

2020/2021 Annual Report

Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

Music Program 2020-2021

The Music Team has been doing all music programming remotely this year due to the pandemic. The music program has been following the church's COVID guidelines, so no in-person choir rehearsals or in-person choir singing took place this year.

Music Director Jared (Jed) Holland has transitioned to doing an extensive amount of audio/video production to fill the church's music needs. Jed leads a video production zoom meeting every Wednesday night for those who are interested in learning more about editing audio & video. We've had quite a few church members and friends who have come to learn, to take on the project of producing a song, to ask for help with a personal video project they've been working on, or just to chat with Jed and others attending because we miss each other!

The Music Team had some changes this year too. Team member Kathleen Griffis stepped off the team. We thank Kathleen Griffis for her years of work on the music team, especially for her assistance with children's music over the years. Team member Ruth Cannava stepped off the main team but continues as part of our support team to assist us with email list requests. Team member Geri Davidson stepped off the main team but continues on the support team to assist us with many things, from our budget and finances to offering anthem and offertory song suggestions and helping Kathy stay on track. Team members Brenna Woods, Steve Hedges, and chair Kathy Grossman stayed on (yay!), and we gained several new members. Dan Murphy has been on our support team, offering song suggestions, doing video production, and performing songs. Lindsey Hedrick and Anne Smith came on as members of the main Music Team to help with song suggestions, music decisions, and performing. Anne has also been very helpful with audio/video production. Members of the main music team and the support team have been very generous at sharing their musical talents and growing their technical skills over the pandemic.

It was also a pleasure to have Rev. Allison participate in our remote Music Team meetings when she returned from parental leave.

Members of the choir and church have also stepped in to contribute to the music we've produced. From providing photos and videos to illustrate a theme, audio recordings of spoken words, to a video or audio recording of their singing part for an anthem, they have added to the richness of our musical offerings, and we are so grateful! We have tried to have a variety of ways for people to contribute, and many have stepped up. We offer special thanks to Suellen Davidson, Sarah Shor, Kathleen Griffis, and Emma Rearick, as well as the Music Team members, who have said yes many times over the year when asked to sing!

Jed continues as a year-round employee, so he assisted all the summer service worship leaders as requested, providing piano and organ music, solos, and accompaniments as needed.

We currently have four church members (Laurie Barry, Steve Hedges, Anne Smith, and Kathy Grossman) doing the work of posting recordings to kooper.uunashua.org, and have worked to input data correctly for the AV Team to do reporting in accordance with the music licensing

requirements. These recordings, found at koober.uunashua.org, have proven so helpful to the worship organizers during our remote services. They have been able to use recordings of past choir anthems as well as congregational singing to provide some of the music for the Zoom services.

We produced six virtual choir anthems: Hand in Hand, You Are Loved, two Christmas Eve songs (Il Est Ne' Noel and Will the Angels Still Sing?), Acts of Creation, and Come in From the Firefly Darkness, as well as one youth virtual choir song: The Wassail Song.

We had many songs produced by the music team and friends as a group, and we had about 30 soloists, 6 duets, and 10 small groups perform special music.

We provided music every Sunday except two Switch it up Sundays, two services with a musical guest, and two recorded worship services provided by the UUA. We also facilitated music for Ben Atherton-Zeman's ordination.

Guest Musicians

We had great participation by many guest musicians who provided special music. This year's guest musicians include many congregation members and friends. There were so many, and they contributed in so many ways that I do not have a complete list of all the contributors. Special thanks go to people who stepped up multiple times, including Suellen Davidson, Sarah Shor, Emma Rearick, Kathleen Griffis, Harry Purkhiser, Kim Steele, Vengerflutta Smith, and the entire Holland family, as well as music team members Steve Hedges, Anne Smith, Dan Murphy, Lindsey Hedrick, Brenna Woods, Geri Davidson, and Kathy Grossman. And we are grateful to all of you who contributed in many many ways, small and big, throughout the year!

We "hosted" online musical contributions from performer Peter Mayer, as well as drummer and worship leader Matt Meyer. It was a joy to have them join us in Zoom!

Review of Music Budget 2020-2021

We have only ordered small numbers of printed music for soloists and small groups. The music budget was used to give donations to professional musicians who provided their music videos free-of-charge for use in our Zoom services, and to pay for Peter Mayer's visit.

We continue to pay the Andover Organ Company for needed tunings and repairs of the piano and organ.

Goals for 2021-2022

- During this upcoming year our goal will be to provide music for worship services as the church begins its transition back to in-person services when the regular church year starts up in September.
- The music team will focus on how to safely provide music while following the church's protocols for hybrid services (services that some people attend remotely and some attend in person).
- To keep personally connected to the individuals in the music program so they feel this church is their family, especially during troubled times.

- To find even more ways for church members and friends, including children and youth, to contribute musically to the life of the church.
- To interact with the minister, the DFF, the ministerial intern, and the worship associates to continue to bring meaningful music to our congregation.