



Music Program Report

April 2007

Overview

The music program at 1st UU Church provides organ and piano music to accompany every service, augmented by choir performances at least once per month. The music staff is Todd Ballou, serving as music director, organist, and choir accompanist; and Gwen Foss, choir director.

What is working well in your committee or group?

- After 10 years of hands on learning, I am confident that 1st UU is benefiting from my expanding skill as an organist. It is a bigger thrill as each year passes.
- Having a separate choir director has been an important part of doing a better job as organist and music director. Gwen Foss joined us one year ago.
- The music budget has recently been increased significantly, which is opening up more opportunities to create beautiful music. His past year was the first year we have allocated money for a professional (paid) musician at every service.

What would you like to change?

- I'd like to improve at finding and scheduling guest musicians. It has been a time saver to cover all of the Sunday services myself, which I admit is a bit dysfunctional. The increased budget will allow 1st UU church to take advantage of mainstream music sub networks.

How Are Communications Working? Mostly good

Could you improve? I've established excellent & regular communication with Gwen, and feel a strong teamwork forming. There is excellent communication between worship committee-minister-and music staff. Better communication needed within the choir, and I'd like to seek ways to allow direct congregational feedback about the music.

What changes do you suggest?

- Continue to formalize & share information about procedures, such as instrument maintenance, guest musicians, and choir.
- Schedule services more in advance to give them a better chance to mature and develop.

What are your goals for the near future?

- Learn and perform more orchestral repertoire that will highlight the history and uniqueness of our organ. Specifically, I am working on "Jupiter" from Holt's The Planets, and Beethoven's 5th Symphony.



- I have never done a recital for the church, and I would like to get one on the schedule. Preliminary thoughts are for a Fall recital, which could support our shared growth initiative, and support a few organ repairs.
- Try new ideas for service music, such as more vocal duets, solos, or quartets, or special instrumental music.

Improvement of the choir program is an important, but complex task that will take some time, and continuous attention. I have focused on mentoring.