

# Style Wars

2005 NPM National Convention

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Fr. Jan Michael Joncas

# Theological Style Wars

- Positive Views of the Relationship of Worship and Music
- Negative Views of the Relationship of Worship and Music
- Conflicted Views of the Relationship of Worship and Music

# Thomas of Aquin (c. 1225 – 1274)



- The praise of the voice is necessary in order to arouse [human] devotion towards God. Wherefore whatever is useful in conducing to this result is becomingly adopted in the divine praises. Now it is evident that the human soul is moved in various ways according to various melodies of sound, as the Philosopher states (Polit. viii, 5), and also Boethius (De Musica, prologue). Hence the use of music in the divine praises is a salutary institution, that the souls of the faint-hearted may be the more incited to devotion. [ST IIaIIae.91.2.R]

# Martin Luther (1483-1546)



# Pambo of the Nitrian Desert (c. 303 –c. 375)



- Woe to us, my son! The days have come when monks turn away from the enduring nourishment which the Holy Spirit gives them and surrender themselves to singing. What kind of contrition is that? How can tears come from the singing of *troparia*? How can a monk possess contrition if he stays in the church or in his cell and raises his voice like the lowing of the cattle? . . . Monks have not come into this desert to place themselves before God in pride and presumption, to sing melodic songs and make rhythmic tunes, to shake their hands and stamp their feet. Our duty is to pray to God in holy fear and trembling, with tears and sighing, with devotion and diligence, with modesty and with a humble voice.

# Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531)





# Augustine of Hippo (354-430)



- Sometimes . . . I err by excessive severity, . . . sometimes so much so that I wish every melody of the sweet songs to which the Davidic Psalter is usually set, to be banished from my ears and from the church itself. . . . Safer to me seems what I remember was often told me concerning Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, who required the reader of the psalm to perform it with so little inflection of voice that it was closer to speaking than to singing. . . .

- However, when I recall the tears which I shed at the song of the Church in the first days of my recovered faith, and even now as I am moved not by the song but by the things that are sung, when sung with fluent voice and music that is most appropriate, I acknowledge the great benefit of this practice. Thus I vacillate between the peril of pleasure and the value of the experience, and I am led more . . . to endorse the custom of singing in church so that by the pleasure of hearing the weaker soul might be elevated to an attitude of devotion. Yet when it happens to me that the song moves me more than the thing that is sung, I confess that I have sinned blamefully and then prefer not to hear the singer. [Confessions X.33.49-50.]

# John Calvin (1509-1564)



# Linguistic Style Wars

- Original Language: “Mortem tuam annuntiamus, Domine, et tuam resurrectionem confitemur, donec venias.”
- Formal Correspondence: “Your death we proclaim, Lord, and your resurrection we confess, until you come.”
- Dynamic Equivalence: “Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!”
- Paraphrase: “Jesus died upon the cross. Christ arose from the dead. And, just as sure as the sun’s gonna shine, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, will come again!”

# Original Language: Psalm 23

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסֵר :  
I-shall-lack nothing one-being-shepherd-of-me Yahweh of-David psalm (23:1)

בְּנֵאֻוֹת רִשְׁאָה יְרֵבִיצֵנִי עַל-מֵי מְנוּחֹת  
quiet-ones greenness he-makes-lie-down-me beside waters-of in-pastures-of (2)

יִנְהַלֵּנִי : נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי-צְדָק  
he-leads-me (3) soul-of-me he-restores he-guides-me in-paths-of righteousness

לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ : גַּם כִּי-אֵלֶּךְ בְּגֵיא צְלֻמוֹת  
for-sake-of name-of-him (4) even though I-walk in-valley-of deep-darkness

לֹא-אֵירָא רָע כִּי-אֵתָהּ עִמָּדִי שֶׁבֶטְךָ וּמַשְׁעַנְתְּךָ הֵמָּה  
I-will-fear not evil for you with-me rod-of-you and-staff-of-you they

נִגַּד in-presence-of      שֻׁלְחָן table      לְפָנַי before-me      תַּעֲרֶךְ you-prepare      (5)      יִגְחֲמֵנִי they-comfort-me

כּוֹסִי cup-of-me      רֹאשִׁי head-of-me      בְּשֶׁמֶן with-the-oil      הִשָּׁנֵת you-anoint      צַרְרֵי ones-being-enemies-of-me

יָמַי days-of      כָּל- all-of      יִרְדְּפוּנִי they-will-follow-me      וְחָסַד and-love      טוֹב goodness      אֲדָא surely      (6)      רוּיָהּ overflow

יָמַיִם days      לְאֶרְךָ for-length-of      יְהוָה Yahweh      בְּבַיִת in-house-of      וְשָׁבַתִּי and-I-will-dwell      חַיֵּי lives-of-me

# Formal Correspondence: Psalm 23

- *Psalm Of David*
- Yahweh is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- In grassy meadows he lets me lie.
- By tranquil streams he leads me
- to restore my spirit.
- He guides me in paths of saving justice
- as befits his name.



- Even were I to walk in a ravine as dark as death
- I should fear no danger, for you are at my side.
- Your staff and your crook are there to soothe me.
  
- You prepare a table for me
- under the eyes of my enemies;
- You anoint my head with oil;
- my cup brims over.

- Kindness and faithful love pursue me
- every day of my life.
- I make my home in the house of Yahweh
- for all time to come.

Source: New Jerusalem Bible

# Dynamic Equivalence: Psalm 23

- *[A psalm by David]*
- **The Good Shepherd**
- You, LORD, are my shepherd.
- I will never be in need.
- You let me rest in fields of green grass.
- You lead me to streams of peaceful water,
- and you refresh my life.

- You are true to your name.
- And you lead me along the right paths.
- I may walk through valleys as dark as death,
- But I won't be afraid.
- You are with me,
- And your shepherd's rod makes me feel safe.

- You treat me to a feast,
- while my enemies watch.
- You honor me as your guest,
- and you fill my cup until it overflows.
- Your kindness and love will always be with me,
- each day of my life,
- And I will live forever in your house, LORD.
  
- Source: Contemporary English Version

# Paraphrase: Psalm 23

- The King of love my Shepherd is,
  - whose goodness faileth never;
  - I nothing lack if I am his
  - and he is mine forever.
- 
- Where streams of living water flow
  - my ransomed soul he leadeth,
  - and where the verdant pastures grow,
  - with food celestial feedeth.

- Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
  - but yet in love he sought me,
  - and on his shoulder gently laid,
  - and home, rejoicing, brought me.
- 
- In death's dark vale I fear no ill
  - with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
  - thy rod and staff my comfort still,
  - thy cross before to guide me.

- Thou spread' st a table in my sight;
  - thy unction grace bestoweth;
  - and, O, what transport of delight
  - from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 
- And so through all the length of days
  - thy goodness faileth never:
  - Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
  - within thy house for ever.
- 
- Source: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)



# Church Music Style Wars

- “Original” Music
- “Traditional” Music
- “Contemporary” Music

# “Original” Music: Psalm 23

## Synagogue chant

- Mizmor l’David.
- 
- Adonai ro’i, lo echsar.
- Bin’ot deshe yarbitseini.
- Al mei m’nuhot y’nahaleini.
- Naf’shi y’shovev.
- Yan’heini b’ma’aglei tsedek,
- L’ma’an sh’mo.

- Gam ki eilech b'gei tsalmavet,
  - Lo ira ra, ki Atah imadi.
  - Shiv't'cha umashan'techa
  - Hemah y'nahamuni.
- 
- Ta'aroch l'fanai shulchan
  - Neged tsor'rai.
  - Dishanta vashemen roshi.
  - Cosi r'vayah.

- Ach tov vahesed
- Yiro'funi kol y'mei hayai
- Y'shav'ti b'veit Adonai
- L'orech yamim.

- Source: Mitchell Kowitz

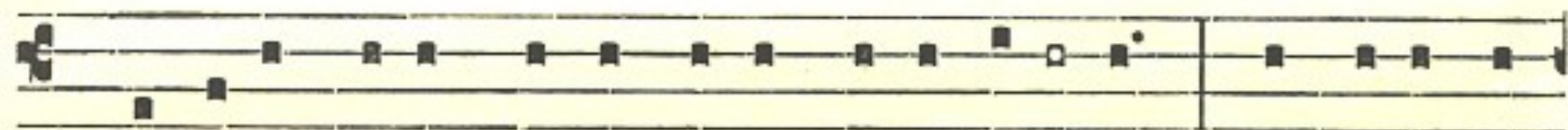
# “Traditional” Music: Psalm 23

- Gregorian Chant (psalm-tone)
- Anglican Chant (psalm-tone harmonized)
- Gelineau Chant (sprung rhythm pulsing)

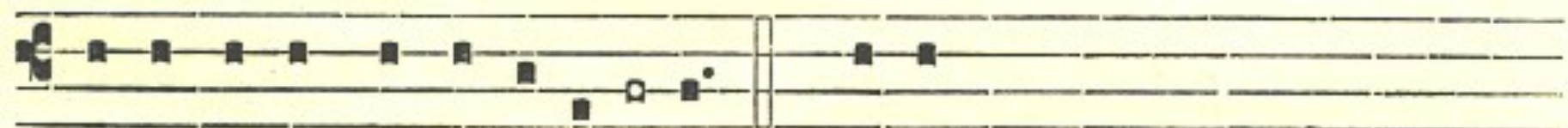
Gregorian Chant:  
“Psalm 22 [23]”

“Dominus regit me”

The Lord is the good Shepherd



1. Dóminus régit me, et ni-hil mí-hi **dé**-e-rit : \* in lóco pá-



scu-ae i-bi me **collocá**- vit. 2. Super...

2. Super áquam refectionis educávit me : \* ánimam méam **convértit**.

3. Dedúxit me super sémitas justítiae, \* propter nómen súum.

4. Nam et si ambulávero in médio úmbrae mórtis non timébo **mála** : \* quóniam *tu* **mécum** es.

5. Vírga túa et báculus **túus** : \* ípsa me **consoláta** sunt.

6. Parásti in conspéctu méo **ménsam**, \* advérsus éos qui **tribulant** me.

7. Impinguásti in óleo cáput **méum** : \* et cálix méus inébrians quam **praeclárus** est!

8. Et misericórdia túa subsequétur me \* ómnibus diébus *vít*ae **méae** :

9. Et ut inhábitem in dómo **Dómini**, \* in longitúdinem *di*érum.

Anglican Chant:  
“Psalm 23”

Charles Hylton Steward (1884-1932):  
“Dominus pastor meus”



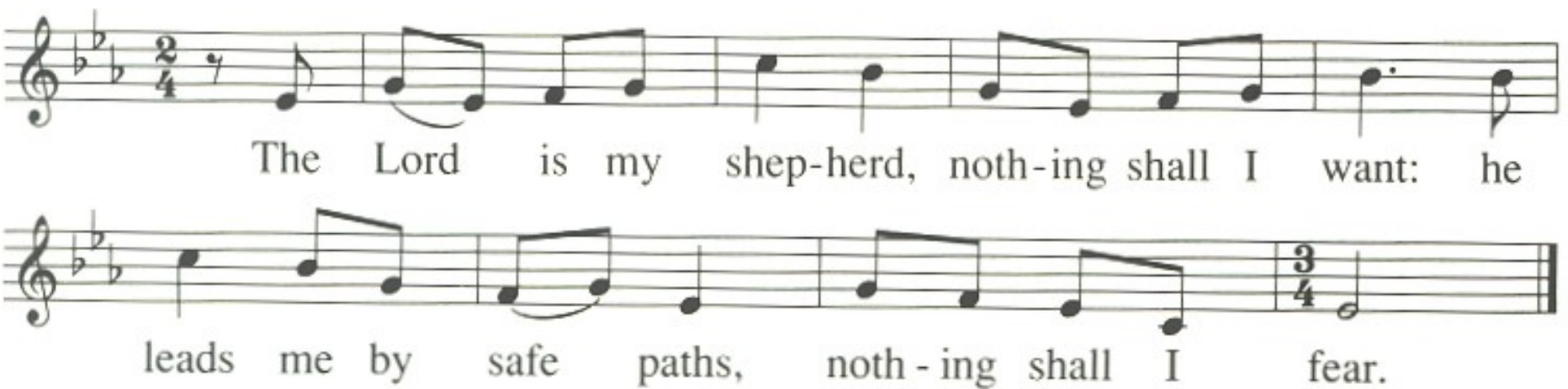
- The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.
- He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.
- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
- Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me; thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

- But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
- As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Gelineau Chant:  
“Psalm 23”

Joseph Gelineau:  
“Lord, You are My Shepherd”

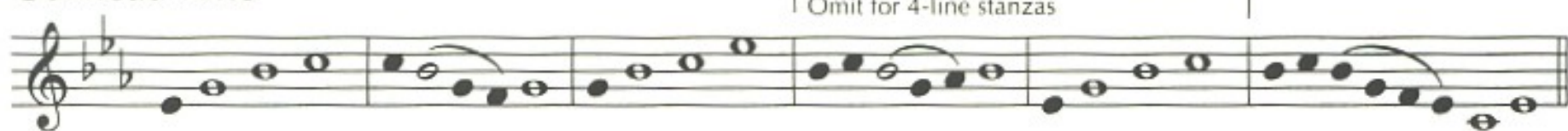
Antiphon II



The Lord is my shep-herd, noth-ing shall I want: he  
leads me by safe paths, noth - ing shall I fear.

The image shows a musical score for a two-line antiphon. The first line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The second line continues the melody and ends with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

## Gelineau Tone



<sup>1</sup> **Lord**, you are my **shepherd**;  
there is **nothing** I shall **want**.

<sup>2</sup> **Fresh** and **green** are the **pastures**  
where you **give** me **répose**.

Near **restful waters** you **lead** me,  
<sup>3</sup> to **revive** my drooping **spirit**.

You **guide** me **along** the **right path**;  
You are **true** to your **name**.

<sup>4</sup> If I should **walk** in the **valley** of **darkness**  
no **evil** would I **fear**.

You are **there** with your **crook** and your  
**staff**;  
with **these** you give me **comfort**.

<sup>5</sup> You have prepared a **banquet** for me  
in the **sight** of my **foes**.

My **head** you have **anointed** with **oil**;  
my **cup** is **overflowing**.

<sup>6</sup> Surely **goodness** and **kindness** shall  
**follow** me

all the **days** of my **life**.

In the **Lord's** own **house** shall I  **dwell**  
for **ever** and **ever**.

To the **Father** and **Son** give **glory**,  
give **glory** to the **Spirit**.

To God who **is**, who **was**, and who **will**  
**be**

for **ever** and **ever**.

# “Contemporary” Music: Psalm 23

- Elemental Music [Folk-Pop Style]: Refrain / Verses
- African-American Idiom: Through-Composed
- Responsorial: Antiphon / Refrains / Verses

# Elemental Music: Refrain - Verses

Tom Conry:  
“Psalm 23”

Refrain



God a-lone may lead my Spir-it far a-way from want and fear,



for the Lord is my true shep-herd and I know the Lord is near.



Verses



1. I am led be-side God's peace-ful wa-ter and I sleep in the
2. Though I wan-der the val - ley of dy-ing, I shall know that I
3. You have spread\_ your ban - quet be - fore me in the un - bro-ken
4. On - ly mer-cy and good - ness pur - sue me while that breath and that



1. arms of the earth. Who guides me a - long paths of
2. walk in your sight, with your staff that is ev - er be -
3. sight of my foes, while my head is a - noint - ed with
4. jus - tice en - dure. And I'll dwell in the house of God's



1. hon - or? Who re - fresh - es my life from my birth?
2. fore me and your rod \_\_\_\_\_ to guard at my right.
3. kind - ness and the cup of my life o - ver - flows.
4. keep - ing who has o - pened the mouths of the poor.

# African-American Idiom

Leon C. Roberts:

“The Twenty-Third Psalm”

- The Lord is my shepherd (Hallelujah),
- I shall not want.
- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
- He leadeth me beside the still waters,
- He restoreth my soul, he restoreth my soul,
- He restoreth my soul. (2x)
- He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness,
- He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness,
- He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness,
- For his name's sake. (2x)

- The Lord is my shepherd (xxxx).
  - Yea though I walk through the valley of death,
  - I fear no evil.
  - For thou art with me;
  - Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me, comfort me, comfort me.
- 
- Thou preparest a table before me
  - In the presence of mine enemies.
  - Thou anointest my head with oil;
  - My cup runneth over, over, over, over.

- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,
- All the days of my life.
- And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever,
- And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever,
- And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever,
- All the days of my life. (2x and vamp)

Responsorial:  
Antiphon / Formulae / Refrains

Collegetown Composers' Group:

“My Shepherd is the Lord”



My shep-herd is the Lord, there is no-thing I shall need.



Be - side the rest-ful wa-ters my God re-fresh-es me.

Verses



...there is no-thing I shall need.



...my God re - fresh-es me.

# Leonard Bernstein: Chichester Psalms

#2: Psalm 23 “Adonai roi”