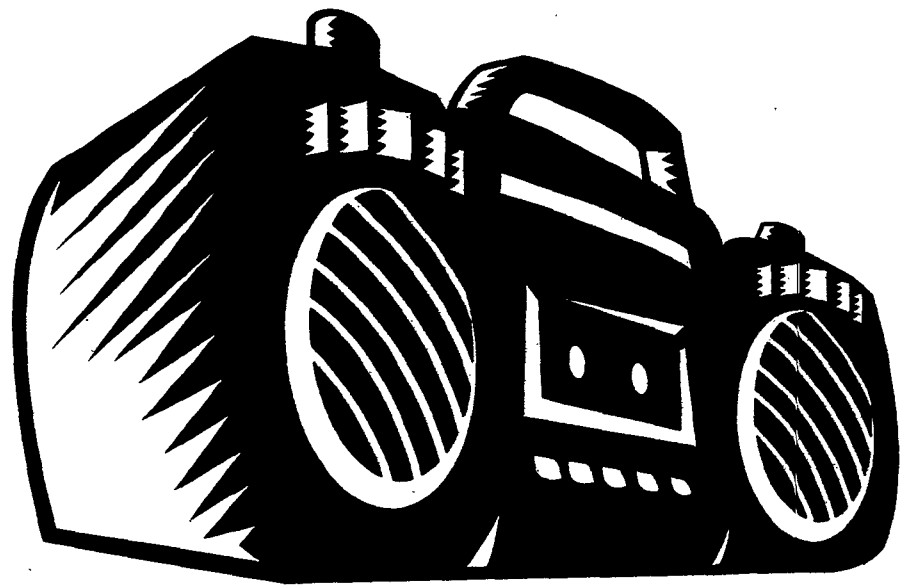


# On the MOVE



**I**t wasn't meant as a scientific study. But the results left some pretty clear indications of the bond between music and its listeners!

In February we circulated a questionnaire to teenagers at a diocesan retreat, asking them if they'd like to be interviewed for upcoming story themes in *On the Move*. They were asked to rank five subjects — views on the year 2000, movies, TV viewing, reading and music — in their order of preference for commentary.

As it turned out, music was such a popular pick that we could have filled this entire newspaper with the feedback. Of approximately 65 teens who responded, nearly *two-thirds* listed music as their No. 1 or No. 2 preferred subject!

Just what makes music such a big deal? "Music gets me going inside. It makes me want to get up and go," said Steve Briggs, 16, a parishioner in the Catholic Communities of St. Anne and St. Gregory in Palmyra and Marion. "It makes me happy and gets me excited."

Sara Skinner pointed out that music is also a refuge for those experiencing somber moods.

"You can pretty much find a song that relates to whatever you're going through. If you're having a hard time and you can't find somebody to talk to, you can find a lot of comfort in the music," remarked Sara, 14, from St. Michael's Church in Newark.

"When you're down, music will make you feel better," agreed Scott Kyle, 17, from St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Scottsville. "When I'm bummed, I'll put on my Kenny G CDs. They help me relieve stress."

"(Music) talks about everyday life. It expresses life," added Marisa Collins, 16, from St. Christopher's Church in Chili.

Music carries similar levels of significance for Tim McCarthy. Only 14 years old, he's already in the early stages of forming a band with his friend, Josh Larham. Both attend St. Michael's Church in Penn Yan.

According to Tim, music offers a freedom not easily found elsewhere.

"You just do what you feel like. Maybe it's because you can use your imagination," Tim observed.

Tim patterns much of the music he plays after modern rockers such as Nirvana and Pearl Jam. Yet his tastes also range to blues artists such as B.B. King, and rock-and-roll artists from previous generations. "We're going to try to do some old Beatles stuff," he said.

Religiously oriented music appeals to Tim as well. He likes Chris Rock artists such as DC Talk, and also enjoys attending the folk Mass at St. Michael's Church.

For Sara, music at her Newark church produces a deeper spiritual effect than do homilies or recited prayers.

"The music sends a really good message. And it's not like, boring or completely preaching," Sara remarked.

Steve in the Palmyra/Marion cluster said he "doesn't mind the church music. I always sing it. I like it because if you listen to the words, it all has meaning."

Marisa, a member of her church choir at St. Christopher's, pointed out that teenagers have special needs when it comes to church music.

"They like to have a variety," Marisa said. "Some of them could deal with organ music, but

when they're with their friends, they have their own way of living. Organ music is from a different time period."

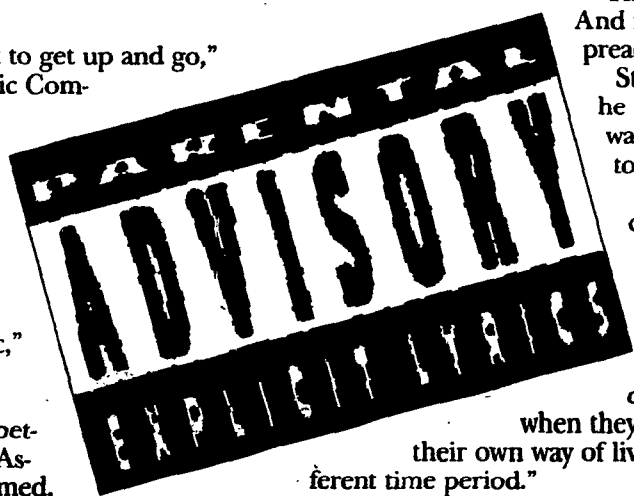
This factor enhances the appeal of Christian rock, Marisa noted. She described it as offering "equal balance" — delivering religious messages with a modern sound.

Marisa's musical interests also include rap and dance tunes, "old and progressive rock. Much of her diversified package can be attributed to her mother, Evey, a marketing representative for MCA Records. Mother and daughter attend concerts together, and have gone backstage to meet the likes of Aerosmith and Bobby Brown.

However, Evey Collins is sometimes reluctant to familiarize her daughter with some of MCA's artists. For instance, she recalled day she came home and discovered Marisa listening to a compact disc by Courtney Love and Hole.

"I said, 'Oh, my God, she must be in a depressed state.' She was listening to a very despairing song," Evey remarked.

On the other hand, Evey fights back the occasional temptation to pull the plug on Marisa's music.



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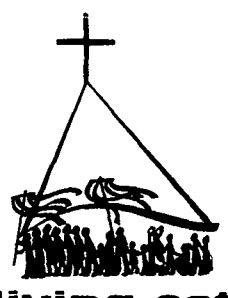
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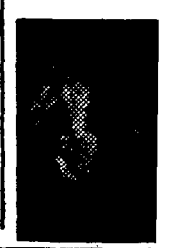
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