

## Prayer for World Music Day (June 21)

Good and Gracious God, Scripture reminds us  
Trumpeters and musicians raised their voices  
To thank you for heeding their cries for justice.

Today, cries of injustice are heard  
From East to West and from North to South.  
Our hearts weigh heavy with sorrow  
with the outbreak of war and famines.  
Our prayers for victims of gender-based violence, torture,  
and racism appear to be empty words.  
Our efforts to transform injustice to justice are mired in futility.

As despair seeks to grip hold of us,  
May we chase after wisdom, inspiration, and motivation  
Drawn from artists, past and present, whose music  
Promotes peace among people, communities, and societies.

Inspire us to move outside our comfort zones  
And to permit the lyrics of different genres  
To widen our understanding  
And appreciation of cultures and inequity,  
And foster tolerance and active nonviolence.

Daily, as we listen to a piece of music,  
May we offer gratitude to the world-wide circle  
Of composers, musicians, and singers  
Whose music keeps the thread of hopefulness alive  
And comforts the brokenhearted;  
And whose notes and lyrics paint images  
Of the floods of injustices engulfing our world.

May we allow music, of past and present,  
To serve as a universal act of conscience  
On how we treat others and how fear and silence  
Can make us complicit to injustice.

Through music, may we seek to promote the common good  
While healing wounds of the world.  
May we learn to use our gifts and talents  
To be your instruments of peace,  
To proclaim justice in times of unrest  
And to make peace possible for the future  
By acting in the present. Amen.

— Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U.



*“The trumpeters and musicians  
joined in unison to give praise  
and thanks to the Lord...  
singers raised their voices  
in praise to the Lord and sang: ‘  
God is good;  
God’s love endures forever.’”  
—2 Chronicles 5:13-14*