

Jan. 9, 2022

## Notes from the Music Department

Inspiration for "**Sunset Soliloquy**" came from a photograph that Darren Alexander, the late son of composer Dennis Alexander, had taken high atop a mountain overlooking the Missoula, Montana valley. Impressionistic in style, the music evokes Darren's great love of nature and beautiful sunsets. The sudden changes in the music also remind us that calm skies and peaceful surroundings often coexist with stormy weather.

Apologies for a glaring misprint go to the composer of "**Reflections**." Penny Rodriguez, definitely not Penny Alexander, began playing the piano at the age of six in Peru where her parents were missionaries. Currently a resident of Indianapolis, IN, her life in music has continued with both recorded albums and print music compiling her list of works.

Floridian Edward Eicker has written two collections of piano music inspired by psalms from the Hebrew Old Testament. The pieces that he wrote for these psalms are quite varied in style with today's "**Psalm 91**" meant to be played "molto espressivo" - very expressively.

Liturgical composer Mark Hayes arranged the postlude of the day using the Swedish hymn, "**Blott en dag**," ("**Day by Day**") as his inspiration. By choosing Brazilian bossa nova rhythms enriched by jazz chords, he put a very modern twist on the traditional hymn. A delightful vocal rendition of the original song can be found on YouTube, using Blott en dag and Sissel Kyrkjebo as key words. Be aware that this version can turn into an earworm quite quickly!

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### Music Making Opportunities:

Practices for our vaccinated and masked Adult Choir continue Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 in our well ventilated atrium. For more information about joining, please contact me at [margaretjerz1@gmail.com](mailto:margaretjerz1@gmail.com).

The UU Drum Club (also vaccinated and masked) that you heard at the Solstice Ceremony, meets Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 at 1005 Steuben St., Wausau. All instruments are furnished. Please email me with any questions.

