

October 17, 2021

Notes from the Music Department

The piece selected for today's Prelude and Postlude honors the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, both as he wrote it and as prolific composer, conductor, music critic and singer Reynaldo Hahn reimagined it years later.

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947), was born in Caracas, Venezuela, the youngest son of a German Jewish father and a mother with roots in the Basque region of Spain. The family relocated to France when he was four years old and he lived most of the rest of his life there. A prodigy, Hahn studied at the Paris Conservatoire with Jules Massenet as his mentor. At fourteen he had great success with the first of over one hundred art songs that he composed in his lifetime. "**Si mes vers avaient des ailes,**" (If my verses had wings) was inspired by a poem by Victor Hugo. There are excellent versions of this song that can be checked out on YouTube, including one by soprano Elly Ameling and another by tenor Bruno Laplante. He also wrote numerous operas, operettas, and instrumental pieces in addition to being an active conductor and teacher.

Louis and I decided to divide this morning's **Variations on a Theme by Mozart** into two parts. For the Prelude, you will hear Mozart's theme followed by Hahn's Variations I and III. Later, we will repeat the theme (in case you have forgotten the tune) and finish with Variations IV and VI. Many thanks to Louis's current teacher, Jacob Roseman,* for recommending this piece to us.

*Jacob and Molly Roseman will be our special guests November 14!

Louis Pradt started flute lessons at age twelve through the Wausau School District's band program. He soon added the saxophone so that he could be a member of their jazz ensembles. The piccolo became a part of his instrument collection in order to be a part of the UWMadison Marching Band, this while pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. After graduation, Louis concentrated on the sciences while working at Zimpro. At the same time he started a lifetime of music studies with various teachers, currently Jacob Roseman. The oboe and English Horn have been added to his list of favored instruments. Whew! Louis is part of the wind ensemble, Prevailing Winds. It is a many year tradition for this group to share their music with us Thanksgiving weekend, this year on Nov. 28. Mark your calendars!

=====

The Adult UU Choir practices Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 in our well ventilated atrium. In accordance with the current medical recommendations, our covenant is for members to be vaccinated and masked.

Join us for Drum Club - part drum circle, part technique building, all parts fun! As with the choir, vaccinations and masks are required. We meet Monday evenings, 7:00-8:00, in the Drum Haven at 1005 Steuben St. Wausau.

