The Sacramental Potential of Music: Musical Experience Towards an Expanded Understanding of the Sacrament

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Abstract

There is more to music that what we hear; there is more to sacrament than meets the eye. This paper is an attempt to explore the sacramental potential of music through a holistic appreciation of the musical experience. It seeks to explore music's theological relevance in pursuit of an expanded comprehensive of the sacraments. It posits that the gift of music brings us to a more progressive and holistic understanding of the sacrament and proposes the concept of entanglement as a novel outlook on sacrament.

Introduction

Imagine life without sound, without music. Pretty dull, isn't it? Music is an essential part of every culture and of human history. Its cultural significance can be seen in how music is expressed in the daily life of almost every culture. Alongside the ordinariness of music are its varied effects on the one listening, as well on the one performing. For Christians, music has a theological relevance, including its potential as a sacrament, as a revelatory encounter with the Divine. There is a "graceful" connection between how we experience music and how our understanding of the sacrament can be re-examined through the musical experience. Music can lead us to a new way of theologizing, toward a dynamic making sense of God in our lives.