

Faith Smith
Contemporary Gospel Songs

1. How did contemporary gospel music emerge? This genre of music came from freedom songs that were re-inspired and written to speak to the times that they were in. The objective, lyrics and melodies weren't changed. Upcoming artists change the sound/style to have a more modern feel.

2. What song made a significant impact in the start of contemporary gospel music? Who was the artist and how did it impact society at the time? "Oh Happy Day" by Edwin Hawkins, written in 1969, with over 200 million copies sold. People all over, Christians, people who wanted nothing to do with hymns were singing this song. It impacted them in a way because the style was relatable and pleasing to the ear.

3. What were some concerns or the negative impact that contemporary gospel had during its evolution? One major concern was that the hymns would lose their sacredness. People felt that since traditional hymns hold so much history, the execution of the song should be handled a certain way. They always believed that it would become too secular and remove the focus from our history and Jesus Christ.

4. Describe some positives that came about because of this evolution? This style of music was not only reaching the mass church arenas but secular arenas as well. These "blackened hymns" were climbing the music charts and outside companies were coming to them for help and direction. The author also explained, the argument between secular and sacred doesn't matter because it cannot compare to how it has affected our lives.