

December 12, 2021

Notes from the Music Department

Our music today is centered around the four weeks of expectant waiting and preparation that defines the Christian Advent Season. You will hear the longing for love, truth, light and hope in the 9th century "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" while the more modern Caribbean version, "Come to Set Us Free" focuses on the anticipation of freedom. Contemporary composer, Bob Moore, asks to bring us to a morning "Where the Promise Shines." Even "Spirit of Life," which is definitely not an Advent song, requests "Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me."

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Advent is the chance to do some holiday decorating in preparation for the Christmas season. This tradition is ancient - "Deck the Hall" was originally a 16th century Welsh drinking song! ("Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel") Need I ask for a joyous rendition?

Our Postlude, "The Christmas Song," was written on a hot July day in 1945 by Mel Torme and Bob Wells while the two tried to cool off in unairconditioned Los Angeles. Nat Cole first recorded their music in 1946. This classic has since been recorded over 1700 times and is considered the number one holiday song.

UU's vaccinated and masked Adult Choir is singing at 2:30 today at the Primrose Retirement Community. Join us in celebrating the season with their residents! Regular practices are Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 in our well ventilated atrium.

Our also vaccinated and masked Drum Club meets Mondays from 7:00-8:00 at 1005 Steuben St., Wausau. You will hear them at the upcoming Solstice Service, Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m.

Come to Set Us Free

Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come, O come, on earth to dwell!

Come, deliver Israel! Come to set us free!

All the angels in the sky sing their praise to God on high,

Soon he come on Christmas night, Come to set us free!

Halle, hallelujah! Halle, hallelujah!

Halle, hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Halle, hallelujah! Halle, hallelujah!

Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come to set us free!

Ev'ry valley, lift your voice, ev'ry creature, now rejoice.

Ev'ry where a joyful noise, Come to set us free!

Halle, hallelujah.....

Where the Promise Shines

When a star is shining over eastern hills,

When the air is silent, and the clamor stills,

When the night is waiting, and the old hopes rise,

Then the time has ripened and the heart grows wise.

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

Where the world is waiting for an unknown day,

Where a voice forgotten cries, "Prepare the way!"

Where an earthly power makes the heart turn cold,

There the gifts are offered, incense, myrrh, and gold.

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

Lead us on, O Daystar, in the quiet night;

Guide us through the shadow with your gentle light;

Show us in a manger our redemption's sign;

Bring us to a morning where the promise shines.

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

The Christmas Song

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose,

Yuletide carols being sung by a choir, and folks dressed up like Eskimos.

Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe help to make the season bright.

Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow will find it hard to sleep tonight.

They know that Santa's on his way; he's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh.

And ev'ry mother's child is gonna spy to see if reindeer really know how to fly.

And so I'm offering this simple phrase to kids from one to ninety-two.

Although it's been said many times, many ways, "Merry Christmas to You."

And so I'm offering this simple phrase to kids from one to ninety-two,

Although it's been said many times, many ways,

"Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas,

Merry Christmas to You."