

Music or Evolution?

Music is uniquely wonderful and mankind seems irresistibly drawn to it. Throughout history, music in one form or another is found in all cultures and societies. A 2010 study concluded that babies are born with an innate ability to move to rhythm.¹ Apparently mankind's love for music is built into us from the start.

Music can seemingly evoke any emotion: happiness and joy, mourning and sadness, light-heartedness, deep contemplation, soothing calm, anxious fear, patriotic pride, bravery, loving affection, and on and on. A melody may be humorous at one moment and move us to tears the next. Stop for a moment and consider what the world (and your life) would be like without the gift of music.

Webster's Dictionary defines music as "a: the science or art of ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination, and in temporal relationships to produce a composition having unity and continuity; b : vocal, instrumental, or mechanical sounds having rhythm, melody, or harmony."

Making melody is truly a science – ask any musician or composer – but it is far more. Music has the power to stir the depths of our being.

As complex and wonderful as music is, perhaps even more amazing is our ability to hear and be moved by music. Let's review some of the basic elements required for music to be heard and appreciated:

- 1) There must be sound – and sound cannot evolve. There cannot be ½ of a note, or 10% of a chime. While volume (amplitude) and frequency (duration) can vary, every sound is a note and a note cannot evolve gradually or develop from nothing.
- 2) There must be a medium for sound waves to travel – an atmosphere or some other medium is required. Time, space, and energy must be in place for there to be music (Genesis 1). Cosmic evolution says "first there was nothing and then it exploded" – and then "nothing became everything"! This is of course an absurd theory that violates the fundamental Law of Causality (cause and effect). Clearly the Big Bang cannot explain music.
- 3) There must be a composition (a composer)! A song needs a song writer. A composition requires a composer. Random notes or chords produce cacophony not melody.
- 4) There must be some sort of instrument(s) to play and the ability to play them. For example, mankind's voice box and vocal cords are actually multiple instruments combined into one integrated and living instrument!
- 5) There must also be the capacity to hear and appreciate music. Therefore an auditory system integrated with a mind, a brain, and a neurological system must all be in place. All these components (and many more) must be in place at the same time.

¹ <http://www.icr.org/article/evolution-cant-explain-dancing-babies/>

Let's now consider the minimum requirements for the human auditory system to function. First we need an auditory input. The human ear is staggering in its complexity.² Further, the integrated components of our auditory system are made up of billions of cells working together. But an auditory system by itself is of no value. The whole human is needed to receive and enjoy music.

What are the minimum requirements? To begin with, we need a body to house and feed the auditory system. Consider that the human body is composed of 100 trillion cells – that's 100,000,000,000,000! Each cell is more complex than a city. Each cell includes power plants, transportation networks, maintenance and communication systems. And all cells have DNA. DNA is a three dimensional, error detecting and error correcting, self-replicating molecule that is actually a highly complex language system. Of course no language system could develop on its own no matter how much time is available. According to Information Science (and common sense) a language must originate from intelligence.

What else is required? A lot! For instance, the cells in our auditory system are dependent on receiving oxygen from our respiratory system (which is also extremely complex). Without the regular supply of oxygen the living cells would die. So our respiratory system, with all its intricacies, must be functioning for us to hear.

Our auditory system is also dependent on our cardiovascular system because it transports the fresh supply of blood that carries oxygen and nutrients to every cell in our body. So without our cardiovascular system no cellular system in our body could survive. Likewise, without our respiratory system no cellular system, including our cardiovascular system could survive. These systems depend on each other in order for our body to survive and function.

And we also need our gastrointestinal system! Our auditory system requires nutrients, not just oxygen. It is our GI tract that receives, breaks down, assimilates and processes these nutrient sources in ways that are incomprehensibly complex. And our GI tract needs several associated organs to process food. It also requires our respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

To this point, we've only just begun to explain the minimum requirements for a functioning and useful auditory system! Our auditory system is also dependent on our skeletal system – and not just for support and structure – for it is within our bones that marrow produces our blood. Without marrow there is no blood, and no cell can live without the life-giving nutrients and oxygen supplied by our blood stream.

Even more astounding and integrated than all of the systems mentioned thus far, is our brain and nervous system – both our absolutely essential for man to perceive and appreciate music. Without our brain or neurological system, our auditory system is of no use.

Of course we could go on and on. Consider the bodies need for our lymphatic system, our autoimmune system, our glandular system, and even our dermatological system. We need all these systems working together to have a functioning auditory system! And we haven't even discussed the need for a mind

² <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n4/hearing-ear>

and spirit – for molecules do not have emotions and hardware alone is not life. Just as a computer (hardware) needs software to function, we need our soul and spirit (software) to operate our bodies.

The wonderful truth is that our awesome Creator gave music as a gift at the beginning of creation, “When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7). The Bible says that every good gift comes from God (James 1:17). This includes joyful melodies. God has given both man and angels the gift of music-making from the beginning (Genesis 4:21; Ezekiel 28:13). The Bible alone explains the origin and purpose of music. Singing is intended to express rejoicing in and worship to the Lord (Job 38:7; Psalm 40:3; 95:1-2; 149; 150).

Music is an irrefutable evidence of creation. And it reveals much about our caring and loving Creator. Of course the evidence for our Creator is found everywhere even if there was no sound or hearing. Consider those who are deaf, blind, and mute, such as Helen Keller. Ms. Keller trusted in the Lord based on what God wrote on her heart, her God-given conscience (showing the need for the Savior), and through hand signing with another believer (refer to: Romans 1 and 2).

Sadly, in these last days, rather than being thankful for music and using it to praise the Lord, many men are self absorbed, “lovers of themselves, ... boasters, proud, blasphemers, ... unthankful, unholy, ... despisers of good, ... headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” (2 Timothy 3:2-5).

Though music provides ample evidence to trust in our Creator, some foolishly continue living their lives as if “there is no God” (Psalm 14:1).

The good news is that there is hope even for the fool! “For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, ... But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:3-7).

May the wonderful gift of music stir a deep conviction and reflection of who God is, and awaken sincere gratitude for what He has accomplished on the cross, and cause all to surrender to His grace and salvation!