

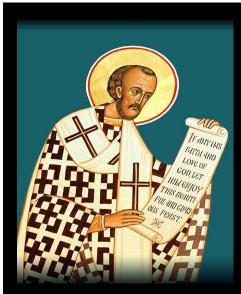
Pliny the Younger, the governor of Bithynia wrote this letter to Emperor Trajan concerning the Christians (112 AD):

Pliny the Younger Imperial magistrate under Trajan

They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food – but food of an ordinary and innocent kind.

Pliny, Letters, transl. by William Melmoth, rev. by W.M.L. Hutchinson (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1935), vol. II, X:96, cited in Habermas, The Historical Jesus, 199.

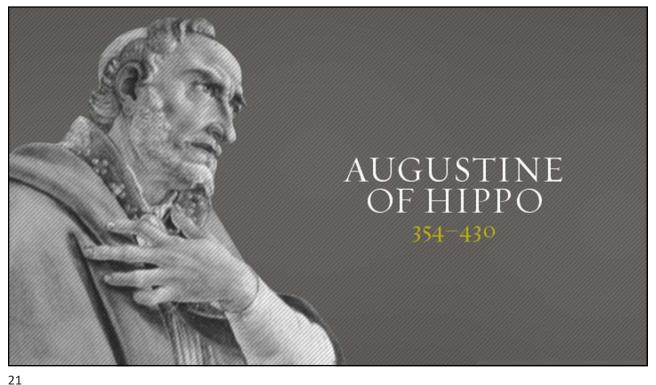
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John Chrysostom Archbishop of Constantinople 347 – 407 AD

Musical instruments were "only permitted to the Jews, like sacrifice, for the imbecility and grossness of their souls, God condescending to their weakness because they were only just drawn off idols."

www.christianstudylibrary.org/article/musical-instruments-worship



Augustine worried about the distracting effect of melody — people enjoying the tune of the hymn rather than its truths. He even suggested replacing singing by simple recitation.

www.christianstudylibrary.org/article/musical-instruments-worship

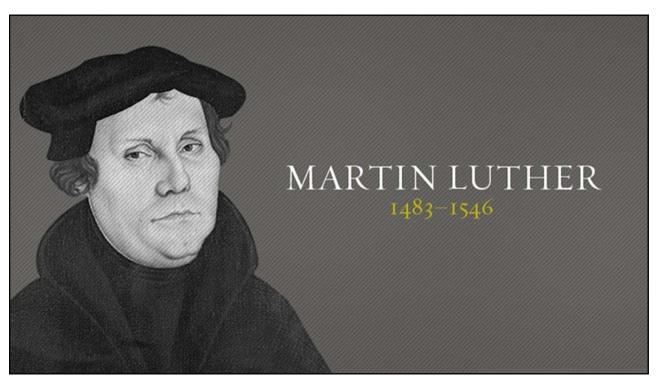
"The Church does not use musical instruments such as the harp or lyre when praising God, lest she should seem to lapse into Judaism ... As **Aristotle** says, "Flutes ought not to be introduced into teaching, nor any artificial instrument such as the harp, nor anything of the kind, but only such things as make men good (or possibly, 'foster attentive listeners')." For musical instruments usually move the soul more to pleasure than create a good internal disposition. But in the Old Testament, instruments of this kind were used, both because the people were more coarse and carnal, so that they needed to be aroused by such instruments and with temporal promises, and also because these bodily instruments were figurative of something."



1225-1274 AD

www.christianstudylibrary.org/article/musical-instruments-worship

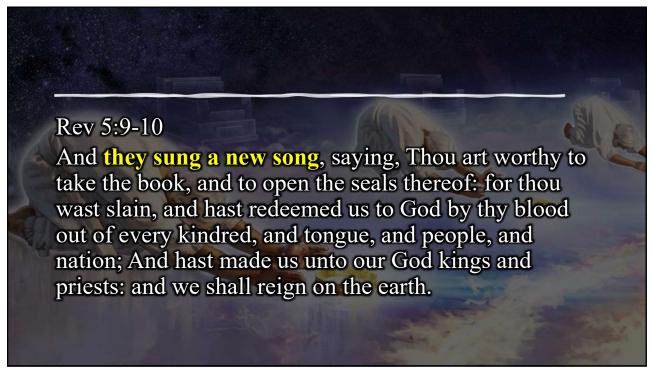
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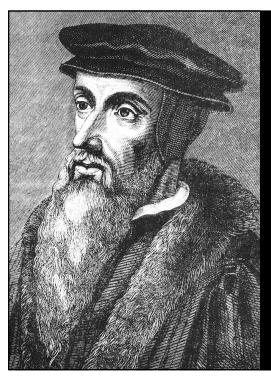






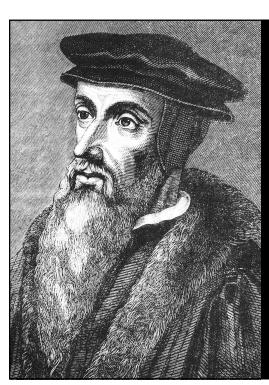






"What, therefore, was in use under the Law is by no means entitled to our practice under the Gospel; and these things being not only superfluous, but useless, are to be abstained from, because pure and simple modulation is sufficient for the praise of God, if it is sung with the heart and with the mouth. We know that our Lord Jesus Christ has appeared, and by His advent has abolished these legal shadows.

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Instrumental music, we therefore maintain, was only tolerated on account of the times and the people, because they were as boys, as the sacred Scripture speaks, whose condition required these puerile rudiments. But in Gospel times we must not have recourse to these, unless we wish to destroy the evangelical perfection, and to obscure the meridian light which we enjoy in Christ our Lord."



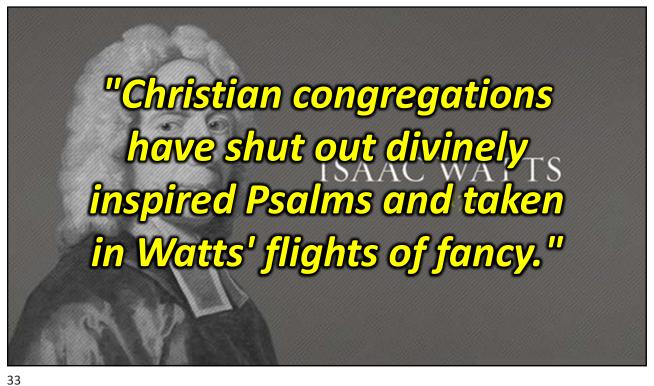
There was a pastor's son, who one day was complaining to his father about the music in church.

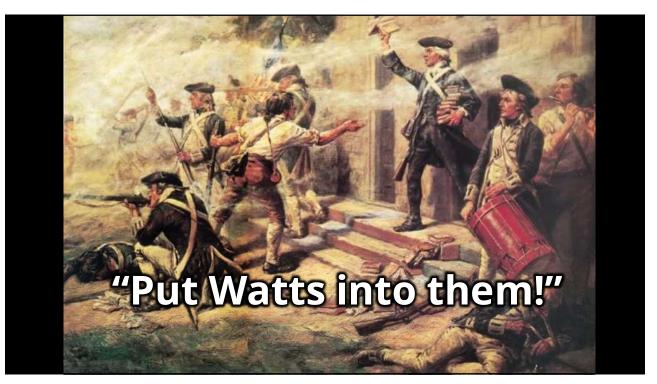
Calvinist influenced churches didn't believe in instruments and only believed in singing Psalms in monotone acapella.

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The young man's pastor father replied:

"Son, why don't you mend the matter?"



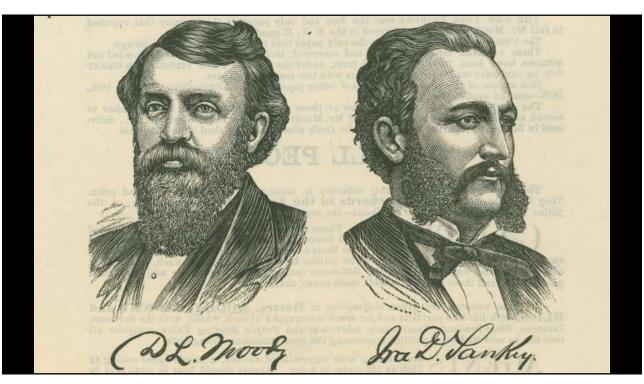


May 1789, Rev. Adam Rankin told the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, meeting in Philadelphia:

"I have ridden horseback all the way from my home in Kentucky to ask this body to refuse the great and pernicious error of adopting the use of Isaac Watts' hymns in public worship in preference to the Psalms of David."

www.songsandhymns.org/people/detail/Isaac-Watts





Ira Sankey traveled with Moody to lead the singing. Early on it was not uncommon to have people walk out.

One account was of a Scottish woman stomping out saying, "Let me out! Let me out! What would John Knox think of the likes of you?"

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