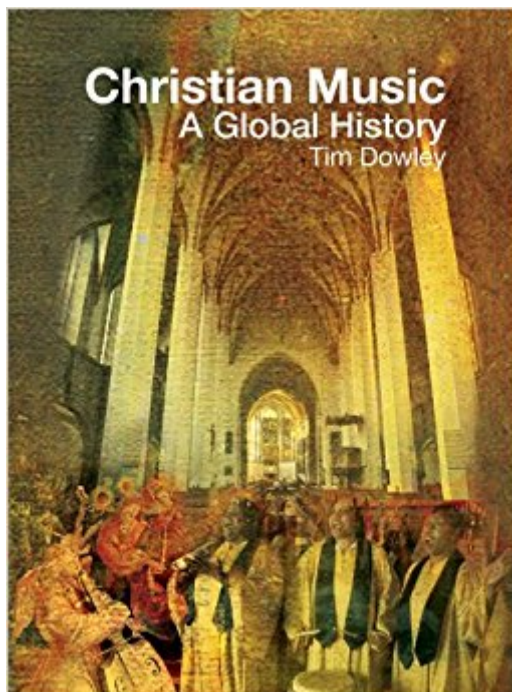


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# Christian Music: A Global History



## Synopsis

Tim Dowley's popular history of Christian music is the first to encompass all eras, regions, and varieties of this rich and vast treasure. From its Jewish origins, through medieval chant and hymns, to gospel and rock, Christian music around the world is harmonized beautifully in this colorfully illustrated survey. Dowley travels beneath the plurality of forms and styles to pose questions about the meaning of diverse traditions. His skillful narrative and fascinating insights from specialists combine for a truly global history of Christianity's musical culture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tim Dowley is editor of the highly acclaimed and successful Introduction to the History of Christianity, now in its third edition, and author of The Christians: An Illustrated History (2008) and The Student Bible Atlas (1990), among many other titles on history of Christianity and the Bible.

This is clearly a textbook. Perhaps it is used in college or even high school as part of a "music appreciation" class. I purchased the book because I had a genuine interest in the evolution of "Christian" music over the last 2,000 years with an emphasis upon where this genre is today. It was a very informative book, though I sometimes felt things were not covered chronologically. It seemed we would move forward in time in one section and then backward in another; however, there probably is not a better way to handle the subject matter. Good read if you are interested in such subjects.

An excellent overview of Christian music globally. Topics are too brief for a scholar but just right for the interested reader.

Beautiful book - photos and drawings are very well done and narrative is comprehensive. If Christian music is your area of interest this is a wonderful book to have!

A wonderfully presented resource with well researched information - Most impressed

Because this book has more than met my expectations; plus the arrival time was right on time for the class I was taking.

Each and every week, throughout the country, churches are discussing what "worship style" their congregation should embrace. Some people believe that churches should embrace a more "contemporary" style, following recent trends in secular and worship music and bringing those musical styles into the church. Others embrace a more "traditional" style of worship, believing that they are reflecting a historic faith by the songs they sing. Both people who are traditional and people who are more contemporary could benefit by reading Tim Dowley's *Christian Music*, which describes historic contributions to and development of music in the church. Many persons who might embrace a more traditional worship style will be surprised how the way people do church music and worship has changed throughout the centuries. *Christian Music* tracks them all. From the pre-Christian worship of the Ancient Hebrews, to the chant of the early church, on to the radical revolutions in the way churches incorporated worship after the Reformation and beyond, Dowley clearly demonstrates that worship in the Christian church has always been changing and evolving. Persons who embrace a more contemporary style will be impressed with how similar the concerns and goals of historical church musicians were to their own. Many of the revival songs that we now understand as "traditional" because of their instrumentation were actually attempts and presenting Christian music to nonbelievers in a way that would be easy for them to both sing and understand. This book is certainly a pleasure to hold in one's hand. The pages are thick. The text is filled with high quality photographs of artwork and worship settings that skillfully illustrate each era in the development of church music. The text is well footnoted. It also has a nice index. *Christian Music* works hard to cover the theological and cultural diversity of church music as it has developed. I only have one disappointment. This book billed as a global resource. Much of the discussion of church music in a "global" sense makes it into each chapter through a small article

that serves as an interlude between sections in the book. I would have liked to have known more about the development of church music outside of Western Civilization in more depth. Over all though, Christian Music would make a wonderful book to own and read, as well as a great textbook. If I had a coffee table, I would say it would be a good coffee table book as well with the fine artistic sensibility the book presents. This book is both smart and classy. I loved it!

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