

Jan. 16, 2022

## Notes from the Music Department

Today we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the mission that continues to inspire decades after his death. While the Israeli "Soon the Day Will Arrive," and New Englander Carolyn McDade's "We Shall Release a New Justice," were not written by Afro-Americans, both reflect and support the universal search for justice for all.

Dr. King received great inspiration from the collective wisdom found in the African American 18th and 19th century spirituals. Long after slavery ended, "Oh, I Woke Up This Morning" and "We Shall Overcome" became songs vitally important to the Civil Rights Movement. "We Shall Overcome" is widely considered to be the most influential of all of the freedom songs.

There has been a movement lately to acknowledge the work of the unknown composers of the spirituals that gave comfort and courage to the people of the slavery era. We cannot go back in history to correct this wrong. In view of this, the choir has decided to make a donation to the Wausau Conservatory of Music that will be earmarked for scholarships for talented young African American musicians.

Our going forth song today, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by brothers James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson, is the unofficial national anthem of the NAACP. As you sing, let their timeless words from the early 1900's ring out as truly as they have for over one hundred years.

### Soon the Day Will Arrive

Words: Ehud Manor

Music: Nurit Hirsch

Soon the day will arrive when we will be together,  
And no longer will we live in fear.  
And the children will smile without wondering  
Whether on that day thunderclouds will appear.  
Wait and see, wait and see, what a world this would be  
If we share, if we care, you and me.  
Wait and see, wait and see, what a world this would be  
If we share, if we care, you and me.

Some have dreamed,  
Some have died to make a bright tomorrow,  
And our vision remains in our hearts.  
Now the torch must be passed with new hope,  
Not in sorrow, and a promise to make a new start.  
Wait and see, wait and see, what a world this would be  
If we share, if we care, you and me.  
Wait and see, wait and see, what a world this would be  
If we share, if we care, you and me.

## **We Shall Release a New Justice**

Words and music by Carolyn McDade

High on the ledge of the mountain,  
Limber and tall in the valley below,  
Firm by the rivers on-flowing,  
Faithful the trees ever stand.  
We, we shall release,  
We shall release a justice rooted and deep,  
A tree spreading branches green and strong,  
O'er all the earth, o'er all the earth.

Born through the cycle of seasons,  
Each generation from those gone before,  
Deep in awakening seedlings,  
The essence, the soul of the tree.  
We, we shall release.....

We, with the trees evergreening,  
Holding each child, a leaf to the sun,  
Praising within each emerging,  
Our essence, our soul is one.  
We, we shall release.....

# Oh, I Woke Up This Morning

Trad. African American spiritual

Oh, I woke up this morning with my mind, and it was stayed,  
Stayed on Freedom.

Woke up this morning with my mind, and it was stayed,  
Stayed on Freedom.

Woke up this morning with my mind, and it was stayed,  
Stayed on Freedom.

Hallelu, (Hallelu) Hallelu, (Hallelu)  
Halleluia!

I was walking and talking with my mind.....

I was singing and praying with my mind.....

Oh, I woke up this morning with my mind.....

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Our vaccinated and masked Adult Choir continues practices Wednesdays from 6:30 in our well ventilated atrium. Contact me at [margaretjerz1@gmail.com](mailto:margaretjerz1@gmail.com) for more information.

The also vaccinated and masked UU Drum Club meets Mondays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Drum Haven at 1005 Steuben St. All instruments are furnished.

