

February 5, 2023

## Notes from the Music Department

Our songleader today is Donna Sharek who recently relocated to Wausau from Naples, Florida and promptly joined our choir. Thank you so much, Donna, for your leadership!

Nocturnes characteristically have vocally inspired melodic lines, beautiful harmonies and arpeggiated accompaniment patterns in the left hand. Fredric Chopin is the name most associated with this genre but he was inspired by the earlier works of Irishman John Field (1782-1837) who first published a work using "**Nocturne**" as a title in 1812. "Pianoman" Billy Joel contributed his own "**Nocturne**" in 1971 on his and his band's debut album, "*Cold Spring Harbor*".

The Offertory piece is in the style of J. S. Bach but this two-part **Invention** was written in the late 1870's by English composer Ethel Smyth (1858-1944). Besides being a prolific composer, Smyth was a representative of the Suffragette movement and composed their anthem, *The March of the Women*.

"All I humbly ask is that, in the future, when an English female composer of talent comes along, she should fare neither better nor worse than our men."

Ethyl Smyth, The hard case of the women composers, Musical Times, 1928

Before we head upstairs to enjoy our monthly potluck lunch, you will hear a piece written for the marimba and played by Dr. Tim Stratton, Reverend Suzanne's husband. Tim is a Pharmacy Professor at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. After he was introduced to marimba music in his undergraduate Music Appreciation course, he started banging on marimbas himself. He gives a nod to the written musical notation but plays mostly by ear.

*El Casorio de Los Compas* (The Wedding of the Companions) was a "revolutionary song" written during El Salvador's 1979-1992 revolution. The country's peasants, school teachers, students and urban workers mobilized against El Salvador's well-entrenched military and the agro-export elite who were backed by the United States.

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The **UU Choir** meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 in our well ventilated atrium. Join us as we prepare music to share with the congregation approximately once a month. Can't read music? No problem. Neither can most of the musicians on this planet. Auditions? Not required. Just bring your good ears and a desire to be a part of our close knit singing community as we create joyous harmonies.

Our **Drum Club** meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Drum Haven located at 1005 Steuben St. Wausau. No previous percussion experience or musical background is necessary and all drums and other small percussion instruments are furnished.

