

Intentionality: Music at Camp

Nutshell first, and philosophy/examples follow

Nutshell

- ü What goal/intention am I hoping to serve by using music / this song?
 - o How is this goal balanced against the goals of anti-buzz, focus on nature?
- ü Is the intention of the group/audience unified? How do I know that?
- ü Order of preference
 1. Singing
 2. Live music
 3. Recorded music

Mood

- o Jazz, modern rock, classic rock, hip hop, new age, classical, . . . each of these produces a mood. Imagine Native Flute being played, or Walking on Sunshine via stereo. The “DJ” holds power over.
- o When a mood is played for everyone, everyone is influenced more or less.
- o If a given camper is feeling differently than the music, it is tough to swim against the strong current.
- o Testing intention: would I be imposing, without consideration and agreement, a mood over the group/audience that wouldn’t otherwise be present in them all? What would evolve without it?

Nature and human beings

- o The forest and nature has a soundtrack already – listen to it more carefully.
- o Silence has a value in and of itself; it is not empty.
- o Listening to one another is not something that is a refined and developed skill; it appears to be going the other way as life gets more cluttered and busy.
- o Conversation, learning, and playing are becoming more difficult as people require things to help them in those endeavors
- o Happiness does not depend on music. Think cross-culturally and historically. Consider the Amish, who use nothing electronic whatsoever. They do play live music, and they are complete with it. Recorded music is not necessary for completeness/happiness.
- o Song exists in all cultures throughout time and place. Yet, singing is largely absent from modern American life. How songs are felt about was instilled by this culture, not innate.

Adding to life

- o 30 years ago, a cordless phone was something for the very wealthy, and they worked horribly.
- o Cell phone antennas used to grace the Mercedes and Bentleys, and the phones came in bags with a shoulder strap
- o Having a screen in a car is a common option, and soon it won’t be optional. The 45 hours of screen time for children does not include listening to music.
- o iPods are projected to reach 309 million sold by the end of 2008 (worldwide). Other MP3 players are in addition to that number.

- There is a buzz to life . . . ask your campers when they are without electronics in their life on a daily basis.
- If campers don't experience what life is like without a background present, when will they ever do so?

Music as a tool

- Yes, it absolutely is. So are televisions, the internet, caffeine, sugar, walking, cars, . . .
- Music is accessible to everyone. It may be an opportunity to connect and enjoy in the nurturing camp environment
- What can be gained by limiting some tools in service of other goals?

Music at camp

- When it is central and necessary to what is happening at camp, or in the cabin.

Central and Necessary	Not
Music at a dance	Music played over a meal in the dining area
Talent show act	Cabin is doing a craft, with music played
Embers – the song IS the point of the embers	Riding in a van/car anywhere
Theme dinner, strings at classical Italian meal	Music at an area of camp where something else is the focus – tea pagoda / hot tub / hammock village / etc.
Evening program – all engaged / similar intention	Kitchen music is not to be heard outside of it
Singing camp songs almost always adds to camp	

- Whenever possible, live music is preferred – let Live Root go for it.
- Examples of music balanced against anti-buzz and focus on nature
 - ✓ Ghost squad with ghostly songs playing
 - ✓ Dance party at the end of a talent show

Lyrics / song choice

Appropriate	Not
Love that inspires and engenders health / fullness	Genitalia referenced directly or innuendo
Community songs (Campfire song staples)	Sex, direct or innuendo
Hold to the higher self	Love without substance / head over heels
Inspire to the greater good	Relationships – heightens already high sensitivity
Playful / fun	Drugs / alcohol / smoking
	Focus on appearance as value / Objectification

- Would you take the subject of the song, explicit or implied, and have it as a positive evening embers? The difference with a more controversial song subject is that there is not a discussion with the whole camp that follows it.
- Campers are overstimulated and overexposed to many developmentally inappropriate topics and experiences. Camp is a haven. Camp is taking the red pill, so they can see difference. Standing in shit so long they don't smell or see it – normal to be in shit. Come to the forest, without shit, and smell the trees.
- All ages at camp. Embers topics about sex and relationships, not singing about unhealthy elements in song.
- Vision statement test: To reclaim and foster the beauty, wonder, awe, potential, and innocence of childhood. What does this mean to you – say it out loud.
- HERO test: Would a professional role model approve of the message and content? Watch the modern HERO slide show, and read the staff manual page and see where you sit.

Song examination

- Many songs have wonderful elements to them, and the intentions chosen for singing them, but they come with other baggage.
- There are millions of songs in the world – choose songs with the highest intentions and the fewest side effects, if any

Song title	Intention – surface and subliminal	Benefit gained / side effects

Song examples of camp appropriate

Linger	Lion Hunt	Boa constrictor	Circle game	Imagine
Canoe song	Blue sky sunshine	Lion sleeps tonight	Pooh Corner	Redemption song
Prune	Friend Ham	Country road	Blowin' in the wind	Rainbow Connection (Kermit)
On the loose	Puff magic dragon	Celebration	Stand by me	Lean on me
Boldness has genius	Let it be	Joy to the world	You got it <small>(anything you need)</small>	That's what friends are for
Building bridges	Help from my friends	Wonderful world	Walking on sunshine	Don't worry, be happy
Teach your children	Big yellow taxi	Sound of silence	Love is the 7 th wave	What The World Needs Now Is Love
Princess Pat				That's what friends are for
Flee sta!				Keep on the Sunny Side

Many (NOT all) songs by/in the following: “Rise up Singing,” The Beatles, most folk artists, Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkle, James Taylor, Musicals, Joni Mitchell, Joan Baez, Tracy Chapman, Eva Cassidy, Indigo Girls, Dar Williams, Paul Simon, Cat Stevens, John Denver, Peter-Paul-Mary, Kenny Rogers,

Tons of current/recent songs that fit the intentions

Write a song – be the creation, bring you to camp for the ages