Doctrine of Art and Beauty

Music in Art

1. Music has the power to affect the soul and thus the behaviour of a person.

2. Music can create a rhythm that is accompanied by a dance. Liturgical dancing is commended in Scripture.
   - *Psalms 149:3* Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. 4 For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

3. Music is used intentionally to create a mood to dine by. There is elevator music, and dental music.

4. The mood of King Saul was changed when David played his comforting music.
   - *1 Samuel 16:22* And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. 23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

5. Music can be used in an inappropriate way to excite the sensual desires of people.
   - *1 Corinthians 10:7* Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

   - *Exodus 32:15* And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. 16 And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables. 17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. 18 And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. 19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses’ anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. 20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

6. Some music leads to murder. On May 19, 1983, Diane Downs killed her seven year old daughter, and attempted to kill her other two children, while listening to the music, Crazy Like a Wolf.

7. Music has been used to charm snakes, such as the cobra in India. There is a pattern to the movement and music of the snake charmer’s pungi or bansuri.
8. Some people believe plants respond to music.

9. Almost every movie has a sound track in order to guide the mood of the audience. There is a purpose for the music.

10. Some young people who have been found guilty of murder, have honestly confessed to being influenced by rock music, leading to pornography, leading to murder.

11. There is music, such as heavy metal, and rap, which celebrates sex and violence. Major businesses, which are unscrupulous, will use this music which appeals to the youth to sell their products.

12. Movies also exploit inappropriate music, reflected in the 1986, *Ferris Buller’s Day Off*, to impact culture and behavior.

13. Music is different from noise. A jackhammer makes noise. A cat overturning a trash can make noise. Music, however, is more sophisticated. It adheres to the principles of harmony, intervals, and proportion.

14. The elements of music involves:

   - **Melody** has an infinite number of ways to arrange the 12 tones in a scale.

   - **Harmony** involves a sequence of notes, sometimes different. Multiple tones are played at the same time. Chords are made of three or more notes. There is a mathematical relationship of tones to make up chords.

     It is sometimes thought that Jazz has no harmony, no melody, and no proportionality, and it has no complexity. However, it does have all of these components, though they are harder to immediately recognize. Jazz is improvisation, though rational, mathematical relationships.

     Western music is mainly tertian. Music is built on tones of thirds. A simple C major chord, C E G is built on a major third followed by a minor third. Or, a minor third is followed on top by a major third to form a basic chord.

     In the East, most music is based on a quarter system, a fourth.

   - **Rhythm**.

   - **Timbre**. This is a reference to how the sound is influenced by the mode, or sound in which it is expressed. The tone of B flat sounds one way. If you hear a B flat played by a violin, the sound is different, though it is the same note. Why? Because the instrument influences the tone. The same B flat will sound different when played by an oboe.