

Nov. 7, 2021

Notes from the Music Department

English composer Pam Wedgwood's musical mood sequence, "**Waiting**" was inspired by Charles Knight's "Boats at Low Tide." His watercolor scene of Bermuda captured boats waiting expectantly at low tide. Wedgwood's instructions for performance include dramatically building toward an early musical climax. Later musical runs represent the water slowly rising before the music eventually subsides for a calmer, peaceful ending.

Paul A. Tate originally titled "**Simply**" as "**Interlude #10.**" Because the performance notes suggest that the piece is meant to be played simply, I felt the suggestion itself made a more interesting title.

French Impressionist composer Erik Satie (1866-1925) made up the word "Gnossienne" for unshared reasons of his own. Because of their meditative value, Gnossiennes 1-3 have been heard during our services before. I was delighted to discover this summer that he also wrote "**Gnossienne No 4!**" (Likewise numbers 5 and 6 - I promise they will appear sometime soon.)

Often called Australia's unofficial national anthem, "**Waltzing Matilda**" is based on the true story of a swagman who committed suicide by jumping into a billabong (pond) after having been arrested for stealing a sheep. Banjo Paterson's lyrics paint the grim picture of the poverty, deprivation, and exploitation of Australian itinerant workers during the economic depression of the 1890's. Today, however, enjoy Christopher Norton's unorthodox ragtime version.

For those of you that are racking your brains trying to think of the title of the last piece I played for pre-service, it was "**Deux Arabesque (1)**" by French composer Claude Debussy, a close friend of Erik Satie. The friendship unfortunately soured over time, mainly because of Satie's self-destructive personality. Despite their later differences, Satie was a major influencer of Debussy, cautioning him to avoid the excesses of the late romantic era.

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Our Adult UU Choir meets every Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 in our well ventilated atrium. The next times we are scheduled to sing are Dec. 12 and on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve.

and/or...

Join us Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 in the Drum Haven (packed with authentic West African and Caribbean instruments) at 1005 Steuben St. Wausau. No prior experience is needed.

"Drumming is essentially a social behavior. When we connect with other humans through rhythm, devoid of race, culture and prejudice, there is something pure and compelling about it. Circle drumming is very social, very human."

Joseph Walker, High School Principal