

October 31, 2021

## Notes from the Music Department

Choir day! Our opening song, "**Morning Has Broken**" was originally scheduled to be sung for the Easter morning service, 2020. We are delighted to at last share Harry Simeone's charming choral arrangement of Cat Stevens' (now Yusuf Islam) 1971 hit version that used the lyrics written by Englishwoman Eleanor Farjeon in 1931. The familiar melody is based on the traditional hymn tune "Bunesson."

### **Morning Has Broken**

Words by Eleanor Farjeon, Musical Arrangement by Cat Stevens,  
Choral Arrangement by Harry Simeone

Morning has broken, like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dew-fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation, Praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day.

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning,  
Praise for them springing, fresh from the world.

There is a special backstory to "**Transcending All Time**," the offertory meditation for today's All Saints Day service. The piece is included in the collection, *With These Hands*, seven solo piano pieces written by Dennis Alexander to honor his son, Darren Andrew Alexander, who tragically died in his sleep in 1998 at the young age of 23.

In Dennis Alexander's words:

"This is a very "personal" solo in that the first three notes of the left hand outline D-A-A," for Darren Andrew Alexander. Darren was a great fan of Broadway musicals and spent many hours listening to music of all styles. Among his favorite Broadway hits was the song "Beauty and the Beast." I have extracted the first five notes of this song as a motive for the right hand melody and combined it with the opening left hand pattern. The solo closes with the same rising left hand D-A-A musical thought appearing twice followed by three last notes that outline "D-A-D."

### **All of Life is Calling Me**

Joyce Poley\*

In the quiet peace of the dawn, as the waking birds begin their song,  
With the sunshine warm on my face, all of nature fills me with its grace,  
And I feel within my reverie, All of life is calling me.....

.....Calling me to be more whole,  
To hear God's music in my very soul.  
And while I live the mystery,  
All of life is calling me.

In the welcome warmth of a smile, and the wondrous laughter of a child,  
In a friend who stands by my side, or a homeless stranger passing by,  
In the eyes of ev'ryone I see, All of life is calling me.....

When a picture moves me to tears, when a song helps lighten all my fears,  
When I'm wrapped in story's embrace, in another time, another place,  
When a work of art has set me free, All of life is calling me.....

And when death steals soft from the room,  
Where a life is ended far too soon,  
Though the sorrow tears me apart,  
I'll remember how love touched my heart.  
In this precious gift of memory, All of life is calling me.....

\*Canadian Joyce Poley has been a singer/songwriter most of her life and is well known in Unitarian Universalist circles as a composer and song leader. Two of her most popular songs are *One More Step* and *When Our Heart is in a Holy Place*.

### **May You Always Have a Song**

Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse

May your life be filled with song and may your friends all sing along.  
May your heart be true and strong. May you always have a song.

May your life be filled with love, may the sun always shine above.  
Go in peace just like a dove. May you always have a song.

May music be a part of the joy within your heart, May you feel it deep within your soul.  
May the gentle harmony of a tender melody make your spirit whole.

May your life be filled with song, and may your friends all sing along.  
May your heart be true and strong. May you always have a song.  
May you always have a song.

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The UU Adult Choir meets Wednesday evenings in our well-ventilated atrium from 6:30-8:00. All vaccinated, masked singers are welcome.

Our Drum Club creates beautiful music on authentic African and Caribbean instruments from 7:00-8:00 pm, Mondays. No prior percussion experience is needed. 1005 Steuben St. Wausau.