

Notes from the Music Department

The weekly program notes project has been in quarantine like everything else but it seems appropriate to have a drop-in visit this Sunday. Our postlude, "May Day Carol," is a composition by Algonquin Round Table friend and classical music promoter, Deems Taylor, who based it on an old English folk tune. It was first published in 1920 – just months after the flu pandemic of 1918-19 had finally come to an end.

May Day Carol

The moon shines bright,
The stars give a light,
A little before 'tis day.
The promise of dawn is calling to us
And bid us awake today.

Awake, awake, O pretty, pretty maid,
Out of your drowsy dream,
And step into your dairy below,
And fetch me a bowl of cream.

If not a bowl of your sweet cream,
A cup to bring you cheer.
For who knows when we shall meet again
To be may-ing another year.

I been a-rambling all this night
And some time of this day,
And now, returning back again,
I brought you a branch of May.

A branch of May I brought you here
And at your door I stand.
'Tis nothing but a sprout, but well budded out
By the work of nature's hand.

My song is done and I must be gone,
No longer can I stay.
So now bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a joyful May,
And send you a joyful May.