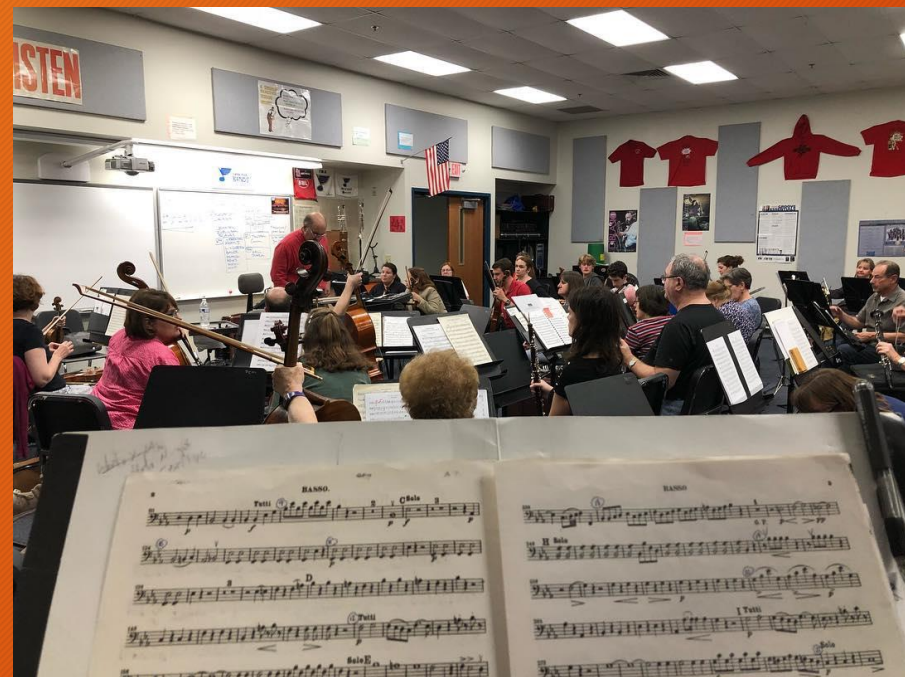


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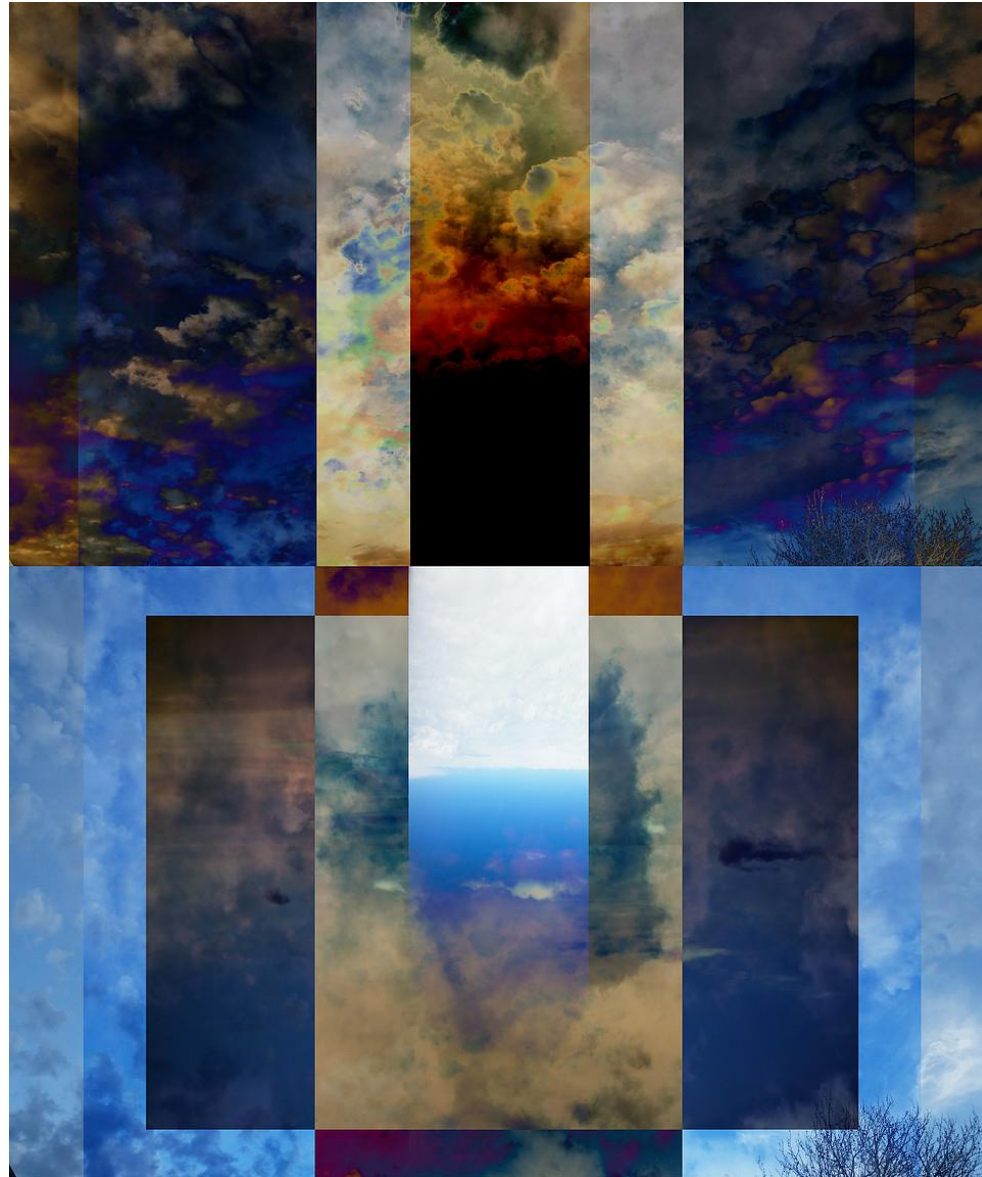
# Theologian by Day, Double Bass Player by Night: Luther on Instruments











Sarah Bernhard



# El Señor es mi luz (Salmo 27)

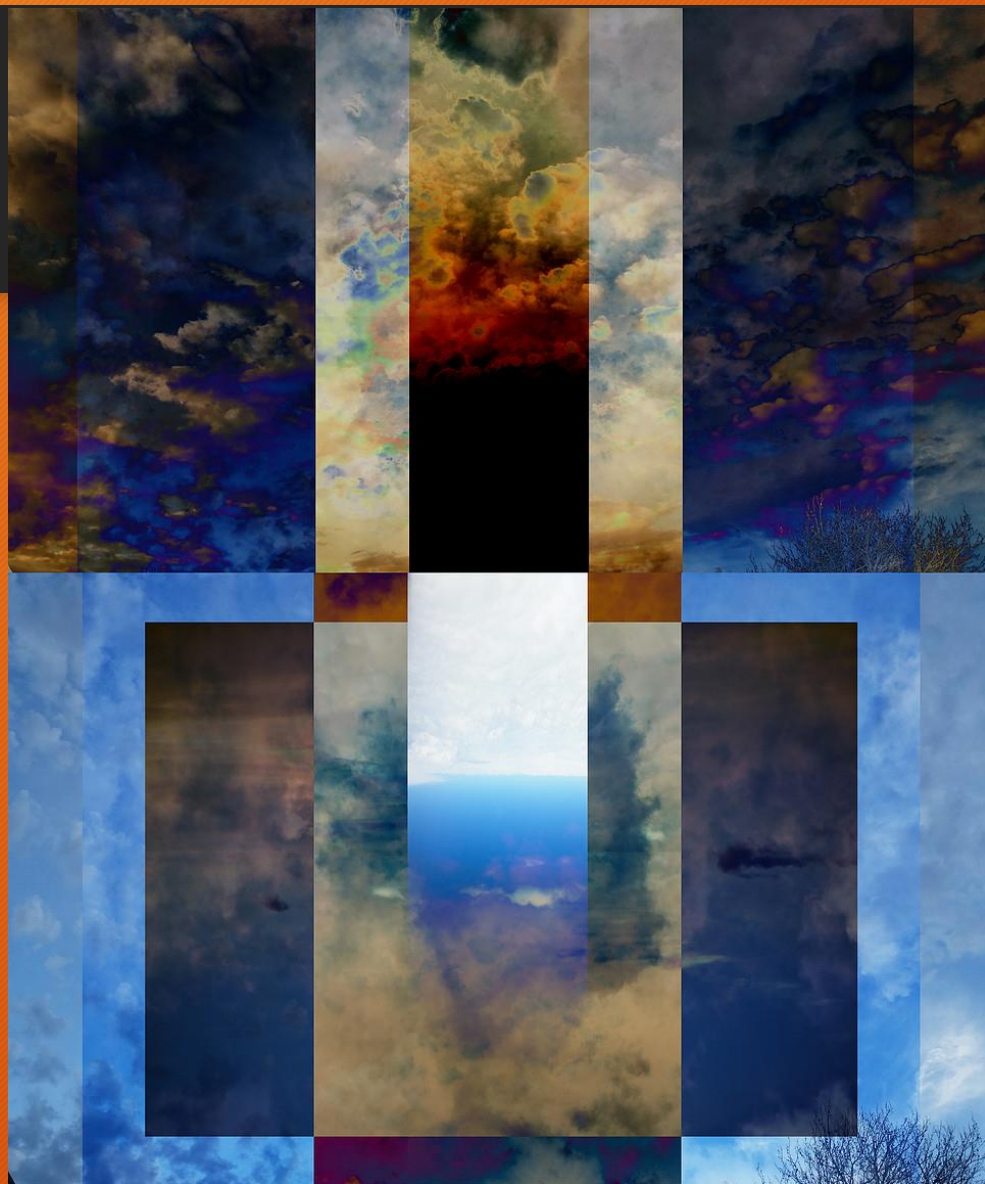
- EL SEÑOR ES MI LUZ Y MI SALVACIÓN.  
EL SEÑOR ES LA DEFENSA DE MI VIDA.  
SI EL SEÑOR ES MI LUZ, ¿A QUIÉN TEMERÉ?  
¿QUIÉN ME HARÁ TEMBLAR?

Una cosa pido al Señor:  
«habitar por siempre en su casa;  
gozar de la dulzura del Señor,  
contemplando su templo santo».  
ESTRIBILLO.

# Psalm 27:1,4 (ESV)

- The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?
- One thing have I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord  
and to inquire in his temple.





- ✓ Soothing high pitch harmonics placing fingers over strings
- ✓ Energetic tremolos with the bow
- ✓ Hitting strings with the bow's wood (col legno) introducing theme (chorus)
- ✓ Flowing lyrical version of the theme with the bow (verse, stanza)
- ✓ Festive plucking to a Cuban guaracha
- ✓ Playing a Panamanian tamborito rhythm percussively on the wood of the bass...
- ✓ ...accompanying Spanish rendition of the chorus



# Luther as a companion in the journey



GUSTAV SPANGENBERG,  
LUTHER MAKING MUSIC IN  
THE CIRCLE OF HIS FAMILY,  
CA. 1875



# Instrumental music is a gift from God, glorifies God

- “...except for theology there is no art that could be put on the same level with music, since except for theology [music] alone produces what otherwise only theology can do, namely, a calm and joyful disposition.”
- “God is to be praised by Christians, and He is praised today with both [the harp and the psaltery] and with many other musical instruments.”

# Instrumental music serves the proclamation of the Gospel

- “...the prophets did not make use of any art except music” to communicate the Word “so that they held theology and music most tightly connected, and proclaimed truth through Psalms and songs.”
- Psalms are “sermons of the sweet Gospel which proclaim God’s grace, honor, and praise,” and the “accompaniment of string music” are like the “deeds and miraculous signs” that accompany the Gospel.
- “As the fingers strum the strings to accompany the song of the mouth, so the preaching is accompanied by deeds and miraculous signs.”



# Instrumental music communicates the Gospel in new ways that are culturally appropriate

- “God has preached the gospel through music” like that of Josquin des Prez “whose compositions flow freely, gently, and cheerfully, are not forced or cramped by rules, and are like the song of the finch.”
- “Here it is more remarkable that one single voice continues to sing the tenor, while at the same time many other voices play around it, exulting and adorning it in exuberant strains and, as it were, leading it forth in a divine roundelay, so that those who are the least bit moved know nothing more amazing in the world.”

# Instrumental music teaches, moves, forms

- The psalmist's compositions are meant “both to praise God and to thank God...and to serve his fellowmen by stimulating and teaching them.”
- Because of their association with holy Scripture, the psalm is a “new song” and “the harp is holy and the psaltery is holy.”
- “She is a mistress and governess of those human emotions... which as masters govern men or more often overwhelm them...For whether you wish to comfort the sad, to terrify the happy, to encourage the despairing, to humble the proud, to calm the passionate, or to appease those full of hate...what more effective means than music could you find?”



# Instrumental music depicts Christ's sufferings and glory

- “In the first place, the harp is Christ Himself according to the human nature, who was stretched on the cross for us like a string on the harp. Thus to confess with the harp means to think about the acts and sufferings of Christ according to the flesh, for such meditation has its resonance from below, from humanity to divinity...The psaltery is the very same Christ according to divinity, as He dwells among the ten choirs of angels. And thus to confess with the psaltery means to think about divine and heavenly things and about the angels. And this meditation sounds down from above.”

# Instrumental music depicts the Christian's sharing in Christ's sufferings and glory

- “...the harp denotes the works of earthly prosperity or adversity, by means of which God is praised as it were from the lower parts, whereas the psaltery denotes the commandments of the decalog, which we receive as coming from above and which we then observe. Augustine's view is the same. However, he adds this besides, that the harp denotes the mortified flesh, by offering our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, etc. (Rom. 12:1).”



# The Hispanic Aesthetics Connection



- BIG CONCERN: Linking aesthetics with discipleship
- ✓ Seeing God's beauty through Christ crucified
- ✓ Inviting people to embody such beauty in a Christlike like of service to crucified peoples

“...the transformation effected in the experience of God's glory...must ultimately issue not just in transformed feelings...but, most importantly, in transformed actions, a transformed *praxis*.”

# Linking theology and ethics instrumentally

- BIG QUESTION:
- How does instrumental music embody God's beauty in Christ crucified in a way that forms people to embody His sacrificial life in acts of service toward marginalized, unattractive, forgotten neighbors?
- LUTHER'S INSIGHT
- Instrumental music can link Christology and ethics. It can proclaim and teach Christ for our salvation. It can also form and move us to be Christlike, dying with Christ in order to serve others.



# GUIDELINES FOR INSTRUMENTALISTS

INSTRUMENTALISTS ARE...

1. SERVANTS OF THE GOSPEL
2. INTERPRETERS OF CULTURE
3. BEARERS OF AN INCLUSIVE CATHOLICITY
4. BEARERS OF MERCY AND JUSTICE



