

Festival

Music makes X'mas more memorable

Christmas, music and our lives

CHRISTER GOMES

A church organist was practicing a piece by Felix Mendelssohn and not doing too well. Frustrated, he gathered up his music and started to leave. He had not noticed a stranger come in and sit in a rear pew.

As the organist turned to go, the stranger came forward and asked if he could play the piece. "I never let anyone touch this organ!" came the blunt reply. Finally, after two more polite requests, the grumpy musician reluctantly gave him permission.

The stranger sat down and filled the sanctuary with beautiful, flawless music. When finished, the organist asked, "Who are you?" The

man replied, "I am Felix Mendelssohn." The organist had almost prevented the song's creator from playing his own music!

There are times when we too try to play the chords of our lives and prevent our Creator from making beautiful music. Like that stubborn organist, we only reluctantly take our hands off the keys. As His people, we are "Created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand" (Ephesians 2:10). But our lives won't produce beautiful music unless we let Him work

through us.

God has symphony written for our lives. Let's allow Him to have his way in us. Not only on this Christmas time or just for this Sunday. A good time to be willing to know Him truly is now and always. This is not only for the Christians but I saw many of my friends of other religion, those who have two different type of characters. This we can call "The six day" and "The one day" type. They are different on the special "One day" which is the day of prayer. Sometimes we tend to rationalize our lack of relationship with God in this way: "Lord, You know that I really praised You and prayed to You with all my heart last Sunday/Friday. I really let it all hang out last week! and I know You understand, Lord,

Though the medical insurance ran out
 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
 I will be joyful and make music to my God my Savior!

Singing is probably the most common form of praise we employ today. The Scripture (The Bible) are so full of admonitions to sing unto the Lord that I may cite only two of them

1. I will give You thanks as long as I live;
 I will raise my hands to you in prayer
 My soul will be feast and be satisfied
 And I will sing glad songs of praise to you (Ps.63:4,5)

2. Sing a new song to the Lord!
 Sing to the Lord, all the world!

couple those simple words with a beautiful tune we know so well. Our hearts are lifted to the Lord, and our spirits are moved in the presence of God.

This is an "ultra-rational" experience in which one plus one equals three, in which words plus music equal "more" than just words and music. The words of the song may be very meaningful, but when they are coupled with an enhancing melody, the message of the song can be expressed with so much more meaning. God has given us this medium of music as a very special gift because He knows how much it helps us in lifting our hearts in praise to Him.

Now let's come back to Christmas. Perhaps that's not surprising

truths like these:

The prophecies of Jesus' birth (Isa. 7:14; 9:1-7)
 The miracle of Jesus' conception (Mt. 1:18)
 The perfection of the holy Christ-child (Lk. 1:35)
 The mission of that baby boy (Mt. 1:21)

The Creator of the world miraculously became man on that first Christmas morning so He could provide us with the gift of eternal life. That's something to believe in at Christmas!

Now, why do we celebrate Jesus' birthday so differently from other birthdays? When its time to honor historical figures who have a day aside for them, we don't think about them as babies. We don't have pictures of cute little Abe Lincoln in

because He was God in human form. He was the creator of the universe visiting this planet. Never shrink from celebrating this baby at Christmas. Marvel at His incarnation, and stand in awe of a wiggly baby who had created His worshippers. Then step back in wonder, for the story gets even better. This divine baby grew into a perfect man who willingly died for your sins and mine.

Celebrate the baby, but trust the Savior. That's how to make Christmas complete. A wise man today will bow not only at the manger but also at the cross.

Sources:
 1. Exploring Worship by Bob Sorge
 2. Our Daily Bread, RBC Ministries



Christmas celebrations with food, X'mas tree, Santa Claus, music and other festive elements

that I am to be work this six days from 8-5. And of course there will be a five minutes break for You. It seems that our heart is not ready to hear His Symphony in our lives. Yet we find that the Bible makes no provision for us to perform a week's worth of praise in one day. The human body has no way to store up vitamin C -- it either burns it up or discards it. Similarly, we cannot store a one day's worth of praise and prayer on this Christmas time. But the time is every day, every hour and every moment to praise the Lord.

And no cattle in the stalls,
 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
 I will be joyful in God my Savior (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

A modern rendition of this passage might read like this:

Though the economy is unstable,
 And unemployment is rising,
 Though communism may be growing,
 And terrorism is rampant,
 Though my guitar is broken and my voice has no melody

Sing to the Lord, and praise Him!
 Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us. (Ps.96:1,2)

The book of Psalms in particular is a rich storehouse.

But some may ask, "Why can't we just speak our praise? Why do we have to sing it?" The answer lies in the beauty of music. Suppose, for example, that we were to congregate and chant, "Alleluia... Alleluia... Alleluia." That would not do much for any of us, would it? But picture what happens when we

when we realize that at no other time of the year do we focus so much attention on a single theme as during the Christmas season. The fictional character of Santa Claus has become an integral part of the celebration in our culture because he symbolizes gift-giving, the centerpiece of most holiday gatherings. What many people believe in at Christmas is the spirit of giving.

As admirable as that spirit may be, there is something more grand and life-changing to believe in at Christmas we need to focus on

his log cabin in Kentucky. No., we remember him for his contribution as an adult.

For Jesus, though, it is proper that today we celebrate Him as a child. Think about it. When He was born, shepherds came to honor Him. Later, wise men brought Him gifts. These people had no idea what Christ would eventually accomplish. But they were right in doing what they did, because Jesus' birth was the most remarkable event in human history.

Jesus as a baby was remarkable

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
 Made by Charles Wesley, Music by Felix Mendelssohn

RECOMMENDATIONS

Kids' Christmas Pool-party at Hotel Sonargaon
 December 25
 As part of its tradition, The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel Management this year also has planned a unique event for the kids on Christmas Day, which is not only a religious occasion but the largest cultural event for the Christians. A mini-festival 'Children Pool-party' has been arranged for kids beside the swimming pool area. The entrance fee is only take three hundred per person where children are offered to enjoy various games and fun-riding like merry-go-round, helicopter and minitrain ride etc. There will be a mini-zoo for their entertainment and a puppet-show as well as a magic-show, where magic will be performed by well reputed and charismatic young magician Ali Raj. Children can also participate in the Dance-Party and enjoy a 'kids-catawalk'. And as this is the Christmas, the kids are offered to catch a snap with the smiling Santa-Claus and get their gifts. Co-sponsored by Star-ship mango juice this mini-festival is open for all children from 10 am to 5 pm.

Tapan Sinha Retrospective
 Zahir Raihan Film Society.
 December 25
 A tanka (1986) at 03 p.m.
 Harmonium (1975) at 05.30 p.m.
 December 26
 Bancharamer Bagan (1980) at 05.30 p.m.
 December 27
 Adalat O Kti Meye (1981) at 05.30 p.m.

Exhibition
 December 20-31
 Solo painting exhibition of Rafiqul Islam at Divine Art Gallery.

Paintings
 December 26-30
 Exhibition of paintings of Rohena Alam Khan and Lamia Wajeehah Hossain at Drik Gallery.

7th Berger Young Painters' Art Exhibition
 December 22-26
 The 7th Berger Young Painters' Art Exhibition 2002 opens today at the Zainul Gallery of Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka at 11 a.m. The exhibition will remain open for visitors from 11 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

TV GUIDE

BTV	12.10 News Headlines 12.15 Patriotic Songs 12.20 Magazine Show 01.00 Khabar 01.20 Open university 01.45 Aiker Shangbadpatra 02.00 News Headlines 02.05 Health Bulletin 02.30 Cartoon Show 03.00 Khabar 03.05 News for Children 03.10 Folk Song Show: Hijot-tomal 03.35 Jeebondhara 04.00 News Headlines 04.05 Rabindrasangeet Show: Geetabitan 04.30 Shukhi Poribar 05.00 Khabar 05.05 Mukti Pathay 05.30 Khetley Khetley Computer 06.00 Khabar 06.10 Shilpo O Shahitya Programmes of Chittagong Centre 06.35 News Headlines 07.00 Weather Bulletin 07.05 Mati O Manush 07.30 Frocheshta 08.00 Bangla Shangbad of 8'o clock 08.30 Drama Serial: Durer Manush 09.00 Drama Serial: Oronnyey Orchid 09.30 Drama Serial: Dukkho Amakey Dukkhi Koreni 10.00 English News of 10'o clock 10.25 News Report 10.30 Special Programme on Holy Christmas 11.00 Ananda-dhara	SONY	12:00 a.m. Cadbury's Bournvita Quiz Contest 00:30 Dekh Bhai Dekh 01:00 Chamatkaar 01:30 Family No 1 02:00 Hum Sub Ek Hain 02:30 Indian Holiday - Episode # 23 03:00 Kkusum 03:30 Papa Ban Gaye Hero 04:00 Kutub 04:30 Kuchh Jhuki Palkain 05:30 Music Mantra 06:00 Just Mohabbat 06:30 Dil Ka Dwar Khol 07:00 Amrit Varsha 07:30 Sant Asaram Vani 08:00 Chartbusters 08:30 Good Morning Disney 09:00 Good Morning Disney 09:30 Music Mantra 10:00 Shaheen 10:30 Chamatkaar 11:00 Family No. 1 11:30 Hum Sab Ek Hain 12:00 p.m. Bachke Rehnaa Zara Sambhalnaa 12:30 Kkusum 01:00 Current Bollywood 01:30 Kutumb 02:00 Kuchh Jhuki Palkain 02:30 Om Namay Shivay 03:00 Om Namay Shivay 03:30 Just Mohabbat 04:00 Chhoti Si Asha 04:30 Dil Hai Ke Manta Nahin 05:00 Star Yaar Kalakaar 05:30 Star Yaar Kalakaar 06:00 Disney Hour 06:30 Disney Hour 07:00 Chartbusters 07:30 Music Mantra 08:00 Boogie Woogie 08:30 Goong Ateet Ki 09:00 Kkusum 09:30 Kutumb 10:00 Achanak 37 Saal Baad 10:30 Aahat Dehshat Ke 6 Saal 11:00 Kuchh Jhuki Palkain 11:30 Chhoti Si Asha	08:00 Ride To Freedom: The Rosa Parks Story 10:00 Young Riders, The - Bulldog 11:00 Sarah, Plain & Tall: Winter's End 01:00pm Touched By An Angel VII (25 X Thr) - Episode # 23 02:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 84 03:00 Scholastic Clifford - Topsy Turvy Day/Clifford's Charm School 03:30 Caillou - Episode # 12 04:00 Flipper - Episode # 17 05:00 Early Edition (Episodes 24-46x1hr) Seaso - Mum's The Word 06:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 66 07:00 Terror On The Mountain 09:00 Early Edition (Episodes 24-46x1hr) Seaso - Mum's The Word 10:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 68 11:00 The Christmas Box HBO 6:30 The Shawshank Redemption 9:30 Outbreak 12:00 Desperate Measures 2:00 The Expendables 3:45 The Mummy 6:15 The Rugrats Movie 8:30 Jack Frost 9:30 Guinness World 10:00 Mercury Rising 12:15 Executive Decision 3:00 Desperate Measures 5:00 Deadly Pursuits STAR MOVIES 7:30 D2 The Mighty Ducks 9:30 The X-Men 11:15 Legends of The Fall 1:15 Mac & Me 3:15 The New Adventures of Pinocchio 5:00 Toys 7:00 Dazed and Confused
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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS	PICK OF THE DAY
STAR MOVIES: 7.00 p.m. <i>Gone in Sixty Seconds.</i> Car theft in Long Beach went down 47% when Randall 'Memphis' Raines walked away from the life. He gets dragged back into it by assuming the job his brother Kip screwed up for stolen-car broker Raymond Calitri: steal 50 exotic cars and have them on a container ship by 8 AM Friday morning, and he got this news on a Monday. With Calitri threatening to kill him and Kip, and the police GRAB unit breathing down his neck, Memphis reassembles his old crew and attempts to pull off the logistically impossible. HBO: 10.00 p.m. <i>Mercury Rising.</i> The United States government is about to launch its brand new super code. Impossible to break, or so they thought until it was broken by a nine year old autistic boy. Now the bodies are piling up to keep it secret and the mercury is rising.	Remember the Titans On Star Movies at 9.00 p.m. Suburban Virginia schools have been segregated for generations, in sight of the Washington Monument over the river in the nation's capital. One Black and one White high school are closed and the students sent to T.C. Williams High School under federal mandate to integrate.
9:00 Remember the Titans 11:00 Pumpkinhead II: Blood Wings 12:45 Legends of The Fall AXN 6:30 Movie: Britannic 9:30 Where Or When 10:30 Cold Squad (Season II) Marcey Bennett 11:30 Martial Law Bad Seed 12:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! 1:30 Fear Factor 5:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! 6:30 Martial Law Diamond Fever 7:30 Battledome 8:30 Beastmaster Sisters 9:30 Guinness World 10:00 Mercury Rising 10:30 Kkusum 11:30 AXN Who Dares Wins India Special 12:30 The Hunger STAR WORLD (+ 30 minutes) 7:00 Everybody Loves Raymond 7:30 Grounded For Life 8:00 That 70s Show 8:30 The Drew Carey Show 18:15 Hit Geet	18:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet 19:00 Khamoshi 22:30 Jubilee Plus 23:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet 23:30 Charas STAR PLUS (+ 30 minutes) 6:00 Geet Bahar 6:30 Geet Bahar 7:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom 7:30 Aatma 8:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet 9:00 Fox Kids 9:40 Hit Geet 9:55 Kya Film Kya Geet 10:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai 10:30 Hera Pheri 11:00 Meri Saheli 11:25 Film Toppers 11:30 Shanti 12:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet 12:30 Kasauti Zindagii Kay 13:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 13:30 Bhabhi 14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 14:30 Shagun 15:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 16:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz 16:30 Aaj Ki Baat CHANNEL [V] (+ 30 minutes) 7:00 [V] Hit Machine 7:30 [V] Back To Back 8:00 [V] Jumpstart 9:00 [V] Hit Machine 9:30 [V] Back To Back 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 10:30 [V] Back To Back 11:00 [V] Hit Machine 11:30 [V] Zabardast Hits 12:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox 12:30 [V] Fdfs 13:00 [V] Hit Machine 13:30 [V] Zabardast Hits 14:00 [V] Back To Back 14:30 [V] Zabardast Hits 15:00 [V] Back To Back 15:30 [V] Hit Machine 16:00 [V] Hotline

17:00 Vitop5@5 17:30 [V] Ideo War 17:45 [V] Hit Machine 18:00 Very [V] 19:00 Crti [V] 19:30 [V] Zabardast Hits 20:00 [V] Back To Back 20:30 [V] Zabardast Hits 21:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox 21:30 [V] Fdfs 22:00 [V] Hit Machine 22:30 Late Night [V] 23:00 [V] Zabardast Hits 23:30 [V] Back To Back	CARTOON NETWORK (+ 30 minutes) 6:00 The Perils of Penelope Pitstop 6:30 Josie and the Pussycats 7:00 Dexter's Laboratory 7:30 The Scooby Doo Show 8:00 The Ku Koo Du Koo Show 9:00 Jackie Chan Adventures 9:30 The New Adventures of Captain Planet 10:00 Courage the Cowardly Dog 10:30 Jetsons 11:00 The Perils of Penelope Pitstop 11:30 Josie and the Pussycats 12:00 A Cartoon Network Christmas* 4:00 Swat Kats 4:30 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest 5:30 Jackie Chan Adventures 6:00 All New Popeye 6:30 Scooby Doo Hour 7:30 The Powerpuff Girls 8:00 The Looney Tunes Show 9:00 The Cartoon Cartoon Show 10:00 Johnny Bravo 10:30 Superfriends 11:00 Peter Potamus 12:00 Swat Kats 12:30 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest	Mondiale C'Ship 2002 Mumbai, MA INDIA Event Highlights(R) 7:00 Football Asia (R) 7:30 Cricket Talk Show Harsha Online On Tour In New Zealand (R) 8:30 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League Highlights 2002/03 (R) 9:30 Spanish Football League 2002/03 Spanish Football League (R) 11:30 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Blackburn, ENGLAND Liverpool Vs Everton (T) 13:30 Sachin Tendulkar Programming India Vs... Presented By Sachin Tendulkar (T) 14:30 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Hamilton, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 2nd Test, Day 5, 1st Session(R) 16:30 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Hamilton, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Vs India 2nd Test, Day 5, 2nd & 3rd Session(R) 03:00 19:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline Super Plays Of 2002(T) 20:00 Pga Tour Highlights Pga Tour Year In Review 2002 (T) 21:00 Cricket Talk Show Harsha Online On Tour In New Zealand (R) 01:00 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (T) 00:30 22:30 Sachin Tendulkar Programming India Vs... Presented By Sachin Tendulkar (T) 23:30 English Premier Football League 2002/03 Liverpool,	00:30 Sachin Tendulkar Programming India Vs... Presented By Sachin Tendulkar (R) 7:30 American Muscle 2002 American Muscle (R) 8:00 Pool World Pool Masters 2002 Finals(R) 9:00 Winter X Games Classix Winter X Games VI Classix - Moto X Mt. Aspen, CO USA (R) 9:30 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Blackburn, ENGLAND Blackburn Rovers Vs Manchester United (R) 11:30 Motorsport Asia (R) 12:00 Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour Pwba Shootout Las Vegas, NV USA (R) 13:00 Women's Pro Billiards 2002 Wpba Classic Tour Albuquerque, NM USA Finals(T) 14:00 Football Focus (R) 15:00 Asian Bowling Tour Aviva Asian Bowling Tour, Hong Kong Semifinals & Finals(T) 18:00 English Premier Football League 2002/03 Manchester, ENGLAND Manchester City Vs Tottenham Hotspur (R) 20:00 Sportscenter Hindi Super Plays Of 2002(T) 20:30 Sachin Tendulkar Programming India Vs... Presented By Sachin Tendulkar (T) Goals! (T) 21:30 Pro Billiards 2002 Wheelchair Billiards (R) 23:00 Sportscenter Hindi Super Plays Of 2002(R) 23:30 English Premier Football League 2002/03 Liverpool,
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