

Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

Music Program 2008-2009

Jared (Jed) Holland led two choirs this year. The adult choir continues to involve a large number of church friends and members, totaling over 30 singers. The treble choir involves very young children up through about 8th grade and has also grown in numbers. Unfortunately, we no longer have a youth choir, as there wasn't enough interest to maintain a viable size. The treble choir sang seven times, including once with some of their family members for Mother's Day, and once with the adult choir. The adult choir sang for 31 services. Many members of the congregation joined us for the Christmas Eve service, and the choir will be singing at the annual meeting.

Our music committee has been assisting Jed with the music program. This committee (chair Kathy Grossman, members Geri Davidson, Kathi Fogal, John Burkitt, Jon Lasselle, Ruth Cannava, Steve Edington) has been doing a great job. Geri Davidson continues to perform a critical role in keeping the choir, music committee, music, and Jed organized.

In keeping with last year's goal of providing more ways for congregation members and friends to contribute musically, we have started the "Greater Choir", performed the play Honk!, added a band to many services, and asked more guest musicians to perform. We added the "Greater Choir" option to help more people participate in the choir. This choir lets interested congregation members join the choir for one Sunday at a time without committing to Wednesday evening rehearsals. The Greater choir sang 6 times. We haven't had huge turnouts, but there are usually a few extra folks.

A wonderful accomplishment was Jed and Martha Holland's directing of the musical Honk! They managed to bring out the talent of many church members of all ages, and they all pulled together to do a fabulous job!

We had huge participation by guest musicians to provide special music other than the normal choirs, with 39 people (counting some who came multiple times for a total of 68 performers) for a total of 24 services! That doesn't even count Honk! John Burkitt has continued coordinating with the large number of special musicians.

The adult choir has also been singing many songs from the "Singing the Journey" hymnal supplement, which we hope to be able to eventually buy enough copies so the congregation can sing along.

In order to provide a wider variety of hymn sung at services, Ruth Cannava and the music committee have been suggesting less common hymns from the hymnal to sing, and the adult choir has been leading the congregation in singing these unfamiliar hymns.

Kathy Grossman has also written two compositions this year for us to use in services: a hymn "It's A Brand New Day", and a closing song "Peace and Joy".

Review of Music Budget 2008-2009

We continue to have our biggest expense of printed sheet music for the choir, due mostly to the large choir membership. We also have been paying a babysitter occasionally to help on Wednesdays and Sundays as needed, in order to accommodate some of our members with children. Jed has not used any professional expenses, nor has he paid for many substitutes and outside guest musicians, so we have kept our expenses down in that way.

Printed Music/Folders

Happily, we continue to have good participation in our choirs! We continue to order music and folders for 30-35 adult choir members. Unfortunately, there is no longer a youth choir, so we are not ordering music for them. We reduced the number of pieces of music ordered for the treble choir, even though there are more members, because many of the children are not yet music readers, so they are sharing and learning by ear.

Guest Musicians

This year's guest musicians include many congregation members: brass choir members Bruce Cleaveland, Bruce Dye, Jonathon Orr, Ben Pugh, Lori Lerude, Jenny Grossman, and Kathy Grossman; band members John Burkitt, Geoff Goodell, Billy Parker, Tess George, Adrian George, Zoe Goodell, Bruce Fitzpatrick, and occasional others; Woody Guthrie singers Dan Murphy, Kathy Grossman, and Harry Purkhiser; trombonists Jenny Grossman and Kathy Grossman; John Sanders; violinist Greg Cowan; flutes Gillian Hinkle and Linda Lewis; Steve Hedges; Stephanie George; P. M. Ambrogio; Cynthia Schroer; guitarist Simon Rios; drummer Kaveri Rajaraman; clarinets Suellen Davidson and Tina Marshman; vocal soloists Ellen McCormick, Gil Dubray, Kathy Fletcher, Marty Storer, Laura and Ruth Cannava, Andrea Lerude, Sandra LaBarge-Neumann, and Kathy Grossman; and talented members to numerous to mention here who participated in the Honk! musical. Also, visitor Tamara Liu came to play flute.

Instrument Repairs/Maintenance

The organ had 2 tunings, the sanctuary piano had 2 tunings, the choir room electronic piano has been working well, and the sanctuary humidifier system is being maintained.

Goals for 2009-2010

To keep our expenses down by repeating some of our favorite songs throughout the year.
To keep personally connected to the individuals in the music program so they feel this church is their family, especially during troubled times.