



No Greater Love



**February / March
2026**

 **ST. ANDREW'S**
GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD

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A message from Rev. Laurie

**Beloved Church,
A new year begins and I ask myself “How do I live faithfully?”**

One of my favorite authors and podcast hosts is Kate Bowler (katebowler.com). She is Canadian-born, now residing in the United States, and is a professor at Duke University. Bowler helps clarify our limits in changing the state of the world while directing us to maintain an essential orientation toward loving and acting for good—in small ways, and in an imperfect world.

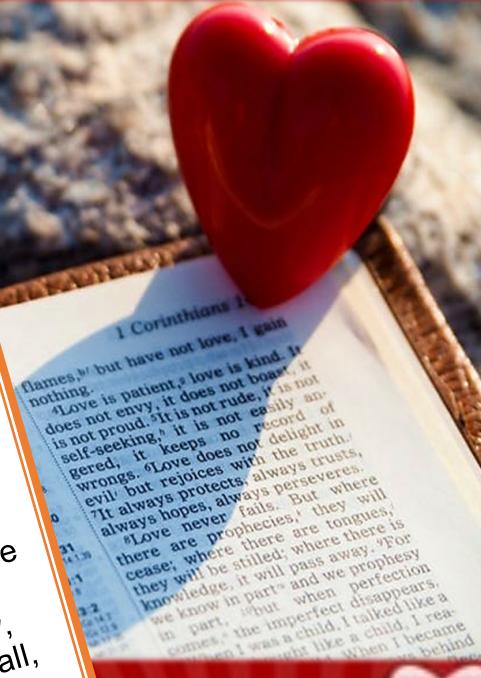
With the new year, some people make resolutions that may not be sustainable. Those who succeed often focus on micro-changes that are realistic and easier to maintain over the long term. We may encounter setbacks, but step by step we make progress. In much the same way, we orient ourselves in the world in a particular direction and take small, consistent steps toward a vision of a kinder, gentler world—one that smells like redemption. In the face of a world that causes us civic dread, we are invited to be citizens who show up in small and steady, sometimes imperfect or partial ways, refusing the lie that if you can't do everything, you can do nothing.

Bowler speaks about what she calls “secondary suffering”—the suffering we impose on ourselves. As she writes: “Secondary suffering is the pain we add to pain through judgment, resistance, and self-blame. Secondary suffering doesn’t ask, ‘What happened to you?’ It asks, ‘Why haven’t you fixed this yet?’ Secondary suffering thrives when we mistake responsibility for omnipotence, when we confuse moral concern with total control, when we turn legitimate fear into a referendum on our worth.”

This sounds like sin to me. Sin is telling God to move aside. In contrast, Jesus joins us in suffering and loves our humanity from within a human body. Forgiveness is the voice of God, who alone has the final word on our worth. We are beloved. We are called. We are sent. God calls us to be faithful, not omnipotent or perfect. In this spirit, Bowler encourages us to orient our lives toward what is possible within our human limits, asking, “How do I live now without becoming cruel, numb, or self-righteous?”

Being kind. Standing up for the vulnerable. Holding leaders accountable. Engaging in small acts of change—these take courage and faith. Together, we reflect the resurrected Christ to a broken and hurting world. We cannot do this alone. And so I am thankful that as a community that is God-touched, we seek to live faithfully as beloved church.

*Together in Christ's service,
Rev. Laurie*



Session Highlights

January 2026

- At the October Elder Retreat, Session identified three priorities for St. Andrew's: youth and young adults - better engagement and opportunities in church life; 2SLGBTQIA+; and, Indigenous (these are our strengths and need to be expanded).
- On January 24th, Care Connectors had their 5th training session with Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, and the next training will in April. This past training encouraged people to "speak God" and the importance of faith language within the Christian community. What are your faith words that you use? We also heard some ways of approaching people who are negative or critical.
- We are looking for more Care Connectors as we have 30 families that are currently without a Care Connector.
- Session will be doing a "stars and wishes" workshop with the congregation over the coming weeks. More details coming soon!
- Rev. Geoffrey Simmons is doing a survey on the spiritual care programs and would love as much input as possible from everyone. Please take some time to fill it out.

Session will meet again on Tuesday, February 17th.

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Elder Profile - Derek Wilkinson



I grew up in the United Church family in Victoria BC, with a couple of years as a boy treble choirboy in the main Anglican Cathedral. I didn't attend church regularly at University, as I was very active in sports and theatre whilst doing an engineering degree, but I always considered myself a Christian and a believer despite only infrequently attending worship services.

My wife grew up in a Presbyterian Church family, and when we moved to Calgary in 1993 we visited a number of both United and Presbyterian churches looking for a church home. Of all the churches we visited, St. Andrew's had by far the best church choir and so we started attending here, and I started singing in the choir. That then led to me serving on the Building and Grounds team, then the Board of Managers, then Stewardship & Planning, then the team that developed the Legacy Fund and then and then ...

Reverend Peter asked me if I would be willing to serve as an elder when we changed our governance model over to Term Elders, and I became an elder three years ago. I serve on the Worship and Rainbow Teams, and am active with Side by Side, the Men's Group, and of course the choir. As an elder, my main areas of interest are in helping to make our worship services interesting, engaging, and relevant, and to include social justice issues.

Aside from two changes in Choir Directors and more than two changes in our Ministers, the most significant events in my time at St. Andrew's were the dissolution of the Board of Managers, and the national church's slow move towards supporting gay rights and rapprochement with our aboriginal communities.

My advice to any aspiring elders would be to let God guide you on this path. Years ago, I thought that God might want me to help his church with my engineering skills of planning, governance, and project / financial management, but it turns out God wants me more for my creativity and compassion.

The biggest problem facing any church today is declining attendance from a more and more secular population. I believe we best combat this by working to keep our church relevant and engaged in the social issues important to our local communities, and by keeping our worship practices interesting and engaging.

A little-known fact about me is that I have a twin sister. Growing up as a twin means that you have been sharing resources and attention your entire life, and I think that twins have a different (and more social) view of the world as a result.



Giving the gift of time!



God gives us so much, and Christmas is the perfect time to give from our abundance. No matter what age or stage of life, we always have something to give. Whether that's a warm smile, an encouraging word, or simply being present with others. For a few St. Andrew's youth and families, it was the gift of time and energy that were shared. On a Wednesday evening at the end of November, we met in Forest Lawn at the Salvation Army warehouse to be helpers for the annual "Toy Angels" drive. Calgarians donate new, unwrapped toys for children in need, and then those toys need to be sorted into appropriate age categories and then packed up for delivery.

The Dhanpaul, Bridgemohan, Travers, and Barrett families spent the evening sorting donated toys and packing them into boxes so they could be delivered. Who knew that "being an angel" meant learning how to unhinge a metal bins of toys, being proficient with packing tape, and using a pallet jack to move boxes around the warehouse!



Submitted by Deanne Barrett on behalf of the Faith Formation Team

Family Christmas Eve Service



The Faith Formation Team once again supported the 4:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service. The church was filled with music and joy as shepherds, angels, sheep, the Three Kings, a star, Mary, and Joseph filled the sanctuary, sharing the story of Jesus' birth.

Families also helped provide much-needed baby items for the Women in Need Society (WINS) by bringing infant supplies to fill our giving tree. We thank everyone who joined us and shared in this beautiful telling of the Christmas story.

A special thank you to Evan and our musical guests, the ukulele group, Willem Van der Merwe, and Andreas and Michalis Andronikou for making the service so meaningful.

Submitted by Lorna Andronikou on behalf of the Faith Formation Team



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks be to God for the incredible generosity the people of this congregation demonstrated in 2025! We did it, St. Andrew's!!! We surpassed our original Pave the Way fundraising goal of \$150,000 with \$154,177 now received.

Special mention must be given to our Anonymous Donor for the very generous and inspiring \$40,000 donation which we more than matched, to the Ladies Guild, to Craig Murray (bike ride) to Terry Basaraba and his team (corn roast), to Peter Coutts (the \$25,000 Chisolm grant from the PCC), to the members of the fundraising team for their leadership and for keeping us all informed (Dolly Forcade, David Townsend, Mark Rowe, Cathy Millar) to Tom McIntyre and his remarkable crew for providing oversight of the project, AND to the people of St. Andrew's for your most generous support. Our success is due to the faithfulness and steadfast generosity of all of you and for that we are truly grateful. THANK YOU EVERYONE!



Aboriginal Friendship Centre (AFC)

The AFC, which is located downtown Calgary, provides support across essential areas such as housing, food security, education, employment services and access to vital resources like warming centres. These services are available to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals.

A year ago, St. Andrew's partnered with the Aboriginal Friendship Centre to provide soup on a monthly basis. Three teams, led by Margaret Bates, Lynn Judd and Terry Basaraba, rotate responsibility. The Legacy Fund provided funding of \$3,000 to cover the cost of food and supplies. The soup that St. Andrew's provides is distributed each Thursday throughout the month and will feed approximately 150-200 persons/month.



The Rainbow Team's Movie Night, the Damage Caused by a Mistranslation

By Rhonda Wishart

On Nov.21, 2025, the Rainbow Team invited the congregation to a showing of the documentary, **1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture**. We were delighted by the strong turn out and the stimulating discussion that followed. We encourage everyone in the congregation to watch the documentary found at <https://www.1946themovie.com/>

St. Andrew's publicly, intentionally and explicitly welcomes all members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to full participation in the life of our church. But this is not the case for numerous Christian churches around the world.



1946, a feature documentary, follows the intriguing story of two American researchers, appalled by the anti-gay sentiment in so many Christian communities, who were keen to trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians. Kathy Baldock, a Christian 2SLGBTQAI+ activist and Ed Oxford, a Christian researcher and Masters of Divinity graduate, were keen to investigate what caused the appearance of the word "homosexual", for the first time in history, in the 1946 RSV of the Bible. It turned out that the Bible translation team in the year 1946 combined two Greek words "malakos" and "arsenokoites", found in the New Testament books of Corinthians and Timothy. They replaced these Greek words with the word "homosexual".

The use of the word "homosexual" in the 1946 RSV translation was criticized by a Canadian seminary student, David S. David, who found serious weakness in the translation, and feared the harm that would befall homosexual individuals likely to be wronged and slandered by the mistranslation. The translation team then reconsidered the translation and agreed with the criticism. The team decided to replace the word "homosexual" with the words "sexual pervert", with the intention that the passages would not be applied to loving same-sex relationships as we know them today.

Unfortunately, because of poor communication and timing issues, the change in translation did not take place until 25 years later, in the RSV 1971! And by that time, many other Bible translations had picked up the word "homosexual" from the RSV1946, causing widespread damage. This damage, namely intense criticism and/or exclusion of the 2SLGBTQAI+ community within the Christian church, jeopardized any kind of healthy relationship between the Christian church and the 2SLGBTQAI+ community for years, and continues to do so.

The commitment of Kathy Baldock and Ed Oxford in their exploration and research is impressive. Their personal stories, as well as those of others in the documentary, are quite captivating. The research highlighted in the documentary goes a long way to explain the challenges faced by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in finding comfort in organized religion.

PRAYER

A Report from The Ladies Guild

As announced earlier we set aside our January meeting to focus on disbursement of funds raised during the past year through the Soup Sale, Christmas Bazaar and donations to our group.

After careful consideration disbursements will be made as follows:

Camp Kannawin;
Student Emergency Funds at 5 Calgary Public High Schools,
all in south Calgary;
The upcoming "Feast Honouring Indigenous Children" lunch (scheduled for February 16th at the Kingsland Community Centre);
Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D);
Postage for greeting cards (special birthdays, get well, sympathy & thinking of you) created and sent by the Guild on behalf of the congregation;
Bibles for baptism presentations and other on request;
Kitchen equipment and supplies;
St. Andrew's Scholarship Fund;
St. Andrew's General Fund.



Presently some funds are being held for future use such as
Honorariums for guest speakers at Guild Meetings;
Seed money for the 2026 Christmas Bazaar;
Other opportunities for support as they arise throughout the year.

All this is made possible through the generous and ongoing support of this congregation and we are genuinely grateful to you all!

Looking ahead to our February meeting on Feb 10th we'll be having a presentation from Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. Then on March 10th we're planning two short presentations, one from a Guild member who taught visually impaired students, and one from Alberta Sports and Recreation for the Blind. Note your calendars for what will no doubt be interesting talks!



Lastly, looking even further ahead, we'll be planning a fund raiser for one of our newer projects – Basically Babies Calgary - in May to coincide with Mothers' Day. Watch out for more information on this but in the meantime, as winter clothing is now on sale, and if you'd like to lend your support in a different way, please watch out for the opportunity to pick up baby's clothing from birth to one year. New, or very gently used are all acceptable!

SERVICE

GRACE

My Journey with St. Andrew's By Alex Grant

It is not easy to account for sixty years without it being lengthy, but I will do my best. This is my story.

I had a long career with the Royal Bank and worked in several different branches across Alberta. I was married to Ruth and living in Drayton Valley when in September 1964, the bank transferred me again...this time to Calgary.

We bought a home in Acadia, and our next priority was to find a new church home. On our first Sunday in Calgary, we attended St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. As it turned out, one of the greeters was someone I had known from my former congregation in Edmonton. He welcomed us warmly and introduced us to the minister, Rev. Kingsley King. By the end

of that service, Ruth and I had decided that St. Andrew's would be our new church home. The following Sunday, we officially joined the congregation and St. Andrew's has been my church ever since.

Choir practice was the next Thursday, and we immediately became part of that. Ruth also joined the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) and the Ladies Guild, while I became a member of the Men's Club — known back then as the SAMS, short for St. Andrew's Men's Service Group. SAMS became the largest fundraising group in the church and every spring we organized what we called the Home and Garden Sale. We purchased bedding plants and shrubs from a local garden centre — always at what we considered a "good price," especially by Scottish Presbyterian standards! The proceeds went to fund various needs within the congregation.

In 1965, I was elected to the Board of Managers, and that June I was ordained as an elder. I served as an elder for 56 years, retiring in 2021. In those early years, our Session included about seventy elders. Each of us was responsible for a "district" — a group of members and adherents we would visit every three months. This kept us connected to the congregation and helped ensure that no one felt forgotten.

One of my proudest moments came when Ruth and another long-time member, Nora Jefferies, became the first women ordained as elders at St. Andrew's. Ruth remained active in leadership and service until her passing in 2007.

Over the last six decades, I have had the privilege of working with fifteen different ministers and countless dedicated men and women. Rev. Karl English was our longest-serving minister. He led the church at a time of remarkable growth from 1978 until his retirement in 2000.

The 1980s and early 1990s were remarkable years. St. Andrew's was, as many of us used to say, "the place to be." Our congregation grew rapidly — we reached over seven hundred members and had more than two hundred adherents. Sunday School was thriving, with an enrollment of about 325 children.

Session decided to add a second minister and in February 1988, we welcomed Rev. Jean Morris and her husband, Matthew Vyse, from Ontario. Rev. Jean was with us until late 1991 when she accepted a call to Varsity Acres Church here in Calgary.

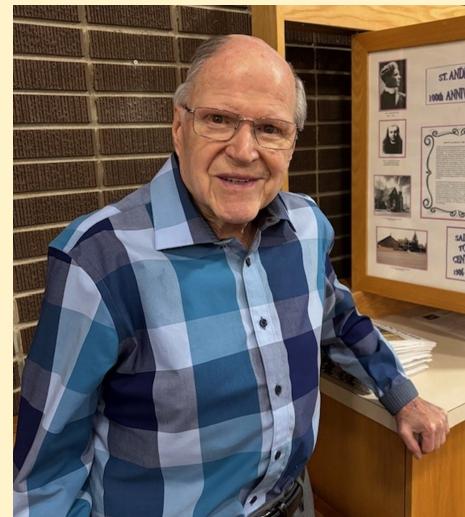
Rev. Jean and another long-time St. Andrew's minister Rev. Peter Coutts (2000-2013) continue to serve us today as "ministers in association". We are blessed to have their wisdom and experience.

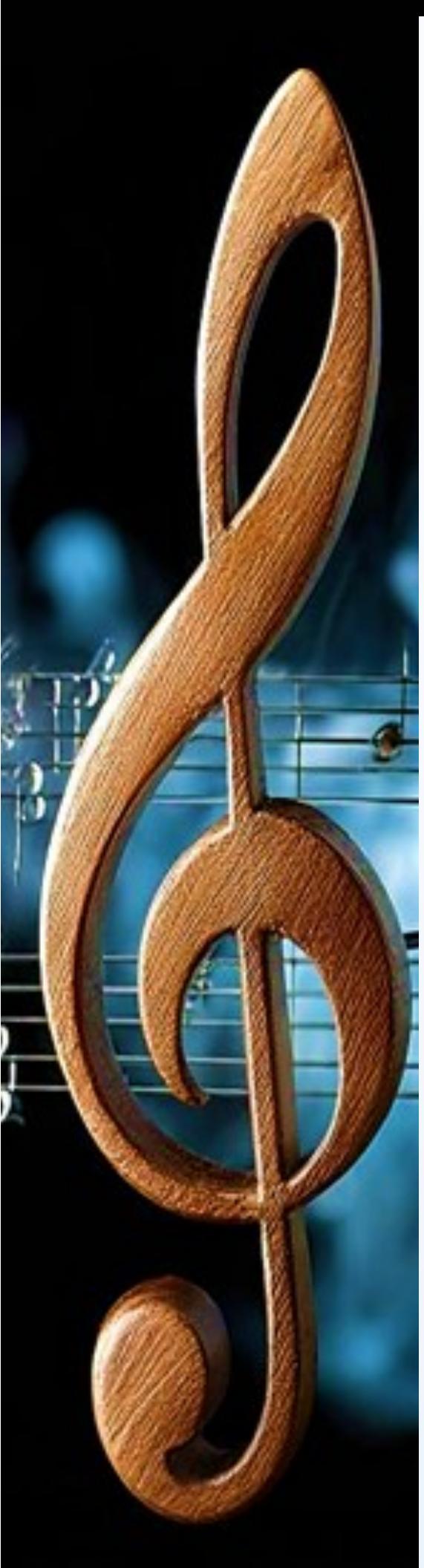
The rapid growth of the 1980's brought new challenges and opportunities. The Session determined that one service was no longer enough to accommodate everyone, so we began holding two morning worship services. That continued right up until the time of COVID. We also undertook two major building expansions — one in 1981 and another in the early 2000s — each one a reflection of our growing and active ministry.

After more than sixty years, St. Andrew's remains a vital part of my faith journey. I continue to attend services regularly and serve as Treasurer of the St. Andrew's Memorial Fund.

As for the future, I hope that St. Andrew's will always be a faithful ministry sharing the good news of God's love and care.

I have been truly blessed to be part of this wonderful church family for more than six decades.





I have always wanted to write an essay about the importance of music in (my) life, yet something within me kept postponing it. Perhaps, the quiet awareness that such a subject resists easy word. When I finally decided to do it, I realized that for many people who might even take the time to read these lines, music may not hold a central place in their lives. And who could blame them? Not everything is for everyone. Some find comfort in silence or in the simplicity of easy-listening melodies, while others seek meaning in the complexities of jazz, the richness of classical music, or the intimacy of folk songs. How, then, can one speak of *the* importance of music, when its essence is felt so differently (or not at all) by each of us?

As Friedrich Nietzsche wrote, "*Without music, life would be a mistake.*" Though often regarded as an exaggeration, an aphorism, or a poetic flourish, the statement holds a profound truth when one considers the role of music in human well-being, its power to soothe, to awaken, and to give meaning to moments that words alone cannot reach.

Perhaps what makes music indispensable is not merely its aesthetic beauty, but its mysterious ability to touch the inner architecture of our emotions. It translates what we often cannot articulate, sorrow, longing, joy, or transcendence - into vibrations that our entire being can understand. A melody can return us to a forgotten moment, a single chord can awaken tenderness or grief, and silence between notes can remind us of the fragile balance that sustains life itself. In this sense, music does not simply accompany life; it reveals it. It is both mirror and language, reflection and revelation - a way of knowing ourselves beyond reason.

Beyond the individual experience, music also serves as a bridge between people, cultures, and generations. It has the rare ability to dissolve the boundaries of language and geography, allowing us to feel connected through something deeper than words. A simple folk tune can carry the memory of a people; a symphony can embody the aspirations of an entire era. Through music, we share our most intimate emotions with strangers, and in doing so, we recognize ourselves in them. In festivals, rituals, concerts, and even in moments of spontaneous singing, music becomes a shared heartbeat, a reminder that, beneath all differences, the human soul vibrates in harmony with the same invisible frequencies.

And so, perhaps one cannot truly generalize about the importance of music - because music itself resists generalization. It is as vast and varied as life, shaping itself to each listener's sensibility and circumstance. For some, it is a quiet companion, for others, a spiritual calling. Yet whether we are aware of it or not, music accompanies our existence like an unseen current, in the rhythm of our steps, the cadence of our speech, the beating of our hearts. To live without music would not simply be to live without sound, but to live without one of the purest mirrors of what it means to be human.

This might have been the conclusion of a brief essay on the importance of music, if I hadn't known music from the inside. As a composer and musicologist whose life has been deeply immersed in music through experiences, studies, performances, events, recordings, celebrations, and, most importantly, the music creation itself, I know that its significance goes far beyond what any musicological or philosophical research could convey.



This essay explores the personal and sustained benefits that have emerged from my lifelong involvement in music.

Imagination

It is widely acknowledged that children possess an especially rich and vivid imagination. I was fortunate to begin my journey in the world of music at a very young age. I remember learning Greek folk songs and imagining stories as I listened or played. I also recall trying to identify as deeply as possible with the lyrics of various songs to grasp their “message.” This became an early habit, an ongoing effort to get as close as possible to the true essence of the music.

As I grew up, I drew on everything available to me in this pursuit: practical skills, theory and analysis, books, essays, program notes, and interviews with respected artists. Yet, I found that the larger understanding always required imagination and intuition, to connect the dots and form a personal interpretation. Music helped me cultivate my imagination, and in turn, my imagination helped me grow through music.

At the beginning of my adulthood, I realized that my true passion lay in composition, and that the other “musical hats” I wore would ultimately serve to support this primary interest. Earning a living first as a performer and later as a teacher at various universities and music schools allowed me to explore the many roles that music and culture play in our lives. Once again, imagination proved to be an essential tool, both in performance and in teaching, for without it, music and education risk becoming dry and uninspiring.

The same applies to writing about music. Whenever I have had to prepare a program note for the premiere of one of my pieces, my main goal has been to create something engaging that prepares the audience for the musical experience. Writing about music, whether in an article or an essay, also demands imagination. It enriches the logic and structure of the text, helping to evoke the sense of wonder and atmosphere that music itself embodies.

Composition is the ultimate field where imagination is needed. When composing you create your own world that is full of wonders. You shape your imaginary landscapes and experiences in ways that nobody can know, except you. It is a leap of faith into the unknown, guided by everything you learned and experienced, and directed by your imagination to the unknown and undiscovered.

Composition is the ultimate realm where imagination reigns. When composing, you create your own world, one filled with wonder, shaped by landscapes and experiences that exist only in your mind. It is a deeply personal act of discovery, a leap of faith into the unknown. Guided by everything you have learned and experienced, you follow your imagination into uncharted territory, where new sounds and ideas await.

Reality

This uncharted territory becomes your new reality, like a painter who captures nature on canvas, surrounds themselves with their own work, and slowly begins to believe that these paintings are the real landscape. After all, we don’t all see the same things when we look at the world, and even when we do, our experiences differ, each filtered through a unique lens.

As a composer, I imagine a world that embraces all kinds of beautiful music and sounds, a world that values them as deeply as it values humanity itself, transcending borders, beliefs, and divisions.

As I mentioned above, my musical journey began at a very young age through the exploration of Greek folk music. I first learned to play the bouzouki and gradually expanded my studies to include guitar, clarinet, music theory, Byzantine music, musicology, and composition. Composition became the unifying thread of my artistic path, allowing me to create and reimagine my own reality. It taught me to listen for the music hidden within poetry and to uncover subtle, "hidden" messages beneath the surface.

Through composition, I have collaborated with poets, visual artists, film directors, actors, theatre producers, dancers, and video artists, shaping a shared, collective reality. It has opened my mind, nourished my creativity, and even sustained me during the most difficult times. In a nutshell, composition quite literally shaped my reality - or my perception of it, thereof.

Consumption VS Creation

It has been suggested that when the world feels overwhelming or chaotic, we should turn away from passive consumption and embrace active creation. For me, composition has been that form of active creation. Though it takes courage to face a blank page or the unknown, the moment I begin, it fills me with energy and renewed strength, allowing me to keep going, even in the most challenging times. Creation, in this sense, is profoundly healing, both personally and collectively.

I have had the privilege of meeting people who told me that, while listening to my music, they "closed their eyes and experienced the blue of the Aegean Sea for a second time after fifty years," or that they met through my music, or even married with it playing in the background. In these moments, I realized that these listeners received a *message* or discovered a *meaning* that was beyond my intentions, something that existed outside the original context in which the music was composed.

This, I believe, is one of the wonders of music; as the most abstract of all arts, it invites each listener to project their own stories, emotions, and images onto it, transforming it into something deeply personal. Through this act of shared imagination, we are reminded that beauty and meaning can still be found, even in difficult times.

Perhaps this is the highest form of success a composer can experience - the moment when music transcends its creator and finds new life in others.



Success and Envy

One of the most common human emotions -if not the most common- is envy. After all, we are survival-driven beings, constantly striving to improve our position and abilities. To some extent, you can learn to manage your envy toward others, but it is impossible to control the emotions of others.

Composition has freed me from this feeling. It taught me that my music is uniquely mine; no one else can create it for me. It has also offered comfort in facing the existential anxiety of being a creator in the age of Artificial Intelligence. AI may one day compose beautiful music, but it will never create my music.

My music embodies my humanity, revealing my character, my personality, and everything I have to offer. It is the language through which my inner world finds voice, a space where emotion, thought, and experience converge into sound. Every note carries a part of my journey, a fragment of my truth.

Music Between Freedom and Security

Composing music has allowed me to experience freedom without relinquishing a sense of security. Though this may seem paradoxical at first, it has become increasingly clear to me that through music I can express anything and, at the same time, feel its power as a form of protection in this world.

Many times, I managed to balance my emotions and logic, channeling them into a creative space where both positive and negative feelings became sources of energy, like opposite charges in a battery, driving my artistic process.

Music Between Positivity and Negativity

The composition process taught me that both negativity and positivity are essential. Each reveals different aspects of life and art, working in opposing yet complementary ways. Reward and denial both have their place in music, as they shape a realistic balance that reflects the world we live in.

Finding a Purpose in Life

Through my music, I am reminded of who I am, why I live, and what gives my life meaning. My purpose has gradually revealed itself; to create music that transcends boundaries, reaching the hearts of all people and reflecting the shared essence of our humanity. My music is grounded in my own lived experience and identity, and this anchors who I am into my sound. It is with this mindset that I wrote a PhD thesis on the integration of Eastern Mediterranean Elements into Western Contemporary Music, examining it as a phenomenon of cultural Osmosis or Zymosis.

This process of Osmosis or Zymosis is the essence of artistic life itself; the perpetual interchange between self and world, between the inner pulse of emotion and the external resonance of sound. It is not a one-way movement but a living dialogue, an ongoing transformation in which the artist both absorbs and gives back, shaping and being shaped in return.

To engage in this process is to embrace openness, to listen deeply to the voices of others, to the silences between them, and to the echoes of cultures beyond one's own. It calls for sharing, not as an act of exposure but as an offering. Through music that is published, released, and made available online, the artist extends an open hand, allowing the work to breathe freely in the world and to belong to those who find meaning in it.

This openness reflects a belief that beauty and truth are universal, that they transcend geography, language, and time. Every culture, every tradition, carries within it a spark of authenticity, a glimpse of the human soul. To receive these influences and to respond through one's own creative language is to participate in a great continuum of human expression. Thus, each act of creation becomes both personal and collective, individual yet universal.

Through such sharing, the heart speaks directly to the heart. Music becomes a bridge between inner solitude and communal experience, between memory and presence. It is a form of dialogue that requires no translation, only attention and empathy. The listener who accepts this invitation partakes in the same transformative process, absorbing, feeling, and perhaps discovering new aspects of their own humanity in the sound.

Ultimately, this integration, this act of cultural and emotional osmosis, is an act of resistance. In a world often marked by isolation, conflict, and indifference, the choice to remain open, to connect, and to create meaning with others is profoundly humane. Against the inhumane forces that divide or devalue life, this artistic openness asserts the dignity of being. It proclaims that creation and compassion are inseparable, that through art, we continue to remember what it means to be human.





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