

April 16, 2023

Notes from the Music Department

It is always a pleasure to have our own Louis Pradt gifting us with his flute playing talents. Today's selections highlight the music of Kathleen Basi and John Rutter. In addition to writing delightful duets for flute and piano such as "**Flowing Gently**," midwesterner Kathleen Basi is a published novelist, liturgical composer, choir director, and disability rights activist. In her free time, she is an active parent to four busy children.

English composer, John Rutter, is best known for his choral works but also writes for other combinations of musical sound. "**Chanson**" (Song) is the fifth movement in "**Suite Antique**," written by Rutter in 1979 for a concert that featured flautist Duke Dobing. Since Bach's Concerto No. 5 was the focus of the event, Rutter wrote his Suite as an homage to the forms and styles of Bach's days while incorporating his own unique modern style.

Our closing hymn, "**We Celebrate the Web of Life**," has an interesting backstory. The song's lyrics were written by Alicia S. Carpenter, whose words are the basis for ten of the hymns in our gray "Singing the Living Tradition" hymnal, including "**Just As Long as I Have Breath**." Carpenter chose to pair her very modern UU words reflective of our Seventh Principle, "the interconnected web of which we are all a part," to the music of Melchior Vulpius (c. 1560-1616). Vulpius was a prolific composer of church music (over 200 motets and 400 hymns) during the time of transition from the Catholic traditions to the then modern music of the early protestant church. As we sing this lovely song today, think of the juxtaposition of the ancient Latin Gregorian chant style of music combined with the new German harmonies of the early 16th century Reformation.

Music Making Opportunities

The **UU Choir** meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 in our well ventilated atrium where we prepare a variety of music to share with the congregation approximately once a month. No audition nor the ability to read music is required - just bring your desire to be part of our close knit community of singers as we create joyous harmonies. This month we are revisiting several of the dapieces from our extensive repertoire that we will share at the end of the month for a festive "throw-back" Sunday, April 30.

An additional possibility for group music making happens Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 in the Drum Haven located at 1005 Steuben St. No previous percussion experience or musical background is necessary for membership in our **Drum Club**. All drums and other authentic small percussion instruments are furnished. Our time is spent in fairly equal parts of hand drumming techniques and skills building alongside fun drum circle improvisational activities and games. Community building is always present.