



Wine, art, and music

An exploration of culture and communion.

Paul Wagner

Napa Valley College

What is Art?

Creation?

Expression of Emotion?

Exploration?



What is the difference between art and craft?

- Replication?
- Lack of exploration?



Is wine art, or craft?

► How do you know?



A dark blue arrow points to the right from the left edge of the slide. Below it, several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey sweep across the left side of the slide.

Let's about talk wine and music

- ▶ Why they matter

- ▶ What we can learn from music

We love music

- ▶ We love it
- ▶ We embrace it
- ▶ We share it



We love wine

- We are intimidated by it
- We worry about it
- We fear sharing it





Wine is an expression of Culture: Not of Geology

- ▶ Winemakers spend endless hours talking about soils and rainfall, but that does not recognize the seminal role that culture plays in winemaking.
- ▶ Winemakers are trained, they learn from their elders, they study, they learn from each other---they learn by osmosis. They adopt the vision for wine that their culture has created.
- ▶ Just like artists and musicians

Wine is an expression of Culture Not of Geology



- ▶ Why do the cathedrals of Sevilla and Barcelona look so different?
- ▶ It's not the stones, it's the culture of the people.
- ▶ Cathedrals, music and wine are expressions of community and culture. We create them together.



Music and Wine are both part of us. Literally!

- ▶ We make music with our voices, with our bodies.
- ▶ By drinking, we make wine part of our bodies
- ▶ And the wine then helps us make music.





There are three basic elements to music

- Rhythm
- Melody
- Harmony

➤ And these same elements correlate directly to wine.



There are three basic elements to music

- **Rhythm**

- Melody

- Harmony

- So let's start by talking about rhythm...

Rhythm:

- ▶ Rhythm is the connection to the natural world. It is the **passage of time.**
- ▶ Wine is the only beverage that conveys **not only a sense of place but also of time.** We drink bottles from memorable years.



Rhythm:

- At its most basic, rhythm is **the beat of the human heart**. It is the proof that we are alive. And everything comes from that foundation.
- Day and night
- Winter, spring, summer and fall
- Rhythm is budbreak and veraison and harvest.
- To everything, there is a season:
- A time to sow and a time to reap.
- This is the rhythm of wine.

- Music: Beethoven's 7th, 2nd movement.



Nature Dictates the Rhythm

- ▶ Rhythm dictates the pace of life or the steps we dance, whether that be a waltz, a march or a tango. It brings us a sense of romance—
- ▶ But it also demands that **we obey it.**
- ▶ Rhythm is the natural world.
- ▶ We dance to nature's tune.
- ▶ Music: Tango



A black arrow points to the right from the left edge of the slide. Several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey originate from the left side and sweep across the slide towards the text.

There are three basic elements to music

- Rhythm
- **Melody**
- Harmony



Melody

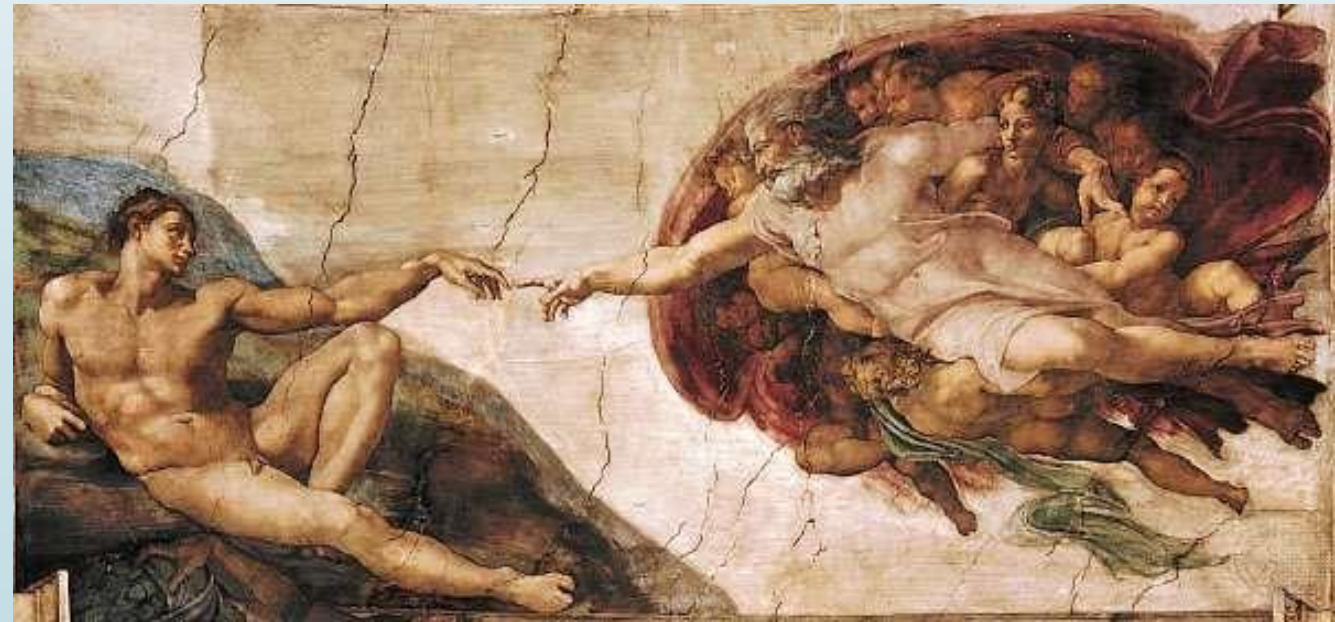
- ▶ Melody is **the human voice**. It expresses our vision, our dreams...and our ego.
- ▶ There are so many decisions---all to be made with respect to nature—but made by **the human hand**:
 - ▶ What to plant
 - ▶ When to pick
 - ▶ How to ferment
 - ▶ How to age.



- ▶ Melody is how the winemaker sings. It allows winemakers a vision and a sense of style.

Melody

- ▶ Some melodies are classically Old World.
- ▶ Melody captures our dreams and shares them with the world.
- ▶ Melody is the hand of the winemaker
- ▶ Music:
Nessum Dorma



Melody

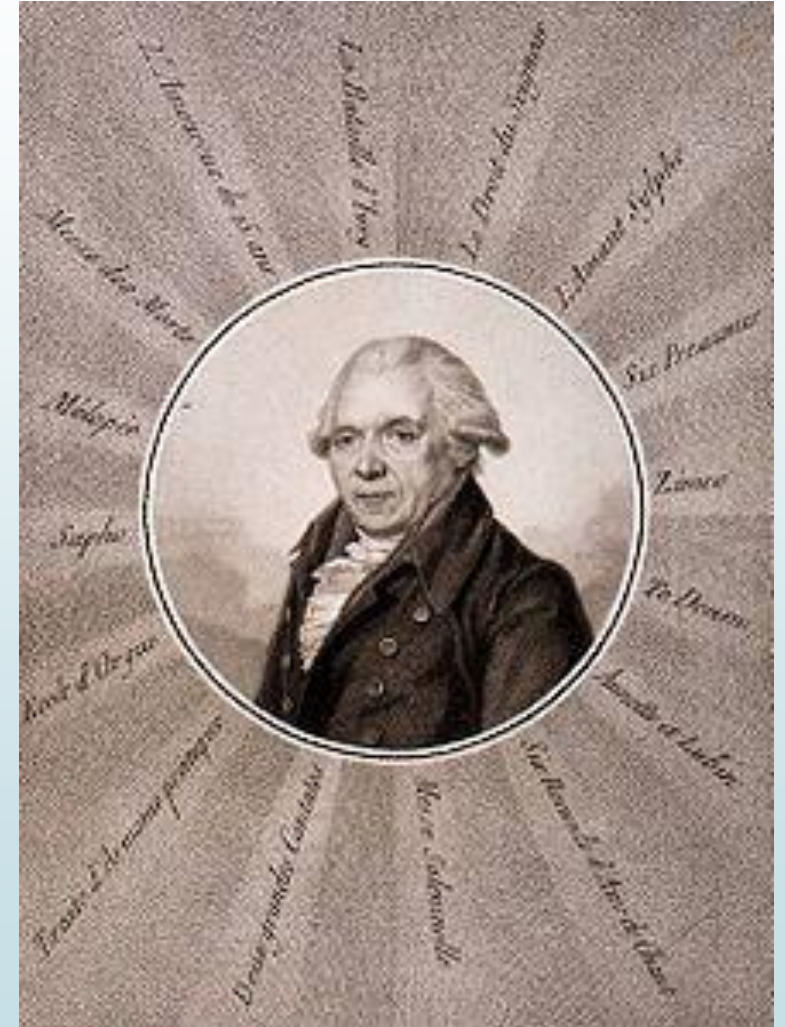
- ▶ Some expressions are typical of the New World.
- ▶ Music: Elvis, “I can’t help falling in love with you”

Original music by Martini



Jean-Paul-Égide Martini

- ▶ The only man who wrote music for Napoleon's wedding and Elvis Presley!



There are three basic elements to music

- Rhythm
- Melody
- Harmony



Harmony

- ▶ The tapestry of voices that gives our songs depth and context.
- ▶ It shows us **our place in the world**, and our relationship to one another
- ▶ Harmony is balance and complexity. It is context and wisdom. Most of all, it is **community**—the relationships between man and nature, and between people.



Harmony

- ▶ The music of the spheres, a community of voices that brings us together.
- ▶ In wine, harmony is the ideal: **perfection**
- ▶ A perfect wine is a harmonious wine
- ▶ Music:
Ave Maria by Biebl



Harmony

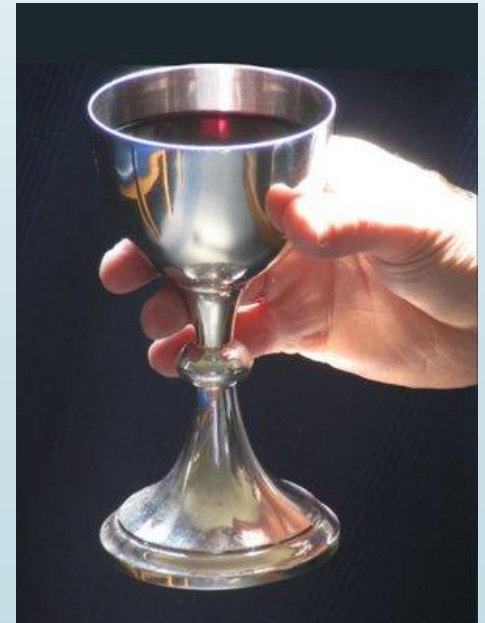
- ▶ But wine plays a more important role in society. Wine **brings us together**. We become a chorus. And we are greater than the sum of our parts.
- ▶ We raise our glasses, and we raise our voices in song
- ▶ Because of wine, we sing in **joy**
- ▶ We become a community.
- ▶ We share a communion.
- ▶ We become harmonious, too



Rhythm/Melody/Harmony— And Spirituality

- ▶ Rhythm is the natural world and the passage of time
- ▶ Melody is the expression of human creativity
- ▶ Harmony is the tapestry of context and community.

And communion.



Spirituality

- ▶ To the elements of rhythm, melody and harmony we also have to add spirituality. The sense of something larger than ourselves.
- ▶ It brings us together.
- ▶ We harvest together
- ▶ We drink together
- ▶ We sing together



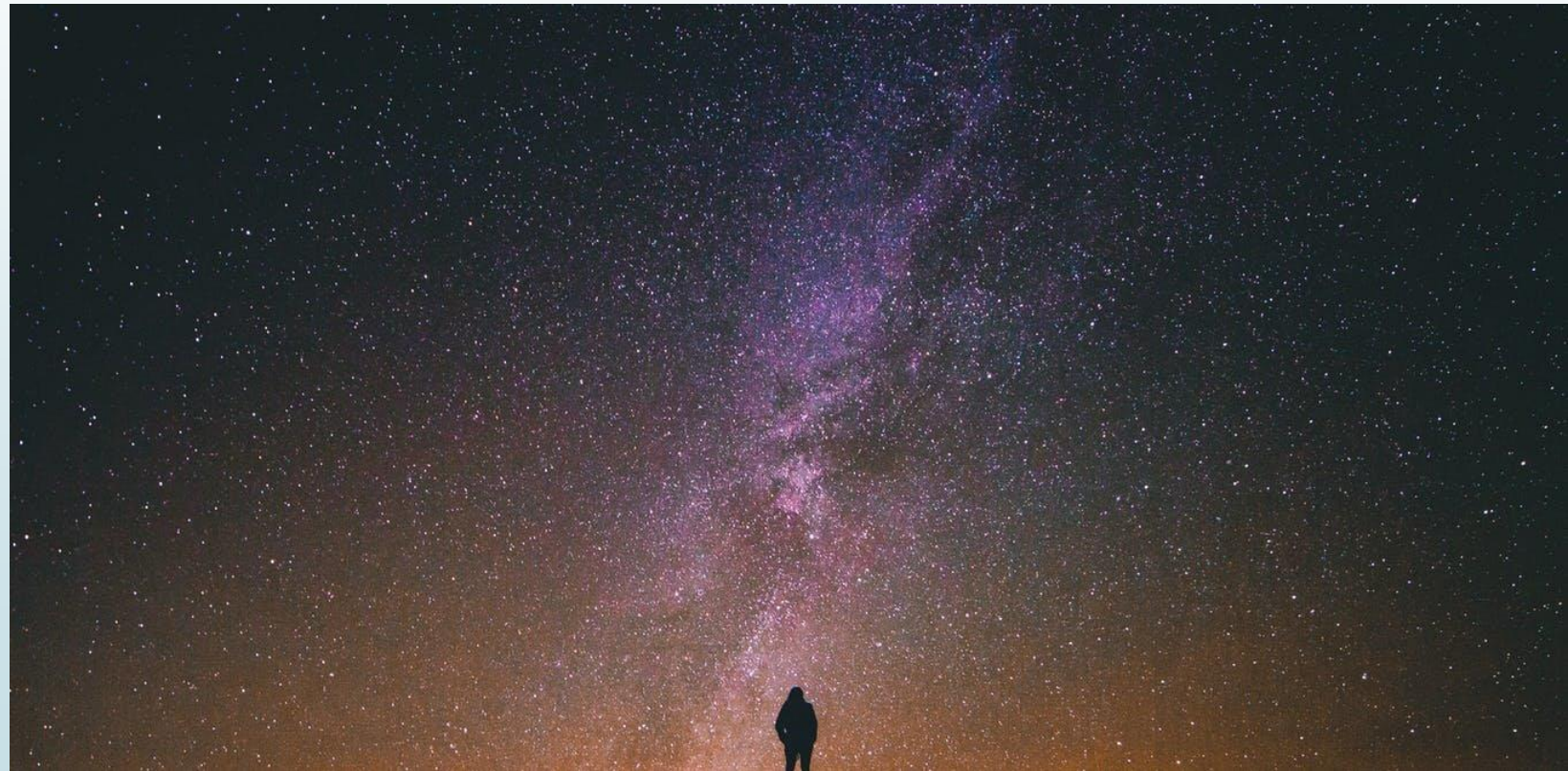
A triumph of the spirit

- ▶ Both wine and music speak to a higher power
- ▶ They make us one with the natural world, and with what is beyond the world.

wine,
starry child
of earth,
wine, smooth
as a golden sword,
soft
as lascivious velvet,
wine, spiral-seashelled
and full of wonder,
amorous,
marine;
never has one goblet
contained you



Music: Saint Saens
Organ Symphony



Wine and Music

- ▶ They are the purest expressions of human culture.
- ▶ “But you are more than love, the fiery kiss, the heart of fire, more than the wine of life; you are the community of man,…”
- ▶ Drink wine like music. Lose the fear. Share the joy.



Music: Amen chorus
from Handel's Messiah

Amen. And Cheers.

