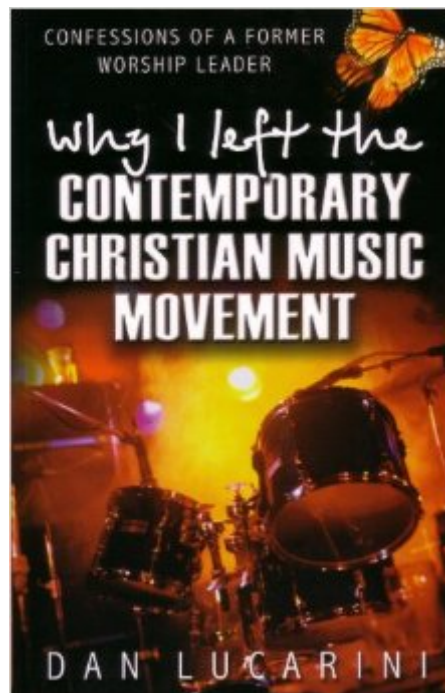


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Why I Left The Contemporary Christian Music Movement: Confessions Of A Former Worship Leader



Synopsis

For many churches today, music has become one of the most important factors in both their mode of worship and their attempts to reach unbelievers with the gospel. Writing from his own personal experience as a former worship leader, Dan Lucarini questions the use of contemporary music in the worship of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and shows why he believes many churches have been deceived into using ever-increasing worldly means to 'reach the lost'. He has seen at first hand how an emphasis on music, and the ultimate move towards rock music in particular, has caused divisions in the church, and turned the emphasis in worship away from the Lord towards ourselves. This warm and heartfelt account is intended to highlight these dangers and to help churches wishing to reverse this trend return God to his rightful place as the centre of our worship.

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Customer Reviews

I have lived through everything mentioned in this book, and I have heard every hateful, presumptive, dishonest criticism leveled by some of these reviewers. I was the music leader and deacon for an English-language church in Germany. I led a balanced song service, with a split of 60/40 or 40/60 hymn/contemporary songs almost every Sunday. I had only three rules for congregational songs: 1. It must have sound doctrine. 2. It must have a musical style that is generally recognized as beautiful. 3. It must be singable by the congregation. That was far too strict a standard for the rebels. They attacked me because I wasn't 100% CCM; because I didn't immediately incorporate every song that went to #1 on the "christian" pop charts. They introduced division in a church that had

been unified for years, and when we questioned some of the bad doctrine in their favorite songs, they accused us of being divisive. When we questioned the wisdom of kicking a church member off the drums and replacing him with a guy off a park bench who showed up for his "gig" wearing a t-shirt that says "I Love Death Metal and So Does Jesus," but leaving when it was time to hear God's Word, we were called hateful. When we asked the new pastor for help to combat the rebellion and the bad doctrine of these people, we were pushed out and replaced by the rebels. Dan Lucarini could have been a mouse in the corner, taking notes for his book, in that church. You find these people in 2 Tim 3:2-5. They are "lovers of self, arrogant, revilers, disobedient, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power." I tried for nearly two years to work with them, but they rebuffed every attempt. They have hurt so many people. And I am only 36 years old, with a great love for great lyrics and tunes, old and new--not one of the oldsters they hate so much. Bottom line: there were other churches in town that catered to the personal preferences of the rebels. They didn't really have to come into our church and destroy all that it had been, remaking it in their own image. Nobody forced them to come. Our big mistake was that we didn't force them to leave when we recognized them as rebels in the mold of King Saul, and fools in the mold of King Rehoboam. Instead, we tried to work with them and reason with them from the Bible. No matter how much Bible we used, it was "just our opinion." And so we are the ones wandering in the wilderness. Funny thing--now that the rebels have become the leaders, they demand submission to the church leadership as a condition for church membership. The thing they were unwilling to do, they demand of everyone else. Is God honored by this? Not according to the Bible.

I found this to be an excellent book written in the right spirit. I personally led music in a "traditional" church for many years. I have also debated Contemporaries and found that his book enumerated to a "t" the arguments used by the Contemporaries as well as the heavy labeling they resort to to marginalize or neutralize a "traditional". I would recommend this volume to those interested in the subject and in particular those who have found themselves in the crosshairs of the malevolent and distorted arguments of the Contemporaries. Buy the book!

We moved to a new area two years ago and started at a new church and all seemed well for a while. Then the music director left after some 20 years of service. Suddenly the new music director was prancing around the stage with his guitar flying and hands raised high as the praise singers and

band pumped out contemporary praise music at 92 decibels. (The volume was confirmed by the pastor, and that is more than loud enough to require ear protection.) Then one day they turned on the smoke machines and filled the sanctuary with smoke and flashing lights from the rock-concert-style TV screens. When I raised questions about where we were going the pastor said he had it on Biblical authority that my questions did not come from the Holy Spirit. Men I had been studying with weekly for more than a year insisted that nothing was wrong. They said if I didn't like it I should leave. And so I did, along with all of my family including my granddaughters. I was puzzled and frustrated by the experience until I read Dan Lucarini's book. It explains everything I saw happen at that church, which had turned into a Sunday rock concert venue. It also became clear why the teenagers were out of control during the services at that church. (The effort to isolate them in the central section of the sanctuary only made things worse.) Dan Lucarini's book explained to me in Biblical terms the source of my uneasiness in a church that would adopt the tactics of Simon the Magician rather than trust as Philip did in the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:9-13)

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