

May 8, 2022

## Notes from the Music Department

We thank Amy Place for her leadership today. Thanks to the continuing efforts of our song leaders, we are successfully regaining our strong congregational voice.

Welcome back, Jacob and Molly, better known as Dr. Jacob Roseman, flute instructor at the Wausau Conservatory of Music and Dr. Molly Roseman, piano professor at UWSP. Frequent guest musicians, their eclectic music always delights!

**"Solveig's Song,"** written by Edvard Grieg in 1867 as part of his famous *Peer Gynt Suite*, was sung by the very patient Solveig as she waited, waited and waited a bit more for her beloved Peer Gynt to return from his lengthy and hazardous adventures.

The classic American folk hymn from the early 1800's, **"Wondrous Love,"** comes to us from the Southern Appalachian area. It is based on the Irish and English musical influences of the people who settled there.

The beautiful song about remembering the past, **"Hamabe-no-uta"** (Song of the Beach) was written by Japanese composer, Tamezo Narita (1893-1945). Some songs transcend borders and languages, touching people's hearts and eliciting powerful memories in them. This is one of those special songs.

You heard the first three movements of Sonata in C Major by the French composer, Nicolas Chedeville (1705-1782), before the start of today's service. Chedeville was famous for his playing and composing for the musette, a bagpipe-like instrument, similar to the modern oboe.

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Please mark May 22 on your calendars! Sowah Mensah, ethnomusicologist, composer and "Master Drummer" from Ghana, West Africa will honor us with a mini-residency starting May 21 and culminating at Sunday, May 22's 10:30 service. Our Adult Choir and the Monday evening's Drum Club have been working intensely on several of Sowah's pieces in preparation for his visit.

In his words:

"Those who decide to learn this music quickly discover that to perform this music, they have to work very hard at it. They have to be team players, be very patient, listen attentively, focus sharply, and concentrate at an extremely high level. Last but not least, they must be willing to give up what most people have learned about how music is supposed to be organized, especially those whose musical training is primarily western music. They learn quickly that traditional Ghanaian music is organized differently than what they are used to."

You will hear music played on authentic instruments from Ghana that will include kpanlogos (drums) and adenkum (gourds). The songs will be sung in Twi, one of the languages of the Akan people and Ga, Sowah's first language, spoken by the Ga people of southern Ghana. This will truly be an exciting and memorable event for both participants and audience!