

Smile Even Though  
By Eydie McDaniel

Inspired by Puccini, Charlie Chaplin composed wonderful music for his 1936 movie *Modern Times*. In 1954, John Turner and Geoffrey Parsons felt inspired, wrote words and title for part of the work. In 18 years, three artists gave us the song known as "Smile." Does the advice in the song fit for you today?

*Smile though your heart is aching  
Smile even though it's breaking  
When there are clouds in the sky, you'll get by  
If you smile through your fear and sorrow  
Smile and maybe tomorrow  
You'll see the sun come shining through for you*

*Light up your face with gladness  
Hide every trace of sadness  
Although a tear may be ever so near*

*That's the time you must keep on trying  
Smile, what's the use of crying?  
You'll find that life is still worthwhile  
If you just smile*

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Smile, what's the use of crying?  
You'll find that life is still worthwhile  
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Many artists are born with drive to voice fascinating ideas. Artistic passion may come with talent to put wheels on ideas. Ideas reach and inspire.

Ideas adorn our lives from stage, from pulpit, from pages of paper or pages on a screen. Cultural habit draws eyes and ears to the TV, the internet, to the sides of buildings, even to the streets.

Depending on ability, participation varies widely. Some can read book after book. Some can get up and dance. Some sing along. Some lift a song on their own. Some march. Some scream. Some privately cry. Some cry out. Some of us write. On occasion an artist motivates real change.

Now in 2020 ideas erupts from silly to profound. Some are worthwhile and fulfilling. Some are downright tacky. Some personalities seldom rest from their drive not only to express but to convince. Some wear that burden to their grave, or to the meadow or the mantle where their ashes settle.

On a fun note, I smile about some advice I saw on the *Ellen* show. A young woman wrapped her forehead with plastic wrap. She then smeared it with peanut butter and bent over for her happily licking dog. The gooey treat occupied her dog's attentions so well she could easily snip those overgrown toe nails.

In this moment in time, what advice do you value giving or taking?  
What advice would allocate to rot away in a compost bucket?

In the face of current wide-spread tragedies "Smile" might not often be well-timed advice. Nonetheless, to help me keep on keeping on, I should pause a moment and light up my face with gladness, behind my mask or in the safe air of my home.