

April 24, 2022

Notes from the Music Department

Welcome to "Sing Sunday," a celebration of our most beloved hymns, some very familiar, one that has not been shared for a while and another that comes from outside of the UU world. We are led by Wendy Galbraith, Kara Hall, and Danika Kozlovich. Our thanks go out to them for leading us in our journey back to our robust congregational voice!

"When singing a hymn or song together, we become participants rather than observers of worship. With full participation comes the opportunity to be touched in some way through singing. As we sing we build community, striving to express our commonalities as well as our diversity - singing reinforces the reasons we come together."

Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministers

"Morning Has Broken," "Gather the Spirit," "Spirit of Life," "Come, Sing a Song With Me," and "Blue Boat Home" are perennial favorites of this congregation and UU groups across the nation. Kudos and gratitude to the persons that have gifted us with these gems.

Based on the contemporary Hispanic hymn, **"Somos del Señor,"** the text that became **"When We Are Singing"** was written by Kevin T. Padworski in 2017 in response to a call by the Minneapolis based Justice Choir project. Their mission is to encourage more group singing with the goal of creating a grassroots movement to engage in the empathetic, collaborative and collective power of singing together to create positive transformation on a personal, social, local, civic and national level.

Today's Music Meditation, **"Let It Be A Dance,"** (1977) is meant to be sung joyfully. For decades, UU troubadour poet and folk singer Ric Marsten traveled nationwide as an ambassador of liberal religion. His unique mix of minstrel ministry and poetic philosophy challenged and inspired audiences across the nation.

Dates to mark on your calendar:

May 8 - The Drs. Jacob and Molly Roseman return to share their amazing talents on flute and piano.

May 22 - Ghanaian Master Drummer Sowah Mensah will join the combined Adult Choir and Drum Club in a celebration of the music of West Africa.

There is still time to become a part of Sowah's residency. Our Adult Choir meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00. The Drum Club practices from 7:00-8:00 (ish) in the Drum Haven at 1005 Steuben St. Wausau. All instruments are provided.

"If you can walk, you can dance; if you can talk, you can sing."
African proverb

43. When We Are Singing

Words by Kevin T. Padworski
Denver, CO | 2017

Music: *Somos del Señor*, Mexican hymn
arr. Padworski

$\text{♩} = 40$

Melody

Harmony

D Em/D D Em7 A7(b9)

1. When we are sing - ing, we are bound to -
2. Through times of trou - ble, through times of
3. When we are help - ing, we can be our

D Em/D D Em7 A7(b9)

geth - er, when we are shar - ing, we are free to
pain, we of - fer heal - ing, like a gen - tle
best, when we are lov - ing, hurt is put to

D D/F# Em D Gadd9 G Em7 A7(b9) F#m

be. Both in our sing - ing and in our shar - ing,
rain. Both in our heal - ing and in our car - ing,
rest. Both in our help - ing and in our lov - ing,

Bm Em/B Bm Em7 Em7/A A7(b9) D

we are bring - ing change, we are mak - ing peace.

Performance Suggestion:

- For treble voices, sing lowest harmony an octave higher.

Though this tune appears in hymnals in the United States credited as "Traditional Mexican," it has no characteristics of Mexican indigenous music, and no one knows who composed it originally. Its first written appearance was in the songbook "Celebremos II" in 1983, transcribed from an interview with a Mexican woman in Los Angeles following a worship service. It may have been composed in the 1960s. - Ahmed Anzaldúa, co-editor

Kevin writes: "I wrote this text and arranged the song with the hope that through the practice of singing together, even those with seemingly unsurpassable differences find common ground and community."

Always include songwriters' names when sharing. PDF: Songs.justicechoir.org/WhenWeAreSinging



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