

Does a shared love of MUSIC TRUMP biblical truth?

On 18th May 2026 Keith and Kristyn GETTY ('The Gettys') posted the following on Facebook –

'Last month, April 13th, Moya Brennan passed on. Singer, instrumentalist, cultural icon and the undisputed "Queen of Irish music", she leaves a huge void and will be sorely missed. Moya was perhaps best known as the lead singer of the Celtic band "Clannad", the sister of Enya, and latterly as a solo artist.

During the nineties she became a Christian and played a beautiful role as a believer, both in Ireland and around the world.

She was a supporter and friend to Kristyn and I, and stepped in at several significant moments along the way in our work. When we first brought the idea of our hymns to the Christian music labels and organizations, there was very little enthusiasm. A friend recommended creating a multi-artist album, and I had been orchestrating a few charts for Moya for a project. Somewhat audaciously, I asked her if she'd help.

She agreed, and in an act of entirely one-sided generosity added her voice, and face, to our very first recording "New Irish Hymns". It was the record that included "In Christ Alone", and launched our work as hymn writers.

Moya was determined (along with co-artist Jo Hogg and Stevie Dock at the label) that Irish church music should sound more Irish. Like the soil from which we came. That for too long it had sounded European or British, or with the newer music, American. The Irish folk music, whether Scots-Irish or Gaelic-Irish, with its passion and lilting camaraderie, opened a wealth of material that would cut across boundaries and unite voices.

We continued to be friends throughout the years, bringing her music director Fionan de Barre (Cecil - a non-denominational 'Christian') to our team (who I had first met at one of her concerts and then on the recording), and then guesting on "A Mothers Prayer" when after years of waiting we were finally blessed with our first daughter, Eliza.

Her proof text was often “Be Thou My Vision” — which her grandparents first translated from the English versifications into Gaelic.

Moya’s husband Tim invited us to call and pray with her the night before she died. It was a privilege beyond words, and we built our prayer around that beautiful hymn text. Thank you, Tim, for your generosity in facilitating that moment. Our prayers are with you and your kids, Paul and Aisling, that Christ may be your soul’s shelter.

Moya was one of the few music icons you will ever meet for whom her character outshone and so illuminated all her talent, accolades, and legacy. She was the calming presence in every room. An eager encourager. A beautiful soul.



Before I respond to what **'The Gettys'** wrote I would draw attention to an issue that I took up with them some years ago in relation to something they penned in a Christmas carol they wrote. It related to a phrase they used in relation to the Lord Jesus Christ, describing Him as a **'Son of Adam.'** This link will take you to the item I wrote in my December 2009 ministry **'News from the Front'** (you need to scroll down to **'Joy Has Dawned: 'Take Heed' to what you sing!)** –

<https://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-december-2009/>

I think it would be fair to say that I was less than impressed with how they handled my genuine concern over what they had written. However, in fairness to them, on a different issue, they quite rightly stood their ground when challenged by a liberal denomination in America over the words used in their hymn **'In Christ Alone'** which say **'Til on that Cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied'** see article on

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/current-concerns-2013/American Presbyterian Church and In Christ Alone.pdf>

Returning now to what **'The Gettys'** wrote about **Moya Brennan** you will note that I highlighted in red the words **During the nineties she became a Christian and played a beautiful role as a believer, both in Ireland and around the world.**

The reality is that **Moya Brennan** returned to 'faith' after a very troubled period in her life and that 'faith' appears to have been **Roman Catholicism**. There is a helpful article that charts her life, her regrets and her return to 'faith' – it is located on

<https://www.irishcatholic.com/moya-brennans-trajectory-back-to-faith-remains-an-inspiration-after-her-death/>

The article makes reference to her funeral in these terms – **'It was appropriate that Fr Brian O'Fearraigh was the chief celebrant at her funeral. He and one of the concelebrants, Fr John Joe Duffy, were deeply involved in the Creeslough tragedy, for which Moya fundraised. Not only that but when Fr Brian's parish church burned to the ground, Moya Brennan, Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh and Daniel O'Donnell held a sell-out concert in Crolly in July 2025 to raise funds for the new church.'**

Video of the funeral, including the **Requiem Mass** can be viewed on this link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS1eYtJZ90>

@ 3.36 – 4.03 reference is made as to how **Moya** discovered a prayer book that belonged to her granny and this led her to rediscover her ‘faith.’

@ 50.37 during the mass, you can hear the bell being rung signifying ‘**transubstantiation**’ of the bread wafer. Likewise, @ 51.08 the bell is rung once more signifying ‘**transubstantiation**’ of the wine.

This funeral service was full-on **Roman Catholicism** including ‘**The Sacrifice of The Mass**’.

For such a service to have taken place, undoubtedly, I would surmise with the full approval of **Moya Brennan**, is in my view not consistent with someone having been truly “**born again.**” If someone has been truly ‘**regenerated**’ by the Holy Spirit, “**the Spirit of truth**” (**John 16: 13**) they will at some point be compelled to separate from error along the lines Paul outlined in **2 Corinthians 6: 14-18**.

Returning once more to what ‘**The Gettys**’ wrote I also highlighted the following in red **The Irish folk music, whether Scots-Irish or Gaelic-Irish, with its passion and lilting camaraderie, opened a wealth of material that would cut across boundaries and unite voices.**

It is one thing for music to cut across cultural and political **boundaries** and to **unite voices** BUT that should not apply when it comes to the serious matter of **biblical truth**. However, it would appear that ‘**The Gettys**’ have done just that because of the love of music they shared with **Moya Brennan**.

This is not the only example of ‘**The Gettys**’ failing to discern doctrinal error where fellow-musicians are concerned. Take the example of **BILL GAITHER**. The article on the following link gives great details of MANY spiritual concerns regarding ‘**The Gaithers**’

https://www.wayoflife.org/database/bill_gaithers_disobedience.html

One extract from the article reads –

‘Bill Gaither has had an ecumenical philosophy from the beginning of his musical career. In his autobiography *It’s More Than the Music*, he states that one of the fringe benefits of playing their concerts in “neutral, nonchurch environments” was that people from “all church denominations” attended. “Before long, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, charismatics, Catholics, and Pentecostals were all praising the Lord together. Subtly, the walls between denominations began to crumble...” (p. 115).’

Then, the video on the following link deals with **BILL GAITHER** and his band appearing at a **KENNETH COPELAND** convention – this is the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUwwUKsPBSA>

So, **Bill Gaither** is happy to be involved in a convention organised by the rank ‘health and wealth’ heretic, **Kenneth Copeland** – clearly, **Mr Gaither** is devoid of biblical discernment. In the video, reference is made to a **Gaither** song called ‘**Jesus is Everywhere**’ – here are the lyrics of it –

In the darkest part of Scotland
The darkest night of the year
I found a church where the lights were dim
And I sat down in the rear
And they sang about a baby
Angel voices filled that place
I could feel the love of Jesus
And the tears ran down my face

Jesus is in the water (Cecil – is this baptismal **water**?)
Jesus is in the wine (Cecil – is this the **wine** of The Mass/Communion?)
Jesus is standing next to us
In the noisy Starbucks line
Jesus is in Manhattan
Jesus is in St. Clair
He’s waiting around the corner
Jesus is everywhere
Jesus is everywhere
(Jesus is everywhere)
Jesus is everywhere
(Jesus is everywhere)

On a winding street in Venice
On the sunny side of town
Church bells ring out in San Rocco
So we went in and sat down
We forgot that it was Sunday
The priest was hard to understand
But we heard the word for Jesus
Holding wafers in our hands (Cecil -transubstantiated bread?)

In the darkest hour of nighttime
In **the dark night of the soul**
(Cecil – an expression closely linked to ‘Mother’ Teresa)
In the balmy heat of summer
In the bitter winter cold
In the halls of every mansion
In apartments where you sleep
You’ve never gone too far
And you’re never in too deep

No doubt **Rome** would be more than happy and comfortable with those lyrics. Back in 2021 **Keith Getty** interviewed his ‘friend **William J Gaither**’ at a ‘Christian’ event – **Sing. 2021!** You can see that interview on this link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tDBZsDLWao>

Earlier I gave a link to a ‘**Way of Life**’ article on **Bill Gaither**. They also produced an article on ‘**The Gettys**’ and this is the link to it –

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/the_gettys_pied_pipers.html

There is much factual detail in it which I believe is revealingly helpful. **HOWEVER**, there are other areas that I would not be in agreement with and those who know me would probably know what I am referring to so please read ‘with caution.’ One helpful extract from the article reads –

‘The very likable Gettys are representative of evangelicalism today. At the heart of modern evangelicalism is “a renunciation of separatism,” as Harold Ockenga stated it in the late 1940s. They say they love truth, but they don’t hate error. They say they love sound doctrine, but they don’t separate from heresy. They say they love righteousness, but they don’t hate unrighteousness. They say they love Christ, but they don’t hate the world. At least they don’t speak out about it, and they should!’

So, in spite of all the documented theological problems linked to **Bill Gaither**, as far as **Keith Getty** is concerned, a shared love of music clearly trumps biblical truth. That is worrying as is also his assessment that **Moya Brennan** was a **Christian** whereas everything points to her having been completely at home in **Roman Catholicism** which is not Christian.

Were **'The Gettys'** wrong to publicly sympathise with and pay tribute to their friend **Moya Brennan**, absolutely not. I do however think that they were wrong to refer to her as a Christian as that could easily give the impression to other **Roman Catholics** that they too are Christians and history, especially in the light of The Reformation, gives the lie to that.

The article on the following link, whilst it is not confined to the matter of 'music' and does address other issues, it does nevertheless address 'music' in a helpful way and so this is the link to it –

<https://www.bibleleaguetrust.org/squeezed-into-a-mould/>

Early in my Christian life I attended a 'School of Theology' held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London (C H Spurgeon's old church). The organiser was the then and current Pastor of the church, **Peter Masters**, and one of the guest speakers was the late **Dr John C Whitcomb**. Whilst there I purchased a copy of a booklet containing a selection of articles written by them. It was called **'Separation and Obedience.'** I want to quote selected extracts from some of those articles as I think, in many ways, they hold very true to the subject matter of this article –

'For the best part of nineteen hundred years evangelical Christianity has been deeply conscious of the Lord's command that His people should remain completely separate from false teachers and their dangerous doctrines ... Satan's great campaign is to pollute God's churches on earth and bring them into doctrinal and spiritual chaos. He longs to see utter confusion engulf churches which have borne a powerful testimony, and he is behind all the heretical infiltration of sound congregations ... The Bible teaches that we must remain strictly separate from any form of religion which contradicts and undermines the essential soul-saving doctrines of the Christian faith. This is a primary and binding command of the Word which is given in several passages, none of which are in the slightest degree unclear or controversial ... The command to be separate strikes many people as a very negative requirement, but in reality, it is one of the most positive aspects of Christian obedience.'

I appreciate that this, my own article, may well 'ruffle a few feathers,' but I simply could not remain silent when some very influential figures in the world of 'Christian music' appear to allow a shared love of music to TRUMP biblical truth.

Before posting this article publicly I sent it to a dear, close friend, someone who was a Roman Catholic before being gloriously saved and invited them to read and review. This was the initial reply I received –

Cecil,

I am still in the "links" and other pieces which I would like to listen to.

But, in general I have a real concern that truly saved and born-again Christians are being constantly and subtly encouraged and indeed misled into believing that Catholicism is a genuine Christian faith. It truly is a worry, because it can appear so holy and uses the same words but with entirely different meanings.

That is why I am very careful about who I listen to and in fact I rarely or never listen to "Christian" music outside of trusted church settings. I know that you agree about the Catholic Church and that you express concern out of love for lost Catholic people - for which I am very grateful.

It is a thankless task and no doubt you will get some negative feedback about the article However; I would say that truth might sting but it is not forgotten and who knows what fruit it will bear at a later time.

Keep going and may the Lord bless you

X-XX

