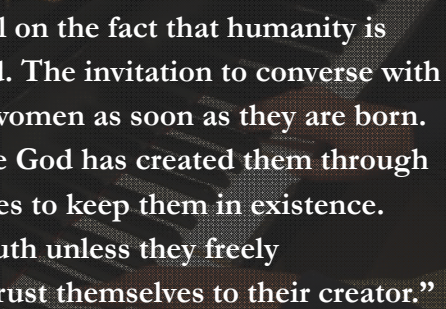


Centering our Lives on God

Music as a Form of *Presence* and *Surrender* to God

Dr Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF
Australian Catholic University
August 5, 2017

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“Human dignity rests above all on the fact that humanity is called to communion with God. The invitation to converse with God is addressed to men and women as soon as they are born. For if people exist it is because God has created them through love, and through love continues to keep them in existence. They cannot live fully in the truth unless they freely acknowledge that love and entrust themselves to their creator.”

Gaudium et Spes 19

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Aim and Structure of this session

- I. To understand what is at stake when we seek to “understand” music as a form of access and aid to experiencing God
- II. How music works...and its importance for our Faith...
- III. What can we say in theological terms, about this

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Dreams

In my mind's eye, I can see a dream come true.
In my life, what I want to do.
Don't you sometimes feel, that you dream your life away,
Living for tomorrow but you lose today.

**Don't it make you wonder what you will discover when
you leave this world behind?
Then will all your dreams come true?
Or will the dreams that you believe in simply fade away?**

People say to you that when you're young the dreams that follow you
are just a fantasy that won't last long.
But I say to you that all those dreams are such a part of you
They are the mirror of your soul, so don't let them go.

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Break the Crystal Frame Willow Publishing 2014

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“[W]e should not, and cannot talk about [God] continuously, nor name Him incessantly, as on the contrary ministers and theology retain”...

“Christian faith is no longer understood for what it is. It's as if we must rediscover and explore the remote landscapes of faith by now obsolete, strange to current mentality.”

E. Salmann, *Presenza di Spirito*

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“Music has long been, and continues to be, the unwritten theology of those who lack or reject any formal creed.”

George Steiner

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“It is my belief that the contract is broken for the first time, in any thorough and consequent sense, in European, Central European and Russian culture and speculative consciousness during the decades from the 1870s to the 1930s. *It is this break of the covenant between the word and the world that constitutes one of the very few genuine revolutions of spirit in Western history and which defines modernity itself...* My question is: what is the status of meaning after meaning, of communicative form, in the time of the ‘after – word’?”

George Steiner

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life....

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth...”

Jn 1-3; 14

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The “Word”:

“Its carrier may be intersubjectivity, or art, or symbol, or language, or the remembered and portrayed lives or deeds or achievements of individuals, or classes or groups”.

Bernard Lonergan

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“Producer” → Message → Receiver

Poietic Process		Esthetic Process
“Producer” →	Trace	← Receiver

Jean Jacques Nattiez

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Meanwhile, slow down!
Winter-time is gone: move on!
You've been hiding safe...
show me your face now!
The rain is gone...time to carry on!

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Mean _____ while _____ Slow _____ Down _____

Win ter time is gone _____ Move on _____ You,ve been hi _____

ding safe, show me _____ your face now... _____ The rain is gone _____

Time to carr y on. _____

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<i>Verbal Dynamics</i>	<i>Musical Dynamics</i>
1. sending and receiving	1. sharing [and listening]
2. disengagement	2. engagement
3. oppositions	3. intervals
4. images	4. orientations
5. static	5. dynamic (movement)
6. to be understood	6. to be followed
7. referring to reality	7. receiving reality

Willem Marie Speelman

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Rational	Irrational



Extract of a Letter to Sr Elizabeth Moore,
October 18, 1840

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[T]here is a dimension of the symbolic, which human beings more typically live from, which have instead the form of action [...] it does not produce objects, it transforms subjects. It establishes invisible bonds, which cannot be reduced to a meaning, to a concept, to an idea. Nor to a sign. Because they are bonds that act as strengths of interiority, not as exterior forms.”

Pierangelo Sequeri

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Beauty is the last thing which the thinking intellect dares to approach, as only it dances as an uncontained splendour around the double constellation of the true and the good [...] Beauty is the disinterested one, without which the ancient world refused to understand itself, a word which both imperceptibly and yet unmistakably has bid farewell to our new world, a world of interests, leaving it to its own avarice and sadness.

In a world without beauty [...] in a world which is perhaps not wholly without beauty, but which can no longer see it or reckon with it: in such a world the good also loses its attractiveness, the self-evidence of why it must be carried out.

Hans Urs von Balthasar

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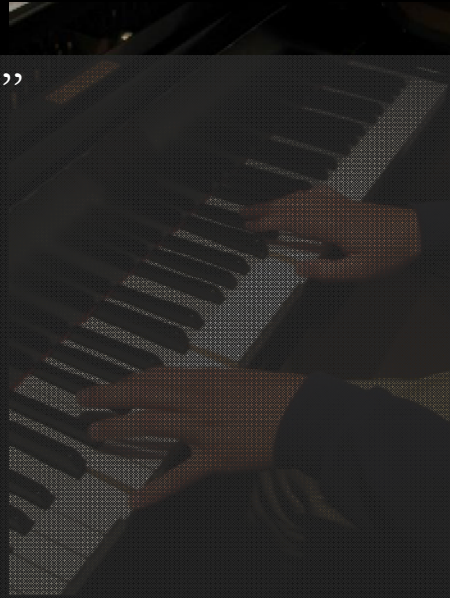
The Rues of Mercy Never Change...

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“Say something...”

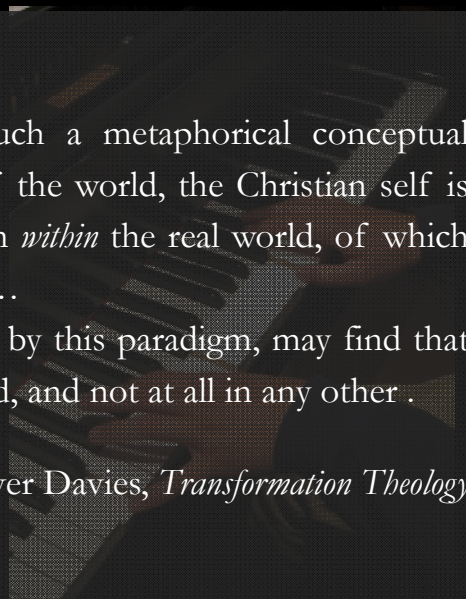


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By the internalisation of such a metaphorical conceptual paradigm which points *out* of the world, the Christian self is drawn to live under alienation *within* the real world, of which there can be no real ‘outside’...

Thus we Christians who live by this paradigm, may find that we live but poorly in the world, and not at all in any other .

Oliver Davies, *Transformation Theology*



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Out of time, out of tune, with the rhythm that passes us by,
as we hide in the thoughts of old times...Dancing in our Minds
Out of place, in this space there's no moving around what you've found:
it is *now*, that you give or you take: dancing in our minds...

And the world is alive with moving grace.

**Hold my hand in Your side, 'til Touching You, feeling You, Tasting
You, breathing You, Knowing Your life is within my
reach...Touching You, healing me, Tasting You, breathing me,
Flowing...Your life's running through my veins.**

**And the Word became human,
and Eternity entered time
tasting the sound of your voice in mine...**

Love interrupts and it hurts if you let yourself move with the truth as it
cuts in and opens your mind...Dancing through our lives...
But to live is to grow in the newness you hold in your hands; Will you stand
for a future unknown? Dancing through our...dancing through our lives!

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"Woman of God..."

Come, teach me to believe in the darkness, Woman of faith.
Teach me how to see the way to go, Woman who walked,
Teach me how to love in the pain, Woman of God,
Knowing his love always remains, Ever the same, and may his will be done,
Woman of God...
Come...show me how to pray...

Do whatever he did, live as he lived,
Love each other as he loved
Unto a cross, unto the end.
And know there's nothing that can keep you from his love. Woman of God...

Come, teach us to believe in the darkness, Woman of faith.
Teach us how to see the way to go, Woman who walked,
Teach us how to love in the pain, Woman of God,
Knowing his love always remains, Ever the same, and may his will be done,

Woman of God...Woman.... ©Maeve Louise Heaney

Stand 2008

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