

## PROPHETS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF SACRED MUSIC

In the years since the publication of the 1985 hymnbook, several prophets and apostles have taught the importance of sacred music in the Church by using hymns, children's songs, and other sacred music to strengthen members in their faith and testimony of the gospel. Critically important gospel truths are contained in our sacred Church music.

President Boyd K. Packer:

### Hymns teach the truths of the gospel

“If we will listen, (the hymns) are teaching the gospel, for the hymns of the Restoration are, in fact, a course in doctrine.” (October 1991 General Conference)

### Sacred music must include spiritual substance

“The Spirit does not ratify speech nor confirm music which lacks spiritual substance.” (October 1991 General Conference)

President Russell M. Nelson:

### Inspirational music provides spiritual power and protection

“Select music that will strengthen your spirit.” (October 1985 General Conference)

“Worthy music is powerful. It has power to make us humble, prayerful, and grateful. . . . Worthy music also has the power to persuade. . . . Music has sweet power to promote unity and love in the family. . . . Music has power to provide spiritual nourishment. It has healing power. It has power to facilitate worship; it allows us to contemplate the Atonement and the Restoration of the gospel with its saving principles and exalting ordinances. Music provides power for us to express prayerful thoughts and bear testimony of sacred truths. Music has power to overcome language barriers.” (CES Fireside, BYU, 4 May 2008)

“We should carefully choose what we see and hear. . . . Many youth listen to music that can be described as loud and fast, becoming louder and faster. It aims to agitate, not to pacify; to excite more than calm. Beware of that kind of music. Continued exposure to loud sounds will, in time, damage delicate organs of hearing. In like manner, if you overindulge in loud music, you will more likely become spiritually deaf. You may not be able to hear the still, small voice.” (CES Fireside, BYU, 4 May 2008)

### Church music should support the spoken word

“Church music should be supportive of the Lord and His work.” (CES Fireside, 4 May 2008)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks:

**Sacred music prepares us for prayer and gospel teaching**

“Our sacred music is a powerful preparation for prayer and gospel teaching (and) . . . prepares us to be taught the truths of the gospel.” (October 1994 General Conference)

“As we sing we should think about the messages of the words. Our hymns contain matchless doctrinal sermons.” (October 1994 General Conference)

President Thomas S. Monson:

**Congregational singing builds faith and testimony and teaches gospel doctrine**

“If you love the Lord, if you love His doctrine, you’ll love the hymns; and when you love them, then you sing them.” (Hymnbook Celebration, Assembly Hall, 3 September 1985)

“(We must) learn once again in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to really sing. We simply must do something with our congregational singing to bring out the spirit of music in the heart and soul of every boy, every girl, every man, every woman.” (Hymnbook Celebration, Assembly Hall, 3 September 1985)

More Counsel from Prophets and Apostles:

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland: “We ought to have great music in the Church and more of it; great speaking in the Church and less of it.” (Priesthood Department, 2006 Christmas Devotional)

President James E. Faust: “Singing our beautiful, worshipful hymns is food for our souls. Worshiping in song has the effect of spiritually unifying the participants in an attitude of reverence.” (April 1992 General Conference)

President Gordon B. Hinckley: “The singing of hymns and the rendition of selections from the great oratorios by ward choirs all enhance the spirit of worship.” (April 1987 Gen Conference)

Counsel from The First Presidency:

As taught in the Preface of the current hymnbook, The First Presidency invites members of the Church to use hymns and sacred children’s songs in at least three important ways:

1. **Singing the hymns and sacred children’s songs more frequently**
2. **Quoting the words of hymns in support of teaching gospel principles**
3. **Feeling the power of hymns motivating individuals to righteous actions**