

How I Imagine the Extemporaneous Ensemble Manifesting in Prison

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Nov. 2, 2024

We have an abundance of phenomenal musical talent (gifted of God) here in the SOLID program housed in Bear 2, with its 384 inmates who all volunteered to come to this therapeutic community to reform their lives, ideally to become model citizens. I see God's foreordained hand in assembling the prepared musicians who are here. We're talking America's Got Talent or The Voice caliber capability in many cases.

Here's what I envision unfolding here in the coming days — hopefully very soon. First, to dispell a stigma that often comes with great talent and the huge egos ~~st~~ often associated with that, let me share this ideal I just composed by inspiration:

"The only way to become truly great in magnifying the glory of the Lord in accomplishing the seemingly impossible is by being truly humble, recognizing that our greatness comes from God, not of ourselves." — SDA

An abbreviated form of this sentiment is, "The only way to be truly great is to be truly humble."

I envision us having an 8am Sunday morning "Extemporaneous Ensemble" — singing by the Spirit, as a group; coming up with the arrangement on the spot. By the end of the hour, we'll

be familiar with the other musicians in the group and how we work together. And as the worship service attendees start arriving at 9am, we would keep singing, providing the prelude music. Then, we'd come again at 1pm to provide prelude music for the afternoon service. The group would be comprised of musicians from both Bowl 1 & 2, open to those who wish to participate, possibly with an audition requirement. (2)

Here's some of the extraordinary talent we have available, that I'm aware of. There may be more, many more, with hidden talent, waiting to come alive. For years, I've been developing my gift to be able to create arrangements^(esp. hymns) on the piano, and sing the lyrics interpretively to augment their sacred/inspired meanings and feel; and to harmonize while accompanying other singers. Chris F Christman (Chris) Fairbanks[#] has a similar gift, but he's trained and experienced in lead singing — without a mic, does it need one in most settings. He and I have a great chemistry. Brandon Hillman is also a great singer and arranger — and coach. He'd be a great director for the ensemble. Two other of the building leadership, Fraido and Fanue are excellent singers. We also have James Ferguson^{sp.}[#]. Caden Lighter could also be a great component if he can let go of some of his celebrity ego and fall in love with sacred music. Then there's the Polynesian ensemble with their great flair for embellishing harmony.

We also have some great talent among

(of BASE jump therapy for addicts, fame)
(and was in American Ninja Warrior)

as well as Jason,
the psychologist.

the LDS volunteers who come here. Sister Ward ③ is phenomenal in extemporaneous accompaniment, as well as in vocal training.

We could pioneer a new phenomenon that could be emulated not just in other parts of our prison but prisons world wide—as well as in congregations on the outside. And we have an amazing ^{resource} tool to carry out that propagation. Here ~~in~~ among us is Sterling Vanwagoner, the Founder of the Sundance Film Festival. He could coordinate the live broadcasting of both our practice sessions as well as our prelude music segment, as well as the other amazing worship services we have here. Last week's inmate speaker's talk was like scripture—the whole thing. Bear 4 chapel has been broadcasting their worship & Sunday School classes ^(within the prison) for a couple of years, but ~~th~~ so that is possible, ~~bew~~ ^{be} ~~we~~ ^{bu} ~~au~~ ^{au} ~~cr~~ ^{cr} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~ic~~ ^{ic} ~~ally~~ ^{ally}. Sterling could increase the quality of the audio and video feed, here.

Chris & I have been told that our arrangement of "You Raise Me Up" that we've been practicing for next week's worship service is better than ^{how} Josh Groban, its composer, ^{performs it}. This Extemporaneous Ensemble ~~could become~~ and following worship service could become a global viral sensation, inspiring humanity to embrace the gifts God has given them.

P.S. To proofread this, I just read it to one of my best friends ever, Sam, ^{Shaffer} whose mother ^{graciously} does my website for me. As a cool full circle synchronicity, he said that where Sterling Vanwagoner grew up in Provo is 3 houses away from ^{Sam's} his mom's house. ~~4~~

P.P.S. I'd love to see the prison staff also parti-

#, spearheaded by Chaplain Hill.

I asked him to send a copy of it to Mary to post in the "Blog > SOLIDS" of my site.

* One of his first films, in the '70s, ~~was~~ "The Phone Call" was situated in that neighborhood.

cipate with us in this ensemble.

(4)

While presently, the problem has been that the volunteers are already spread so thin that none are willing to come on how earlier to enable this ensemble to take place, once we get it going, I bet none of them will not want to be there, it will be so wonderful of an experience — heaven on earth — in prison.

I would also love to see many more practice hours available during the week, so we can help & nurture some unfolding / hidden talent to participate in this; as well as to be able to prepare special numbers for worship service + and talent shows, and talent development.