

Music Report

Jan 2024

**Sing to the Lord a new song,
[God's] praise in the assembly of his faithful people.**

Psalm 149:1



**How good it is to sing praises to our God;
For he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting**

Psalm 147:1

Why Music?

Scripture leaves no doubt of the importance of music in worship; the Psalms above are good examples. But what is it about music that makes it so central?

We know that relaxing music can improve our physical health (lowering blood pressure and pulse), but how many of us realize that the health of our congregation can also be improved by a committed and vibrant music program? In fact, the choir's songs with their meaningful texts set to beautiful music are meant to minister to our members' mental, social, physical, and *spiritual* health. These anthems:

- bring comfort in hard times,
- minister and inspire in dry times, and

- spark praise in times of joy.

Singing, or listening to our choirs and band, helps lead people into an experience of God's presence and love. And when we blend our voices together in praise, music becomes the rich glue God can use to bind our community of faith together.

In our music the story of God's presence and redemption in our world is moved from "head knowledge" down to "heart knowledge". God becomes more real; our knowledge of God becomes more inspired. Whether we sing prayer or praise, Scripture texts or poetry, we are equipping our congregation – ourselves! – to go and serve God's world. We also are aware that through our livestream our worship music goes out into the world to comfort and inspire people who aren't able to join us for in-person worship.

CBUC - Music by the Numbers

- 19 - enthusiastic and committed choir members
- 45 - Sunday anthems sung
- 42 - Thursday evening choir practices
- 43 - pre-service Sunday morning rehearsals
- 3 - choir gatherings: September, Christmas, and June
- 2 - music reading workshops
- 2 - extra Saturday practices
- 2 - special services: Good Friday and Christmas Eve
- 1 - Christmas Cantata: "Carol Cantata" by David Ouchterlony
- 2 - committed and skilled narrators in the Christmas Cantata: Karen Strawn-Samis and Bill Samis

- 2 - enthusiastic congregational members who joined the choir in rehearsing and singing the cantata
- 2 - instrumentalists who have played with our choir anthems, adding layers of beauty and drama to the music: Johanna de Lieuu and Andre Pickersgill
- 2 - memorial services for past choir members: Pat Shumka and Alan Hodgson

Thank you's:

Our CBUC Choir – for their time commitment and dedication to serving our congregation, for their musical excellence and keenness to making their contribution as beautiful as possible, for their care for other choir members – including the Director!

Chime Choir – for their dedication and sticking with it to bring lovely contemplative music to our worship

CBUC Worship Band – for giving their time and talents to enrich and enliven our Sunday worship

Glenn Parsons – for his creative band leadership and stepping in to lead choir practices and services when Music Director not available

Beth Parsons – for selecting and ably directing the cantata this year

Margaret Chambers – for leading the Chime Choir and **being *President*** of the choir

Lynn Dennis – for contributing his rousing musical gifts to our worship

Sopranos:

Sam Boehner, Margaret Chambers, Chris Cardy, Peggy Dayton, Ria Korteweg, Carol Paton, Lois Steeves, Jeanette White

Altos:

Margaret Bates, Kate Insley, Beth Parsons, Ruthe Tiessen, Elaine Zandee

Tenors:

Stephen Godfrey, Alan Priestley

Basses:

Perry Calderwood, David Chambers (late), Mark Collins, Lorne Holland, Atholl Malcolm, Glenn Parsons

Director:

Sharon Prindle-Collins

Chime Choir

Margaret Chambers – Director

Peggy Dayton

Chris Cardy

Barbara Shobrook

Christine Smith

CBUC Worship Band Members

Glenn Parsons – piano and leader

Stephen Godfrey - string bass

Bruce MacKenzie - drums

Lynn Dennis - keyboard

John Hobbs - guitar

Ben Caspersen - guitar

Doug Thompson - guitar

Kate Insley - flute

Joe Bradley - soprano sax

Brenda Paterson - accordion

Peggy Dayton - vocals

Alan Priestly - vocals

Beth Parsons - vocals

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Prindle Collins

CBUC Music Director