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Flying Bow Stirs Hearts

Violinist's music testifies to God's redemption and grace.

by Patricia Paddey

The electric violin is coloured bright blue, and when Guelph, Ontario musician Trevor Dick creates his music upon it, the impact on his audience is profound.

Whether he's playing a familiar classic like "Amazing Grace" or contemporary Latin or Celtic-sounding melodies of his own creation, his music is worshipful, inviting listeners young and old to relax in to the experience. Toes tap and heads nod in time to the rhythm of his music; tears glisten on smooth and deeply lined cheeks alike.

"I believe all music's been created by God, regardless of whether or not it's perceived as a Christian song," Dick says when asked why he included secular selections such as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" when performing for a mostly Christian audience. "I believe that melody and inspiration were created by God. 'Somewhere Over the rainbow' is a beautiful song and it touches people. I've had 80-year-old women singing along softly the words to the music of that song."

Touching people with music is what Dick is all about. "When I'm playing for people and I can see that they're being touched; I really feel that that's my calling and part of my purpose."

Although he is now confident that he is operating within God's will, Dick has not always been so certain. As a university student well on his way to becoming a concert violinist, he received an injury that developed into a chronic problem. When he learned the physical ailment would prevent his dream of playing at the concert level, he was devastated. But God, he says, was quick to reveal another way.

Dick became a teacher. He graduated with a bachelor of music in 1989. The following year, he completed a bachelor of education. Today, he instructs some 40 students from his private home-based studio, as well as teaching part-time at a local Christian school, where he runs a Grade 7 and 8 band program. In his spare time, he accepts performance engagements.

"I have a tremendous amount of joy when I play." But joy wasn't always there for Dick, for his was a childhood marked with sadness.

Dick was only four when his father, a medical missionary in Nigeria, died in a car accident. There was no life insurance. His mother, left with seven children to raise, brought the family back to Canada where the gifts of caring fellow Christians paid the bills.

He remembers countless miracles of God's provision during his growing-up years, and times of wondering how the provision would come. But Dick's mother made certain there were always music lessons, because music had been important to the family.

"It's a wonderful mode of expression," Dick says. "It's just a beautiful art form. I think the violin is probably the closest instrument to the human voice."

Dick's melodic expressions are attracting significant attention. Last year he was nominated for a Vibe (now Shai) Award in the instrumental music category. He recently returned from a mission trip to Quito, Ecuador, where he performed with his band, 5th String Blvd.

While excited about the doors God is opening for his music, Dick remains content to allow Him to take the lead, insisting his only goal is to "be used of God for His purposes."

"I think God gave me this gift," he says. "My music is a way that I can give back to God and worship Him. God created music. I just feel that this is what He [wants me to do]."

For more information, visit www.flyingbow.com.

Patricia Paddey is the Ontario correspondent for Christian Week.

Originally published in Christian Week, March 4, 2005.
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