

The Melody of Life in the Age of Hyo Jeong

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How are you? I have a question: How is your seelenzustand? How is the state of your soul? How are you feeling?

True Mother was very enthusiastic about having me come to participate in aiding refugees through the magnificent concert yesterday. So I am grateful to True Parents and to the team here, Peter Staudinger, Mrs. Cook, Renata -- all of those who made this possible. Bringing art and culture into the providence is a very significant aspect of that.

Divine messengers

I have a confession to make. I grew up in the Catholic Church; I went to a Catholic elementary school for nine years and started music lessons at that time, but by the time I was in high school, even though I believed in God, I no longer believed that Jesus was the Messiah. I had a real issue with that, and I had a new religion. Music was my religion and Beethoven was the messiah.

[Audience laughs] Of course, Bach was the great prophet that preceded Beethoven, like Isaiah, and

Beethoven had apostles -- Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Franz Liszt -- and there were tribes. There was the Russian tribe: Tchaikovsky Borodin. There was the Italian tribe: Puccini, Verdi, Respighi, Gabrieli. There was a French tribe: Charles Gounod, Paul Dukas. There was even an English tribe: Sir Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams. There was a Northern European Tribe: Carl Nielsen, Jean Sibelius. There were these amazing musical tribes. In America, there was the Jazz tribe, and in England, there was the Rock and Roll tribe. So I grew up on the Beatles and Beethoven. These were my idols. These were the saints and the sages who spoke to me through music. That's my confession.

In 1974, I met True Parents and I realized, Uh oh, music is important, but there is something else that's more important. My study of the Principle and coming to a point of acceptance that Father and Mother were in fact the True Parents, of course, changed my life, as it changed all our lives. A German sister witnessed to me, Crystal Jonas of the Jonas family -- Ruth Ava, Brigitte and Crystal. She also witnessed to Mike Jenkins and Tom Walsh. We are spiritual brothers, the three of us. Dr. Jenkins and I joined at the same workshop that Mr. Sudo was teaching as part of the International One World Crusade that was traveling around Ohio. Dr. Jenkins and I were students at Ohio State University. I was majoring in Music. He was majoring in Dentistry. He always says I went from saving teeth to saving people.

Europe's contribution

My grandparents on my mother's side were from Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, so I have strong Eastern European roots. I've always had an affinity for Europe -- European music and European culture. It's no secret, to me anyway, why Europe became a place of high culture. It's simple: the Europeans built a culture based on the belief that Jesus was the Messiah and that salvation came through that. They built their culture around that -- music, art, architecture, dance, literature, even science -- physics, Sir Isaac Newton... Some of the great breakthroughs in all these areas came from Europe. Why? Because the Europeans somehow figured out that Jesus was the Messiah and we had better unite with that, and when they did, the blessing came to Europe. I really believe that.

In 1983, I happened to be in South America at a media conference. We did a short performance for the guests. The next morning, Father invited a few of the artists to breakfast. He started talking about music. Father was not a musician but he understood creativity. He said to us, Classical music is your foundation. You must get a foundation in classical music because those guys were the masters of harmony and melody and structure. Once you get that foundation, take the Abel type elements of other music, rock or jazz, or gospel, anything, combine that with the classical tradition, and he said that's new age music!

The question is, though, what kind of culture are we creating that can influence the politics or the education or whatever, of any society, to be godlier, more virtuous? This is the big question because art

and music, obviously, have an aesthetic aspect, beauty; they also have a reason aspect, truth. More importantly, the thing that I will be sharing more about this afternoon is that art has what we call an axiological -- a moral and ethical -- aspect. How we use art and culture, our motivation behind creativity, is extremely important. Does our motivation align with God, with God's will and with True Parents?

I want to thank the band today. The tradition of music in the church is hundreds of years old. Music and the church -- Saint Augustine didn't necessarily like that initially, because music in his time was thought to be pagan. The Pagans do music; we don't need music in the church. If you read his book, *The Confessions*, though, in a very interesting section about art and music, he talks about coming to realize that music actually had the power to help people develop a devotional frame of mind and then be more susceptible to God's guidance and that music could change your conscious in a positive way. He had that revelation. Of course, we know that music can also take people to some dark places. So the question becomes What is principled music? What is principled motivation?

Why do we create? God gave us the ability to create. All of us are creators in some way. As parents, you brought children into the world. You're a creator. As artists, we have that ability to create. So the question becomes How do we use the moral and the ethical power of music?



Consecration amidst chaos

As Dr. Balcomb mentioned in his introduction, we were in Israel together. When we were in Israel at the time of the coronation of Jesus, the Second Intifada was taking place. There was no one else in Israel. There were no tourists. The hotels were empty. We were the only ones there. We hired a local producer to help us with this, Asaf Cohen, a good brother. He took me to a coffee shop right near the American Embassy, which was right by the Jerusalem Independence Park, where we would hold Jesus' Coronation. I was in this coffee shop, it was brand new and beautiful.

This is a new place, I say.
Yeah. They just rebuilt it, because
this place was bombed three
months ago by terrorists.
I'm thinking, What are we doing
here?

He said, Don't worry, they never
bomb the same place twice.

That was the scenario in Israel at that time and the Municipality of Jerusalem said, You can have your interfaith peace rally on one condition: You have to hire a hundred and twenty armed security guards to be around the park. In that atmosphere in Israel, we did the coronation of Jesus program. It was very tense; these struggles in Israel and the Holy Land are the result of religious conflict. Religion, we know, can be a unifying force but it has also been a polarizing force. Music on the other hand, which is my religion, and I'm sure many of you feel music is part of your religion, has the ability to heal and helps us transcend our current situation and think of higher virtues. That is the power of art and Father spoke about that.



A transcontinental leap of faith

I want to share a personal testimony about how True Mother recently asked me actually to move to Korea.... I was invited to lunch with a few other people and with True Parents and I shared with True Mother that I had had several dreams of True Mother before I went to Korea. Two of the dreams were identical, maybe three days apart. In the dreams, True Mother had invited my family, two of my friends' families to lunch; we were sitting at a lunch table, and True Mother asks us how the music is going. We gave her our report and then her attention quickly turned to our children. She said, How are your children doing? Are they studying the Divine Principle? Are they doing Hoon Dok Hae? Are they being educated in the faith to attend True Parents? She then said, You have to remember that before you are musicians you are children of your Heavenly Parent, and parent to you children; that's subject. I had that exact dream twice. I think that is when she got the idea that maybe this David Eaton guy is not such a bad guy after all. Maybe we can bring him over here.

A few weeks later I got the call to come to Korea for the 56th Holy Wedding anniversary. Then I got the call inviting me to a meeting with other musicians in Korea, saying True Mother would like you to attend. So I attended a meeting that included Wonju McDevitt, Dr. Yun and Director Cho Sung-il, at which it was announced that True Mother was going to launch a new cultural initiative.

Dr. Yun and Mrs. McDevitt shared True Mother's vision about this. True Mother was referencing Hyo jin nim quite a bit, saying that Hyo jin nim had an idea about using art and culture for witnessing but really doing it well. I worked with Hyo jin nim for several years. He would always say, You know if we create great music, great art and great movies, no one will care that we're Moonies; they'll just go, they'll pay good money to hear our art. That was his thinking.... Then Dir. Cho said that True Mother had asked David Eaton to be the chairman of the music committee and True Mother also asked David to move to Korea right away....

It took me a little time to get there, but once I got there True Mother invited me for tea one day with a few other artists she had invited to move to Korea to develop this new cultural providence under the banner of Hyo Jeong Cheonwon, or Garden of filial love, and she gave us our marching orders....

Regarding the motivation and the purpose behind what we do, whether it's music, education or media, the more we can make our work about God and not ourselves, the more spirit world will kick in. Wonju McDevitt was talking about attendance and of course, she has been in a direct mode of attendance to True Parents for many decades. Recently she shared with us that our success (or what we might claim to be our success) at attendance is not determined by us. Our parents determine it. If our parents are still not happy about something, we cannot claim that we have attended completely....

Go with God

The Principle says that now in the Last Days our faith is justified by attendance to the True Parents. So all of us here as brothers and sisters, regardless of what our profession or mission may be, if we are doing it with intention, out of filial piety, hyo jeong, we can expect that the high spirit world will be with us. I always think that in the beauty, truth and goodness paradigm, beauty represents the feminine aspect of God's nature, aesthetics, beauty.

So True Mother is leading this new hyo jeong cultural providence because as a woman she sees the value of the aesthetic aspect of God's creation to witness, to get our message out there and to use music and culture. It makes perfect sense that a woman is doing that; and certain Japanese women who are representing the Eve nation. I'll give a shout out to the talented women uniting with True Mother to bring that beauty to the Syrian Orthodox Church or wherever they go. It can be a transformative event. What we ought to do is align our motivation whether it's art, education, economics, politics -- whatever we're doing -- with the God-centered perspective. Then we can be assured; that's our belief. Father used to say, Do you believe Divine Principle is true or do you know Divine Principle is true? I know Divine Principle is true. I'm sure you do, too. So let's apply it, apply Unificationism.

Thank you very much. It's been a pleasure to be here and to be in Vienna, which is the seat of high culture in the West, the Christian West. We'll talk more about that in the seminar -- the Christian legacy of art and culture, how important it is and how important True Mother thinks it is. I'll discuss that a little later today. I'm grateful to all of you for coming today and for this opportunity to share with you.