

2023/2024 Annual Report

Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

Music Program 2023-2024

The Music Team is doing nearly all of the music programming in-person. We still have a remote option for our music team meetings, and we held one service completely remotely during a snowstorm. Our rehearsals are 7:30 Wednesday evenings and either 9 or 9:15 Sunday morning, depending on how many anthems we are singing that day.

Music Team members are Mike Cooper (Choir Member Coordinator), Marissa Volpe and Emma Rearick (Co-secretaries and Communications), Anne Smith (Music Librarian), Brenna Woods and Kathleen Griffis (team Co-chairs), Lindsey Hedrick, and Kathy Grossman, along with Music Director Jed Holland, student minister Erin Scott, and Rev. Allison Palm. Geri Davidson stepped down from the team last year, and the rest of the members have really stepped up to cover all the tasks that needed to be done. They have done a great job in a year of changes. We also want to offer special thanks to Dylan, who joined us in the fall, but has had to move to another state. Dylan's percussion skills and creativity were a big help in our band planning. We wish him the best in his new home and hope he comes to visit.

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 27 active choir members, 6 members performing on special occasions, and 1 member on sabbatical but intending to rejoin after retirement this year. We had 2 rejoining choir members and 7 new people (3 of whom were new to the church) come to sing with the choir this year. 6 of the newcomers have joined the choir as continuing members: Corey Sweeney, Matt Lavigne, Mary Sayward, Phinn Phillips, Jane Ellison, and Dylan Yetter, who unfortunately for us is moving.

We currently have four church members (Kim Steele, Rob Bates, Anne Smith, and Kathy Grossman) doing the work of posting recordings to koober.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, but now we're able to post and keep up to date.

We provided music nearly every Sunday of the regular year, for a total of 42 choir anthems, 2 Christmas Eve songs sung for two services, 2 youth choir or family choir songs, 32 soloists or small groups with a total of over 70 vocalists and over 10 accompanying instrumentalists, 4 instrumental solos, and the house band performed for many of the services, including one service where they were featured. Faith Formation Director Sadie Kahn-Greene facilitated the children's and family choir's songs.

We have had a band of varying size and members in many of our services this year. Sometimes it was only John Burkitt on bass, and other times, Dylan Yetter or Matt Lavigne joined in on drums as well as an occasional guitar.

For special events, we had a choir open house in September that was well-attended, and we made desserts and a themed cake for the auction.

Guest Musicians

We had great participation by many church members and friends who provided special music, many more than once. Vocal soloists and small group singers include Anne Smith, Brenna Woods, Paul Introcaso, Kathleen Griffis, Jed Holland, Marissa Volpe, Emma Rearick, Martha Holland, Kathy Grossman, Lindsey Hedrick, Mike Cooper, Kim Steele, Dylan Yetter, Abigail Banner, Steve Hedges, Tom Sheehan, Matt Levigne, Harry Purkhiser, Kathy Fletcher, Savanna Wilson Chapman, Sadie Kahn-Greene, and Rev. Allison Palm.

Instrumentalists include John Burkitt on bass (in the band many Sundays); Dylan Yetter and Matt Levigne on drums (in the band many Sundays); cellist Graham Cooper; guitarists Mike Cooper, Steve Hedges, Tom Sheehan, Kathy Grossman, and Dylan Yetter; and oboist Corey Sweeney.

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

Review of Music Budget 2023-2024

We purchased only 10 new choir anthems this year. There was less need to purchase new music, as we are singing only one anthem per week for most Sundays. We also purchased music for small groups and soloists. Jed Holland arranged some songs, and Kathy Grossman wrote a new song.

We hired substitute Gary Finger as a music director for 3 Sundays, 2 Wednesday nights, and one memorial service. Gary and the music team 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, and Jed continues to use an electronic organ as needed.

Goals for 2024-2025

- During this upcoming year our goal will be to provide music for worship services.
- 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.
- To strive for continuity and connection during our construction phase out of the building.