

# FOLLOW THE DIRECTOR

## TUNING UP...

Of all the instruments you know, which one do you think is the most maligned, laughed at and joked about? Some might say the clarinet and others might suggest the accordion. What are your thoughts? Most would agree that somewhere in that list you would find the bagpipe! Regarded as one of the funniest and most amusing instruments around, the bagpipe puts up with a lot of jokes.



**Q. Why do bagpipers always walk when they play?**

**A. To get away from the noise.**

**Q. What's the difference between a bagpipe and an onion?**

**A. No one cries when you chop up a bagpipe.**

**Q. What's the range of a bagpipe?**

**A. Twenty yards, if you have a good arm.**

**Q. How can you tell if a bagpipe is out of tune?**

**A. Someone is blowing into it.**

Are you ready to learn everything about the bagpipe but you were afraid to ask? Calling a bagpipe a "wind bag" is really a compliment! The bagpipe is an unusual wind instrument that has the capacity to store the air inside of a bag held under the arm. That way the player can breathe whenever he wishes, as long as the bag has sufficient air to produce the sound.

These instruments, usually associated with Scotland, have been around a long time. Known as early as Roman times, these instruments are found today in areas of Asia, North Africa and Europe.

Perhaps the most popular bagpipes are the Scottish Highland style pipes. These were developed sometime between 1500-1800 in the Scottish Highlands. The modern form consists of a blowpipe or mouth pipe into which the air is blown. A second pipe containing 7 holes is held in the two hands and fingered like a simple flute. This "chanter" pipe produces the bagpipe melody. Three more long pipes are attached to the bag and leaned over the shoulder. These are called the "drones". The drones produce the long, low, droning sounds that remain constant throughout the playing.

Did you know that the bagpipe is part of the family of instruments known as aerophones? These instruments produce their sound by vibrating air.

No doubt by now you're ready to rush out and buy that exciting CD featuring 60 minutes of uninterrupted bagpipe music!

Maybe you'll agree now: Q. What's the definition of a quarter tone? A. A bagpiper tuning his drones. Quite honestly though, it is great to hear a full bagpipe band in a parade. The sound can't be confused with any other instrument. It can really be quite thrilling!

One of the most popular songs recorded by a bagpipe band is the famous hymn, “Amazing Grace”. Hearing that sound sends shivers down your spine. They truly capture the text of this beautiful hymn by John Newton.

*Amazing grace – how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

And grace will lead me home! One of the greatest blessings God gives to us his children is knowing that we have someone who will lead the way. We have a path already laid out for us. We aren’t wandering around in the darkness, bumping into walls and tripping over stones as do the unbelievers. We follow a course that has been carefully plotted by none other than our Savior, our Guide, Jesus Christ.

In today’s lesson we will see how Jesus serves as our Guide and our Way. We will see Jesus do something that no one has ever done. Something truly amazing!

## **LEARNING THE SCORE...**

*Set the stage for today’s account by orally reading Matthew 14:13-21. Answer these questions:*

1. What news had Jesus just heard?
2. Instead of privacy, what did Jesus get?
3. Why were the disciples “watching their watches”? (v. 15)
4. What miracle did Jesus perform?
5. Estimate how many people were there with Jesus. (It had to more than how many?)

### **Read Matthew 14:22-24**

1. Jesus and his disciples were on the shore of what lake?
2. Why did Jesus want to be alone?
3. While Jesus was praying, what was happening to the disciples?

### **Read Matthew 14:25-31**

1. How did Jesus reach his disciples?
2. Is there anything unusual about what Jesus did? Why?
3. How did the disciples react?
4. Who did the disciples think Jesus was?
5. What did Jesus immediately assure them?
6. What were Jesus’ exact words?
7. What was Peter’s wild idea?
8. How did Jesus respond?
9. What did Peter do with his great idea?
10. What did Jesus tell Peter?

### **Read Matthew 14:32,33**

1. What immediately happened when Jesus climbed up into the boat?
2. What was the disciples’ reaction?

## **INTERPRETING THE MUSIC...**

*Think over these questions very carefully. They contain important insights.*

- a. What did Jesus try to do earlier in the day? (See vv. 13 & 23)
- b. Did Jesus have to pray? (See Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; Luke 9:18; Luke 22:41) What example did he set for us? In fact, what had he done in Matthew 14:19 just a few hours earlier?
- c. How was the disciples' reaction to seeing Jesus coming toward them much like our reaction would be today?
- d. Jesus said, "Fear not!" Can you think of any other times in the Bible when God had to tell people not to be afraid?
- e. Why did Jesus let Peter try to walk on the water?
- f. Didn't Jesus already know Peter would fail?
- g. How did Peter's focus change after taking a few steps?
- h. On what did Jesus blame Peter's sinking?
- i. What did the disciples have to admit after seeing this great miracle?
- j. What's wrong with this picture: Early in the day Jesus miraculously fed more than 5000 people with a few loaves of bread and a couple fish. Now, later in that same day he walks on the water. Yet after the second miracle we hear the disciples say, "Truly you are the Son of God." Why didn't they say that sooner? Do you think they were really convinced even now?

## **INTERMISSION...**

*During the break today try to figure out which instrument is described here:*

"A metal disk struck by a beater. Found most commonly in Southeast Asia since the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. Some come with a raised center called the "boss". Sometimes used in the Japanese gagaku ensemble. Some folks in Borneo feel they have the power to ward off storms."

## **JAM SESSION**

*Break into groups to discuss the following scenarios. Then report back to the entire class.*

Consider that **Jesus is our Guide, our Way**. Keeping that in mind, answer each of these questions.

- A. Your baby sister has just been diagnosed with bone cancer. The doctors give her a short time to live. What words can you come up with that would give her a reason to hope?
- B. A bunch of kids you've been hanging out with decided to raid the mall. They're about to see how much they can steal in a single afternoon. What is the first thought that comes into your mind?
- C. You're standing at the altar beside your new bride or groom. A thousand thoughts are racing through your head. Yet one thought stands out above the rest. What should that thought be?
- D. You just awoke from a great night's sleep. Now you're ready to face a brand new day. What is the first thought that puts a smile on your face?

## **ADDING TO YOUR REPERTOIRE...**

*Divine guidance is a blessing we have that the unbelieving world doesn't. It's as if we've been given a special compass to see where we're headed. Read each of these passages and answer the questions.*

1. Psalm 23:2 Where does God lead us? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Psalm 25:9 What does God teach us? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Psalm 48:14 How long will God serve as our guide? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Psalm 73:24 With what does God guide us? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Isaiah 30:21 What will that little voice be telling us? \_\_\_\_\_

## A PSALM-A-DAY...

*Who wrote the Psalms? In your Bible find the book of Psalms. If the author of the Psalm is known, it is listed at the top of each Psalm. Make a list of which authors wrote which Psalms.*



# THE MUSICAL BIBLE

## Orchestras in the Bible?

*Read these references about biblical orchestras.*

- 2 Samuel 6:5
- 1 Chronicles 23:5
- 2 Chronicles 5:12; 29:27
- Ezra 3:10
- Nehemiah 12:27
- Psalm 68:25
- Daniel 3:5

How do you think they sounded?



**DISCUSS: HOW CAN MUSIC BE USED AS  
A MEANS TO SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD?**