

2022/2023 Annual Report

Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

Music Program 2022-2023

The Music Team is now doing nearly all the music programming in-person. We did a few musical video offerings and we still have a remote option for our music team meetings. We are now back to our pre-pandemic rehearsal schedule, with 9:15 Sunday morning and 7:30 Wednesday evening choir rehearsals.

The Music Team had some changes this year. Kathleen Griffis returned to the music team. Welcome back, Kathleen! Dan Murphy remains on the team in a supporting role due to family health issues. Team members Lindsey Hedrick, Brenna Woods, Dan Murphy, Vengerflutta Smith, Anne Smith, Kathleen Griffis, Kathy Grossman, and chair Geri Davidson, along with Music Director Jed Holland and Rev. Allison Palm, have done a great job in another year of changes.

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 have had 29 active choir members this year. The risks caused by Covid are still keeping about 17 previously active choir members from being able to return to full participation in the choir.

We had 2 rejoining choir members and 15 new people (9 of whom were new to the church) come to sing with the choir this year. 8 of the newcomers have joined the choir as continuing members: Jessica Price, Devin Volpe, Paul Introcaso, Pam Michael, Mike Cooper, Kristal Truax, Tom Sheehan and Tony Gross.

We currently have three church members (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. There were some technical difficulties this spring, but we hope to have that all straightened out soon.

We provided music every Sunday, for a total of 40 choir anthems, six Christmas Eve songs, three children's choir or family choir songs, and 31 soloists or small groups. Faith Formation Director Sadie Kahn-Greene has been facilitating the children's and family choir's songs.

Geri Davidson, who has been serving as our music librarian and co-chair of the music team, is retiring from the music team at the end of this church year. We are so grateful to Geri for all the many, many hours of dedicated effort to provide an excellent music program over the many years she has been on the team. Thank you, Geri!

Guest Musicians

We had great participation by many church members and friends who provided special music. Soloists and small group singers include Kathleen Griffis, Kim Steele, Kathy Grossman, Steve Hedges, Jed Holland, Anne Smith, Brenna Woods, Lindsey Hedrick, Martha Holland, Emma

Rearick, Laurie Barry, Sarah Gallardo, Kathy Fletcher, Tom Sheehan, Marissa Volpe, Sharon Machado, Kristal Truax, Dan Murphy, Sadie Kahn-Greene, and Rev. Allison Palm.

Instrumentalists include John Burkitt on bass (who performed many Sundays - welcome back!), Burns Fisher on clarinet, Mary Holland on electric organ, Christopher Holland on percussion, and Dan Murphy, Steve Hedges and Tom Sheehan on guitar.

There were even more that I may have missed. Special thanks to people who stepped up multiple times, as well as our music team members who sing whenever asked! And we are grateful to all of you who contributed in many many ways, small and big, throughout the year!

Review of Music Budget 2022-2023

We purchased only four new choir songs this year. There was less need to purchase new music, as the songs in our music library had not been sung in recent years due to the pandemic.

We hired substitute music directors for 5 Sundays and 2 Wednesday nights. Johnna Ross, Gary Finger, Julie Oliver, and Julia Horaj all helped Jed to have some well-deserved time off this year.

We continue to pay the Andover Organ Company for needed tunings and repairs of the piano. Our organ remains unusable due to blower problems. Jed has been using an electronic organ to provide some music this year.

We paid for an air purifier for the Chancel area and helped pay for an air purifier in the chapel, to try to reduce the spread of Covid and keep choir members and Jed healthy.

Goals for 2023-2024

- During this upcoming year our goal will be to provide music for worship services.
- 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.