

Luther (and Jon) Listen...

“Next to the Word of God, the noblest art of music is the greatest treasure of the world.”

It just doesn't look right; Martin Luther and Jonathan Edwards cloaked with MP3 players. Can you dig it? It seems like they too...have time for some tunes. I wonder what these two my listen to? Must be some old stuff...you know...with instruments – if any – that work without electricity, amplifiers and such.

Having seen a movie on Luther, called *Luther*, the likely *music of the day* could have ranged from the roving minstrel to the unaccompanied vocals of Gregorian chant.

Of course, with all music being *live*, any appreciation for it would have been by direct association only. As silly as the illustration is (to the right), the fact remains however that Luther (and John) loved music; probably on the premise that it was of God – **and anything of God is good.**



Music can set the mood:

- ♪ A **dirge** is the music of lament or respect for the dearly departed...a mournful sound and theme
- ♪ **The Blues** is one sourced from the deep south of the United States and, as the name my suggest, can be expression of “hard times” or struggle...although it offers some release (however short) from such oppressions...
- ♪ **Classical** refers to the renown compositions that coincidentally were so influential in the times of the developing, English-based, Christian music of Jonathan Edwards and other reformers. Some **tradition**, timeless hymns of the church carry the melody of Bach, Beethoven, Handel and the like...
- ♪ **Folk music** that has no definite past – as it probably began with “the folks”; anyway, American folk music is deeply rooted in the *working class* and, as with The Blues, is the voice of the people put to some instruments and common themes. Sharing some history with The Blues, our folk music has some origin in the plantation fields.
- ♪ **Pop/Rock & Roll** needs no explanation as the general origin of the 1950's has made its mark on cultural landscape...

With the few genres of music vaguely described above – and the others that you might appreciate – the silly illustration of Luther and Edwards offers the possibility that that a little old mixed with a little new (or modern technology) can still be possible in the varied types and talents of music. Music pleases us whether to play it, sing it, or listen to it *live*...or by way of MP3...

Luther found his music soothing; it comforted his soul...troubled by the events and circumstances *of the day*. He wrote: “My heart, which is so full to over flowing has been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary.”

@BCL@E0062C0D