

Jan. 30, 2022

## Notes from the Music Department

Welcome to our two guest musicians today - Louis Pradt on flute and Mark Schuler, song leader. Thank you so much to both for sharing your talents with us!

One of the largest musical challenges of the pandemic has been rebuilding the strength of our congregational singing. All of us are frustrated by the masks (those foggy glasses!). Social distancing is a very effective germ sharing discouragement but it is not supportive of group singing. Several of you have suggested that we add a song leader. Thank you, Dr. Mark Schuler (and the others to come), for taking a break from your medical duties to help us out! As always, I will follow the number one instruction found in the companion volume to our gray hymnals, and play the hymns through once so that your ears have a chance to familiarize your brain with the melodies. With Mark's leadership adding to your confidence, we will be well on the road to regaining our pre-pandemic sound!

You have heard several of Englishwoman Pam Wedgwood's compositions. "**Crystal Waters**" is an impressionistic tone poem written in remembrance of time spent in the Abel Tasman national park located at the northern end of New Zealand's South Island. Imagine a long coastal trail winding over rugged ridges to golden sand beaches along pristine bays.

French composer *Georges Hue*, (1858-1948) was a prolific composer whose body of work included several operas, multiple choral works as well as many instrumental pieces. Enjoy "**Serenade**," written for flute and piano. As always, our gratitude is extended to our resident flute player, Louis Pradt!

One final note about our going forth hymn, "**We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table**." While this seems to be a happy piece filled with confidence and privilege for most of us, we need to always remember and reflect in our singing that the song originated in the time of slavery. This prayer for deliverance into heaven combined with the dream of escape from the grim realities of their lives should always be reflected with a robust and determined singing style. Sing on!

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### Music Making Opportunities

Our enthusiastic, vaccinated and masked UU Adult Choir meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 in our well ventilated atrium. An audition is not required - just bring your good ears and a desire to join us in joyous harmonies.

Basic percussion technique building, drum games and adventures into more advanced playing happen each Monday evening, 7:00-8:00, 1005 Steuben St. Wausau. The Drum Club is an eclectic group of vaccinated and masked musicians ranging from beginners to people whose hands have had some experience. There is no need to bring an instrument - the Drum Haven is full of authentic African and Caribbean drums and small percussion.

