

Notes from the Music Department

In 1953 the Rev. Samuel Anthony Wright (1919-2016) became the first Executive Director of Liberal Religious Youth, an organization created by the merger of the American Unitarian Youth and the Universalist Youth Fellowship. This group set a model for the Unitarian Universalist denominational merger in 1961. Using the hymn tune, "**Finlandia**," Rev. Wright's lyrics for "**We Would Be One**" reminded the young people gathered then that they were not alone. It is as relevant today as it was then, serving as a call to keep showing up; a call to work, to learn, to listen, to pray, to sing.

It would be so interesting to be able to know the effect this song written for them had upon the youth leadership involved in that 1953 conference. This group would be solidly in their golden years now. A book exploring the lives of those lucky participants would surely be a best seller in our UU world!

Because "**Finlandia**" was also used as the hymn tune for our beloved "**This Is My Song**," you may even feel comfortable singing along with Danika!

We Would Be One

We would be one as now we join in singing
our hymn of love, to pledge ourselves anew
to that high cause of greater understanding
of who we are, and what in us is true.
We would be one in living for each other
to show to all a new community.

We would be one in building for tomorrow
a nobler world than we have known today.
We would be one in searching for that meaning
which binds our hearts and points us on our way.
As one, we pledge ourselves to greater service,
with love and justice, strive to make us free.

I would be very remiss to close without a few words about today's rather whimsical Postlude. Written by the contemporary English composer, Pam Wedgwood,

"Where's the Antelope" was inspired by Barry Atherton's painting of the same name. It is a puzzle painting, challenging the viewer to find the antelope and then to discover other fantastical hidden objects. If one of your listening challenges leans toward figuring out the time signature of a piece, I will give you the clues that it begins and ends in 5/4 with frequent switches to 6/4. There is a very comfortable, 4/4 romantic feel to the middle section before it gets crazy again. If this information overload leaves you scratching your head and saying, "huh?" - well, never mind.

Until we meet again - please let it be soon,
Margaret