

The Power of Music

1. “Music, once . . . innocent, now is often used for wicked purposes . . . In our day music itself has been corrupted. Music can, by its tempo, by its beat, by its intensity, [and I would add by its lyrics], dull the spiritual sensitivity of men. . . . Young people, you cannot afford to fill your mind with the unworthy hard music of our day” (President Ezra Taft Benson quoting Elder Boyd K. Packer, *CR*, April 1986, p. 58).
2. “The breach between the world and the extremes of its music and the Church is wider in our day than ever in generations past. And the middle of the road runs through an entirely different valley now than it did a few years ago” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, *CR*, October 1973, p. 23).
3. “Music creates Atmosphere; Atmosphere creates environment; Environment influences behavior” (Elder Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, Dec. 1971, p. 53)
4. “We urge parents in the Church to show as much interest in the records and tapes their children purchase as they would the books and magazines they bring into the home. There are many parents who would not for one moment tolerate a pornographic magazine in their homes who unwittingly provide money for music, some of which in its influence can be quite as damaging” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, “Inspiring Music,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1974, 25).
5. “Let there be music in the home. If you have teenagers who have their own recordings, you will be prone to describe the sound as something other than music. Let them occasionally hear something better. Expose them to it. It will speak for itself. More of appreciation will come than you may think. It may not be spoken, but it will be felt, and its influence will become increasingly manifest as the years pass” (*Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley*, p. 394).
6. “Enjoy music. Not the kind that rocks and rolls, but the music of the masters, the music that has lived through the centuries, the music that has lifted people. If you do not have a taste for it, listen to it thoughtfully. If you do not like it the first time, listen to it again and keep listening. It will be something like going to the temple. The more often you go, the more beautiful will be the experience” (*Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley*, pp. 395-396).
7. “Singing songs and hymns can be a means of bringing inspiring music into the home and of helping each child to build his own musical vocabulary. Many parents have simply turned the musical education of their children over to the local rock radio station, with increasingly unpleasant results” (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, 528).
8. “I do feel that there is a great deal lost in the homes of the people by not having the songs of Zion sung therein. . . . I am confident that the hymns of Zion, when sung with the proper spirit, bring a peaceful and heavenly influence to our homes” (Heber J. Grant, *Gospel Standards*, p. 170).

9. “There is nothing more pleasing and inspiring than music in the home, and since I learned to sing, we generally have a hymn at our house each morning before family prayer. There certainly is a delightful influence which attends the singing of the songs of Zion, and it is my opinion that the Saints should make singing part of their family worship” (Elder Heber J. Grant, *Learning To Sing, Improvement Era*, October, 1900).
10. “The singing of hymns is one of the best ways to learn the doctrine of the restored gospel” (Elder Dallin H. Oaks, *CR*, Oct. 1994, pp. 10).
11. “The time for music lessons seems to come along when there are so many other expenses for the family with little children. But we encourage parents to include musical training in the lives of their children” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, *Inspiring Music*, Ensign, Jan. 1974, 27).
12. “There is so much wonderful, uplifting music available that we can experience to our advantage. Our people ought to be surrounded by good music of all kinds. Parents ought to foster good music in the home and cultivate a desire to have their children learn the hymns of inspiration” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, *Inspiring Music*, Ensign, Jan. 1974, 27).
13. “I would recommend that you go through your record albums and set aside those records that promote the so-called new morality, the drug, or the hard rock culture. Such music ought not to belong to young people concerned about spiritual development. Why not go through your collection? Get rid of the worst of it. Keep just the best of it. Be selective in what you consume and what you produce. It becomes a part of you. If you are blessed with musical talent, develop a wide range of good music. There is so much wonderful, uplifting music available that we can experience to our advantage. Our people ought to be surrounded by good music of all kinds. Parents ought to foster good music in the home and cultivate a desire to have their children learn the hymns of inspiration” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, *CR*, Oct. 1973, pp. 23).
14. “I thank the Lord with all my soul, and bless my teachers, that I was taught these gospel songs in my youth. All through the years they have been flowing through my mind. I have hummed and sung them as I have ridden over interminable miles in my present ministry. By their messages I have been inspired to reach heavenward” (Elder Marion G. Romney, *Friend*, September 1971, p. 13).
15. “Inspiring music may fill the soul with heavenly thoughts, move one to righteous action, or speak peace to the soul” (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, pp. 324).
16. “Music can act upon our senses to produce or induce feelings of reverence, humility, fervor, assurance, or other feelings attuned to the spirit of worship” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, p. 519).