

Worship Improvisation

Bringing Hymns And Worship Songs to Life



Faithmusic Worship Center

Presentation by
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Handouts are accessible online. I will forward the link to anyone from whom I receive an email request.

CD's and music available at Dowling Music

Acoustic Solo Piano Worship CD's: "Alabaster Box" and "Refuge"
by Cheryl Amelang

"Your Love Flows Like A River" Sheetmusic from the CD "Refuge"

What is worship improvisation?

- **Worship** is the reverent love accorded to our Heavenly Father. Worship is more than music. Worship is a lifestyle encompassed by everything you think, say, and do. *worship.com*
- **Improvisation** is the practice of acting, singing, talking and reacting, of making and creating, in the moment and in response to the stimulus of one's immediate environment and inner feelings. This can result in the invention of new thought patterns, new practices, new structures or symbols, and/or new ways to act (or play).
wikipedia

- **Worship Improvisation** (Cheryl's definition):
To worship my heavenly Father and wait on Him through music that He gives me. Using a mix of hymns, worship songs, and new songs I offer up to Him whatever He may put on my heart, very similar to prayer but set to music.

Life: The Heartbeat, the Breath

- To bring Life to our music, we must have life in us to give
- We need time worshipping and praying apart from church responsibilities
- We need to play many styles and experience music in every way possible





- How can we be vessels of His music that bring life, encouragement and healing to others?
- As His music vessel, what *are we to be filled with*, in order to be poured out?
- The word “song” appears in scripture 101 times. Eph. 5:18-20 tells us “... being filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

SKILLED MUSICIANS

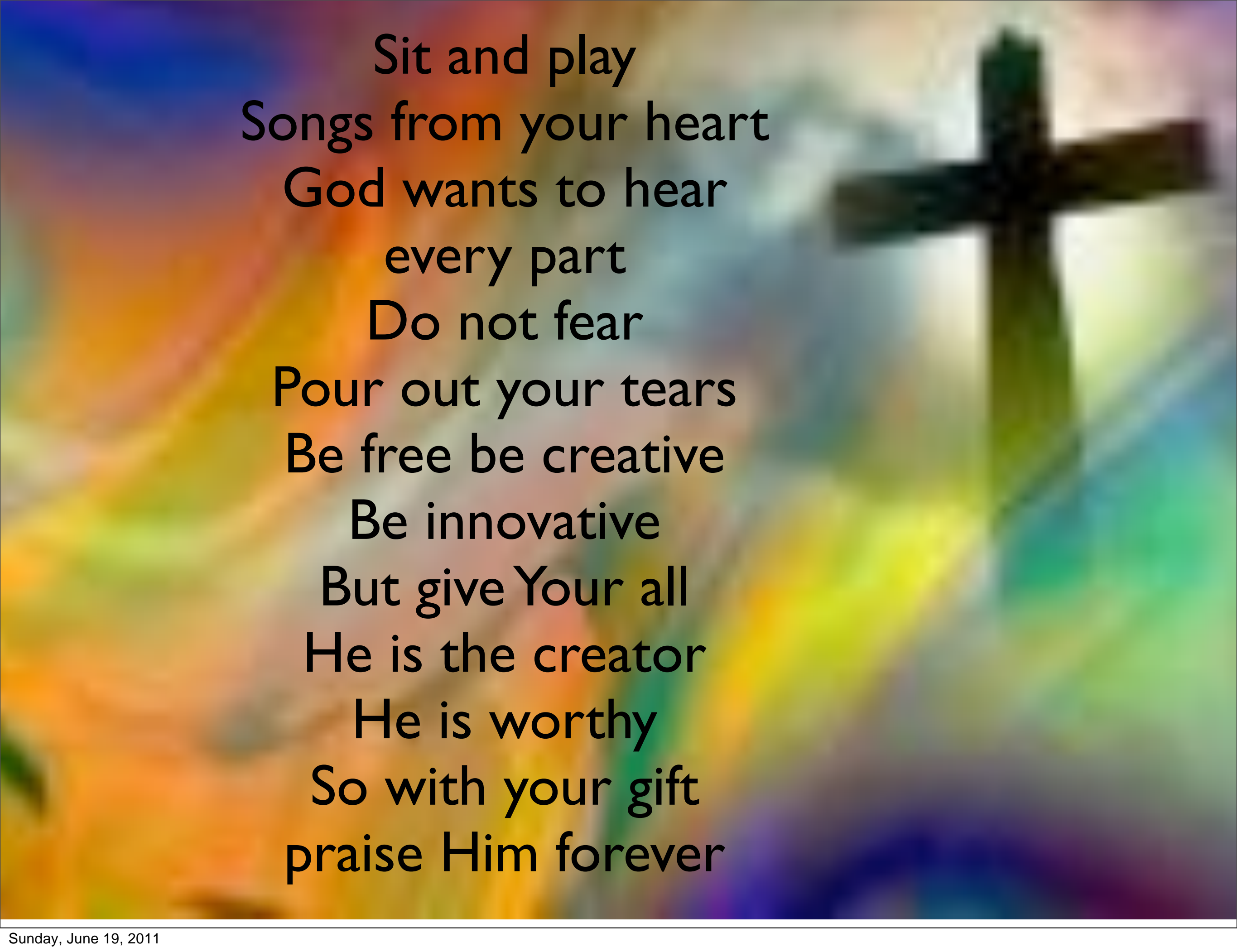


Can we combine what we know in church music with new and creative ideas that God will give us?

Are we willing to seek with diligence God's purpose for our talent and to become skilled musicians to worship Him in Spirit and in truth?

Are we willing to train our students and raise them up to be skilled musicians?

- ***We know the old respected hymns but they are being used less and less and are being replaced with worship songs.***
- ***Worship songs are being accused of being simplistic and non-challenging to the church pianist.***
- ***In Psalms, musicians are instructed to play skillfully, as well as sing a new song.***
- ***Ephesians 5 tells us to speak to one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs.***



Sit and play
Songs from your heart
God wants to hear
every part
Do not fear
Pour out your tears
Be free be creative
Be innovative
But give Your all
He is the creator
He is worthy
So with your gift
praise Him forever

The Painter's Palette

Setting a palette - portrait mixtures



What to put on this palette?



Preparing our Pianist's Palette



These are our colors

- Different styles
- Different rhythms
- Different experiences
- Different instruments
- Different approaches to theory
- Different ways to approach ear training

Hymns: Benefits

- Hymns help build a strong foundation
- Reading four part harmony improves sight reading abilities
- Learn to analyze chords upon sight
- Learn to improvise adding to written notes
- Jumping off place to arrange your music

The Old Way: Hymns are Amazing!

When I was 9 yrs, old,
I learned to play this hymn.
Reading hymns at an early
age helped me to build a
foundation for theory, chord
structure, and harmony.
It also taught me to be a
great sight reader.

When I was 12 yrs. old,
I learned to "fancy" this
hymn.
Notice, the chords were not
written in for me.

O= Bass note octaves
X= Chord
2nd X= Chord inversion

JAN. '75 12-19, '75 fancy

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
260 **When We Walk with the Lord**
TRUST AND OBEY. 6. 6. 9. D. with Refrain
JOHN H. SAMMIS, 1846-1919 DANIEL B. TOWNER, 1850-1919

R.H. octaves only

1. When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word What a glo-ry He
2. Not a bur-den we bear, Not a sor-row we share, But our toil He doth
3. But we nev-er can prove The de-lights of His love Un-til all on the
4. Then in fel-low-ship sweet We will sit at His feet Or we'll walk by His

sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He a-bides with us still,
rich-ly re-pay; Not a grief or a loss, Not a frown or a cross,
al-tar we lay; For the fa-vor He shows And the joy He be-stows
side in the way; What He says we will do, Where He sends we will go;

REFRAIN

And with all who will trust and o-bey.
But is blest if we trust and o-bey. Trust and o-bey, for there's no oth-er
Are for them who will trust and o-bey. Nev-er fear, on-ly trust and o-bey.

way To be hap-py in Je-sus, But to trust and o-bey.

F C C7

Improvisation

- Hymns
- Fake Book:
play written melody w / chords
- Jazz “Real Book”:
jazz equivalent to fake book
- Play by ear, play along with Youtube
- Play worship songs by ear with a chord sheet

Chords

Easy Formulas

Root = R Half Step = h

4h = Major 3rd 3h = minor 3rd

R + 4h + 3h = MAJ chord

R + 3h + 4h = min chord

R + 4h + 3h + 3h = Dominant 7th chord

R + 4h + 3h + 4h = MAJOR 7th chord

R + 3h + 4h + 3h = minor 7th

Chord Definitions

C = C MAJ

Cm = C minor

G7 = G major + minor 3rd (7th)

GMAJ7 = G major + MAJ 3rd (4h)

Gmin7 = Gmin + min 3rd (7)

Csus = C major w/raised 3rd to 4th (CFG)

C2 = C major lower 3rd to 2nd (CDG)

B/E = rh chord B over lh Bass note

C7+5 = C major w/raised 5th add 3h to raised 5th (CEG#B)

+ = to augment, to raise 1/2 step
(maj 3rd)

- = to diminish, to lower 1/2 step
(min 3rd)

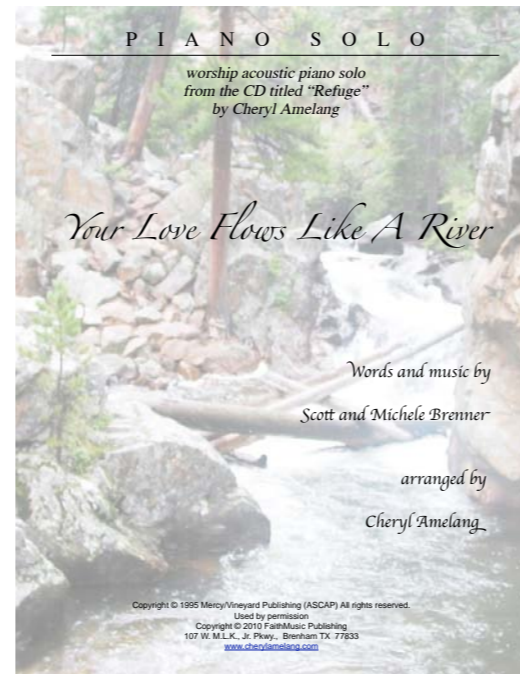
could also mean minor

Chord work

- Common denominator
- Arpeggios
- Rhythm: percussive styles
- Orchestra piano: layering ideas
- Transitions: connecting two pieces
- Create a chord progression or a loop

Training is a life-time commitment

- 2 hrs. practice per day: Junior High and above
- Variety of structured practice
- **FUN** Music- very important
- Play with musicians, accompany musicians
- Include daily worship in your discipline



Please watch for upcoming piano selections and arrangements from Cheryl's CD's and improvisations.

www.cherylamelang.com

www.cdbaby.com/Artist/CherylAmelang

www.facebook.com/pages/Cheryl-Amelang-PIANO-AND-BEYOND

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