

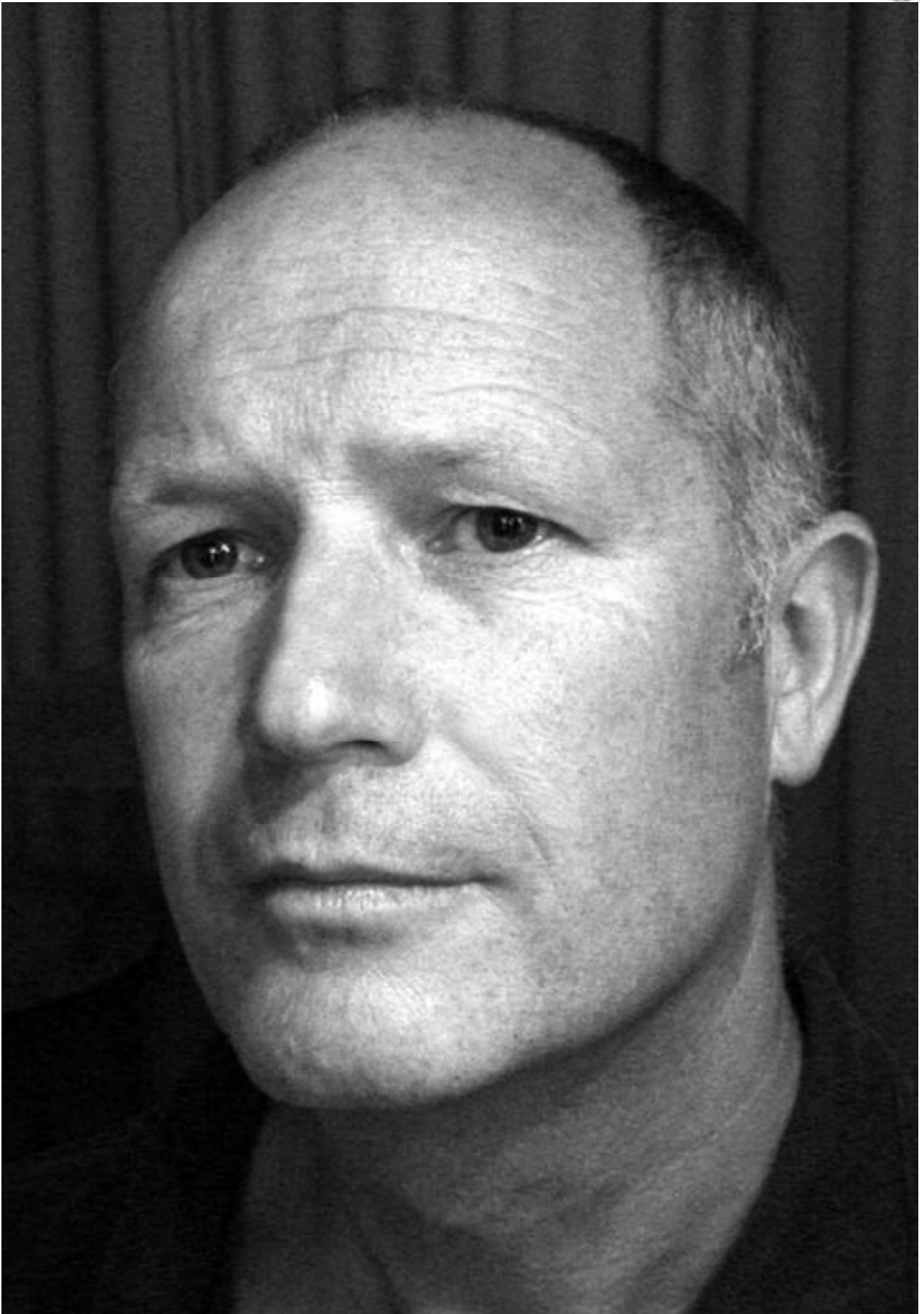


# STEVE WIGGINS

I believe music is a part of who we are as people. Just as we speak to each other in day-to-day conversation, music reflects our inner most feelings, whether good or bad. Music can bring an old feeling or memory to the surface stirring our soul and with it the joy or sadness we felt at the time. It can seem to even make the past better or worse, than it actually was. It really is a God given gift. And because it is God given, ultimately it is for Him, the One who created us. This is very evident to me because until I had fully given my life to Jesus Christ, I had never experienced music as it should be played or heard.

I became a Christian in 1993 at thirty-three years old, and had been a professional musician for ten years, but never felt the inspiration to write music. Playing other peoples music was all I knew, but when God's spirit entered me I had a new lease of life. I had a reason to live and therefore I had a reason to celebrate. This was the catalyst for creating my own music, music that told of the wonder of God's love. I could not contain myself and the music just flowed. Obviously it was the Lord who was working through me, and it was my way of releasing praise and worship to Him. I wanted others to know the truth and the joy that God brings. I believe music does this better than anything else because it touches the soul and ultimately the spirit of a person. Someone may not even know the Holy Spirit is ministering to him or her, yet He is talking deep within the individual.

So I believe the spiritual significance of music is to open us to God. Music in itself is just a series of melodic sounds, but with God's Spirit it is a powerful medium that can talk to our spirit. Sadly it can also speak to the spirit opposed to God, allowing the spiritual forces into that individual's life. Music is a powerful gift and therefore should be used as it was created, for God's glory. My own testimony is proof enough for me, because until I knew Jesus as Lord of my life, music was enjoyment without true meaning or substance. Yes I could play or listen to songs of love and life but what is love and life without God? Jesus said, "*I am the way and the truth and the life*" (John 14:6). This sums it up for me, music is a part of life and He is the life.



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