What is the Standard for Christian Music?

Myself or God and His Word

C. Ezekiel 28:13 "Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God...the workmanship of thy timbrels and of thy flutes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created."

1. Tabrets (tambourines) or percussion, pipes, flute and organ were the instruments apparently that were a part of the angel Lucifer (Satan unfallen).
2. Lucifer, possibly then as the anointed cherub, led with these instruments around God’s throne, with the seraphims singing Holy, Holy, Holy (Isa. 6:2-3).
3. Since Lucifer means light bearer, after his fall is now Satan, still can transform himself into an angel of light, he still is a beautiful angel of light but fallen. Now a deceptive angel appearing in light (II Cor. 11:14).
4. We must beware today that Satan does influence our music. You can be sure that Satan has music in form and style that is directed by him and that accomplishes his goal of being like the Most High. Satan’s method is to detract from God’s glory in order to glorify himself (Isa. 14:12-14).

D. Revelation 14:3 & Psalm 40:3a
“And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God.”

~ The believer’s music is to be a new song.
1. New — different, distinct, new in quality
2. Music is the language of the heart; it reveals what is in the heart.
3. When our music is unto God, for His glory and honor, what will be the result?

IV. The Results of Christian Music

A. To unbelievers — Ps. 40:3b
“...many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”
1. Fear — reverential awe for God
2. Trust — confide, feel safe, be secure, out of the pit, safe on the rock, Christ Jesus

B. To believers — Col. 3:16-17
“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
1. Teaching — to instruct the Word of God with the mouth
2. Admonishing — to warn, reprove
3. Praising God

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Keith Ekberg
Some have these attitudes:

"I do not want anyone telling me that the music I like is wrong."

"I like this music because it make me feel good."

I. The Purpose for Christian Music

A. To glorify God in all things
   ~ I Cor. 10:31 "Whether, therefore, ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

B. To reflect God’s Holiness
   ~ I Pet. 1:15-16 "But, as he who hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of life, because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

C. To be for the Lord
   ~ Rev. 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."
   ~ Eph. 5:18-19 "And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

D. To Prophesy or Speak Forth God’s Message
   ~ I Sam. 10:5, I Chron. 25:1-3 "... who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the LORD."

E. Music’s ultimate goal
   1. To show the greatness of our God
      ~ I Cor. 10:31
   2. For God’s pleasure
      ~ Ps. 100, Rev. 4:11
      ~ Ps. 103:21 "Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts, ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure."

II. The Meaning of the Word “Music”

A. We get our English word “music” from the Greek word “muse”, which means to think, or meditate upon a message.

B. The English word “music” appears only once in the New Testament in Luke 15:25. It is the translation of another Greek word "sumphonia," which means unison of sound, or a harmonious note.

III. The Pattern for Christian Music

A. Romans 12:1-2 "... and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

   1. "Be not conformed to this world" ~ to change form from without is to be outwardly molded or fashioned. Do not let the world pressure you into its mold.
   2. "Be ye transformed"— to bring about a complete inward change. This change comes about by God's Word and His Holy Spirit.
   3. Our music style or form is not to come from unbelievers or this present world’s system.

B. Galatians 5:16-25 "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit; and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would..."

   1. We cannot mix the flesh and the spirit. They are contrary one to another.
   2. The world emphasizes the flesh ~ The music of the world emphasizes the sound to create a sensual bodily response or movement; therefore, the sound is primary and the words are secondary.
   3. The believer emphasizes the spirit ~ The music of the believer emphasizes the words to direct a person towards...