DYNAMIC

10. In the future, singing and music will continue to function as a sustaining dynamic both in the religious and secular dimensions of the spirit movement. The pop song, contexted as that which points to depth humanness, will function as the glue which holds together the guild. The religious dimension of the spirit movement will likewise benefit from the sustaining power of pop music and song as the pop illumines sanctification and the Mystery in a new way. Spirit movement music must continue to be an activity which allows detachment from immediacies. Songs which illustrate the sustaining dynamic are "Those Who Wait On The Lord" and "The Impossible Dream".

CONCLUSION

11. The shift of the movement to the world is made concurrent with the use of the popular song as a signifying event for secular local man. Those songs which have endured in man's memory are those which hold authentically an objectified articulation of man's sometimes overwhelming passions, struggles, longings and despairs. The movement's use of songs and singing were experienced before as a mirror to ourselves, of our story and our decisions to live out of that story.

'73

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Third Week

MUSIC AND THE MOVEMENT
HOLDING STATEMENT

Thursday
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Page 5

Now, the image is more like that of "Alice Through the Looking Glass". Music is a vehicle for experiencing the Mystery and revealing the Other World in the midst of this world.

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