

April 3, 2022

## Notes from the Music Department

We continue to be appreciative of the guidance provided by our volunteer song leaders. Thank you, Deb and Mike Wasilczuk, for your leadership this Sunday, helping us regain our congregational singing voice.

**"The Soul of Life,"** was written by the English composer Pam Wedgwood (1947-) to celebrate the gift of friendship after she and several friends enjoyed a memorable stay in the French Alps.

Two Nordic composers - Norway's Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) and Finland's Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) shared a deep love for the countries of their birth. **"In My Native Country," Opus 43, No. 3,** is part of Grieg's collection of *Lyric Pieces*. It was during Grieg's deeply patriotic lifetime that Norway was able to separate from Sweden and become an independent nation. Fun fact: Edvard Grieg and his wife, Nina, were Unitarians.

**"This is My Song,"** taken from Sibelius' **"Finlandia,"** has long been one of our favorite congregational songs. With its call for peace, along with its beauty and connection to the ineffable, it continues to touch the heart.

Today's Postlude is a piano arrangement by American Paul A. Tate of another of our favorites, **"Blue Boat Home."** The hymn tune that Minnesota's Peter Mayer used for this piece was originally written in 1830 by Welshman Rowland H Pritchard (1811-1887). It has been used as the basis for at least seven other hymns including **"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus."**

## Looking for an outlet for your musical talents?

Our vaccinated Adult Choir meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 in our well-ventilated atrium. An audition is not necessary, nor the ability to read music notation. Bring your good ears and a desire to join us in singing in harmony! Our next sharing for the congregation will happen on April 17, Easter Day.

The Drum Club (hand drumming on authentic West African and Caribbean drums) continues Mondays from 7:00-8:00 in the Drum Haven (my basement) located at 1005 Steuben St. The sessions include basic technique building, drum games with excursions into more advanced adventures. Fun and community building are always included. The Haven is full of instruments - just bring your vaccinated selves.