



# The Elements of Music

A Biblical Approach to a  
General Appreciation of Music

BY WENDY HILL

*The Elements of Music* differs from other music courses in that it uses music to teach about God rather than using God to teach about music. The program uses fourteen music elements to teach specific things about God's character.

### **The Biblical Foundation of *The Elements of Music Course***

'In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight' (Proverbs 3:6). The focus shifts away from the worldly goals of glorifying man, music itself and money. Emphasis is given to glorifying God and acknowledging Him as the Creator and Giver of the gift of music.

'For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse' (Romans 1:20). Excessive emphasis on the knowledge side of music blinds us to that which music reveals about its Maker. When the basic building blocks of music are studied in relation to God, they reveal some very important messages.

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord and not for men' (Colossians 3:23).

### **The Course**

*The Elements of Music* is a three-year theory and general appreciation course in *The Gift of Music* series. It is designed for eight to twelve year olds. Included are essential theory, music reading, history, basic keyboard skills, aural training and the fourteen music elements. A Biblical perspective and supporting scriptures tie these together.

### **Course Format**

- Children are treated as thinkers, rather than passive beings we have to entertain
- Thirty-six lessons cover one year (one lesson per week for four nine-week terms)
- Lessons can be spread over two or three days
- Each lesson includes a short review plus two new teaching points, followed by worksheets with a wide variety of activities
- Each fourth lesson is a review with no new teaching points
- A multi-sensory method continually blends the aural, visual and tactile
- Each lesson starts with a preparation code
- Certificate of completion included
- No page-filling gimmicks such as pictures or cartoons of humanised animals

- Good models of classical style music and Christian songs

## **Questions and Activities**

- Over two hundred questions on two CDs for aural training
- Simple music analysis
- Questions presented as puzzles, multiple choice, colouring, short answer, fill in the missing words, and true or false
- Flashcards of music notes
- Rhythm board games and card games
- Scripture cards
- Grand staff chart
- Rhythm dictation cards
- Creativity in composing simple melodies
- Putting words to music

## **Teacher's Resource Kit**

This packages a wide variety of activities for children and information and teaching aids for parents and teachers. It includes a short section on the philosophy behind the course, three year overall plan, scope and sequence with individual lesson details, quick reference chart for all Bible verses, and the answers to questions in the student workbook. Also included are two CDs, spare manuscript pages of varying sizes, reusable grand staff chart, flashcards for notes and octaves, rhythm game cards,

and scripture game cards. The Teacher's Resource Kit comes packaged in a plastic case which houses all of the above, and can also be used to store one student workbook.

## **Concepts Used Throughout the Course**

### ***Soundwave Truck***

Soundwaves are the vehicle for carrying music to our ears. The symbol of the truck appears throughout the course and gradually builds up a 'load' of music elements. The message of this first element is that God is a Giver and Provider. God created the soundwaves, which carry music to our ears. Colossians 1:16 tells us that 'For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth—visible and invisible.' 'Invisible things' include molecules and soundwaves.

### ***Fourteen Music Elements***

The fourteen elements are memorised using simple definitions, body actions, rhythms and melodies. Children also memorise the message each element teaches about God, as well as the supporting scriptures.

### ***Cause and Effect***

Music is not composed by chance. Just as a cake needs a cook and creation a Creator, so a piece of music needs a composer.

### ***Same but Different***

Each music element is an example of the concept of unity and diversity. For example, soundwaves are essentially

molecules bumping each other, but there is an enormous variety of types of soundwaves. This concept of same but different is the same within God's creation of the world and all that is in it. It reflects how He is a God of unity and diversity and can be Three-in-One. Creativity is based on this concept.

Composers use the same God-made elements to make a piece of music but each one does it differently.

### **Further Information**

We welcome your comments and questions. Write, phone or email at the contact details below.



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