



SO NOTED

Week of April 25, 2016

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, p.m.

Send news to:
isoldedavidson@yahoo.com

Hymns That Stay With Us Comparing Hymns and Contemporary Songs

By Jonathan Aigner

Aigner is a former Southern Baptist turned Methodist and is Director of Music for a United Methodist congregation. He is also a blogger on church music and quite opinionated. You may or may not agree with his views on contemporary songs, but his rationale is interesting. For music videos of his favorite hymns, go to the link at the end of this article.

A while back, I was interviewed by Brad from a contemporary music website, Worship Links. I answered some questions on how I go about the process of worship planning. Having me on was a real departure for them, but I hope it added some perspective for their readers, and I was happy to have the opportunity.

One of the questions was phrased this way:

Desert Island Worship Mix: You're trapped on a desert island, and for reasons too ridiculous to explain, you can only have one CD with five worship songs on it. What are they?

Of course, I immediately traded my CD for a hymnal.

...[w]e don't do traditional worship [primarily] because we like it, because it creates this sensory experience for us, but because we need it. Because we need the grounding, the shaping, the boundary, the and the "rootedness" that it brings us, while looking for new and creative ways to express our Christian story. Because it reminds us of what has already been done in Christ, and what one day will be. Because some things shouldn't be optional...

But one byproduct of historic Christian worship is that, through active participation

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NEWSY NOTES & SHAMELESS PROMOTIONS



THIS WEEK . . . and Beyond

Remaining Choir Schedule

Regular Rehearsals – May 4, 11 (last regular rehearsal). **No rehearsal on April 27** (Pa Pa Choo-Choo will be babysitting in San Diego).

Sunday Worship

We will continue to sing for worship through June 26, except May 1, which is Youth Sunday. **The Chancel Choir will NOT be in loft on May 1.**

ODDS & ENDS...

Choir Appreciation Party

Wow, what a great event **Lynda Elliott** and her helpers put together for the choir on April 23. Photos and more details will be in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, **Lynda Elliott** asks that all who made the party a happy event be recognized (and she thanks them very much!):

Jim and Carol Stull for providing all the beverages.

Nancy Schamadan and Jim MacAllen for providing the cakes.

Eileen Tellefson for providing all the table decorations and snacks.

Paula Thoms, Sue Larson, Merrill Turley, Judy Loken for assisting with the cake cutting.

Merrill Turley, Sue Larson, Eileen and Ron Tellefson for setting up the tables.

Steve Crosby for being our accompanist.

Andrew and Adrienne for singing my ludicrous lyrics.

Chef Phoenix, Robert Setzer for an amazing buffet.

If I have forgotten anyone please excuse me; too much sugar from the cake. —Lynda Elliott

Your Prayers Asked

Soprano **Teresa Corelli's** father died last week. In addition, her husband **Randy** is recuperating from a heart attack. Baritone **Ted Crow's wife Betty** fell, but he reports she is improving. Alto Meredith Downing's friend Paul is ill. Alto **Isolde Davidson's cousin Ulrike**, in Germany, is recovering from bladder cancer surgery and struggling with chemo nausea. **Alto Marta Fiala** is grateful that she has found her father's family.



Join the Crowds!

Brent and Marilyn Hylton will be feted twice next month to mark their retirement after 15 years as director and assistant director, respectively, of the Pinnacle music program. So get these dates on your calendar:

Don't delay getting your reservation in—seating is limited—seriously!

• **Friday, May 20, 6:00 p.m. –**

A fun-filled evening of DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT at Ancala Country Club, 11700 E. Via Linda Rd., Scottsdale. Cost is \$25/person; no host bar; complimentary valet; resort casual attire. **Your check is your RSVP to the church office by May 15.** Contact Marcia Sobek at (602) 618-8618 or sobeys@cox.net for more info.

• **Sunday, May 22, 11:00 a.m.—**

CONGREGATION-WIDE CELEBRATION in fellowship Hall with light refreshments. It will be time to share stories and express your personal gratitude for the music ministry at Pinnacle.

Hymns That Stay With Us *(Continued from page 1)*

and repetition, it helps our faith become a part of us. In that way, hymn singing has always been a didactic process.

Most of us who grew up with hymns undoubtedly have some that are our favorites, usually those in which we have found meaning, instruction, solace, and encouragement. I learned these songs as a kid, and it's nothing but a benefit to me to have these hymns in my heart and head as I go through the seasons of life.

One of the main problems with the current popular repertoire is that it's not created to last. By its own definition, contemporary worship has little use for anything that isn't current and that doesn't produce a limbic response. It's like striking a match. It's fun for an instant, but then it disappears, and we're left to try and recreate it.

When we choose songs to sing, we ought to be doing so with an eye toward lighting a candle, a lasting flame that will stay with us.

Choosing five for me is nearly impossible. As I said in the interview, tomorrow, I might choose five completely different hymns. But resisting the temptation to edit, these are the hymns I ended up choosing.

5. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

What more could be said about the otherness of the Almighty? A creed in and of itself.

4. Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

As the previous hymn states so well, our God is distinctively other. But also, "the Lord is never far away." Transcendent, yet imminent. Unfathomable.

3. Ask Ye What Great Things I Know

2. **There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood** – A guilty pleasure of a hymn, if ever there was one. Also, an excuse to visit with some Sacred Harp friends.

1. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

I love the last stanza, "Finish, then, thy new creation / pure and spotless let us be / Let us see thy great salvation / perfectly restored in thee."

That's what being kingdom people is all about.

http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ponderanew/2016/04/22/hymns-that-stay-with-us/?ref_widget=related&ref_blog=ponderanew&ref_post=comparing-hymns-and-contemporary-songs

Hey, Chancel Choir, how about you send me your five favorite hymns and I'll publish them in the newsletter? Send to isoldedavidson@yahoo.com or give me your list at rehearsal or on a singing Sunday. —the editor



legacy | music

Be Part of the Legacy— Help Establish the Hylton Music Ministry Fund

The fund will be managed by the Foundation and will be used to continue, to expand, and to enhance the work of our choirs, singers, chimeras, ringers and ensembles as directed by the Director of Music and approved by the Worship and Fine Arts Committee to support all forms of the Music Ministry of the church.

How to Contribute:

If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please notify a pastor, a PPC Foundation trustee, or make your check out to the **Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Foundation** with the notation "**Hylton Music Ministry Fund**" and send it to the church office.

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GIFT FOR THE HYLTONS

To contribute to the **congregation-wide cash gift** to the Hyltons, please contact Lea Reinke at lrinke@pinnaclepres.org or (480)585-9448 ext. 206. Checks for the cash gift should be made payable to Pinnacle Presbyterian Church with the appropriate notation in the memo line.

DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE

MAY

4 - Meredith Downing
11 - Jim Stull



28 – Bill & Lynda (Elliott) Kirk



3 – Carl Gates
10 – Mary LaValley
12 – Marilyn Hylton
12 – Tom Lyon
14 – Nancy Houston
15 – Dick Phelps
20 – Mark Leal
24 – Laurie Porter
28 – Isolde Davidson

So Here You Have It—Altos Make Life Richer!

A response to Brent's alto-bashing at the Choir Recognition Party. Brent may have been kidding, but this writer is serious, and as an alto, I'm loving it. This is a long piece and I have cut extensively. Click on the link at the end to read the entire article.

By Anna George Meek

Meek sings professionally with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, and is a professor of English in the Twin Cities (Minnesota).

I sing alto....[I]f you're not listening to a choral piece carefully from the inside, or for the inside, you may hear just the melody and the pretty chords behind it. Sometimes the tenors might soar up to carry the line for a while, or offer a counter-melody. The basses are bedrock; look down, and there they are, ever present.

But for lots of choral pieces, many people would have a hard time picking out the alto. Sometimes, I'm shocked to hear a recording of a piece for which I've memorized the alto part, and I can't pick out the line. Yet if the altos were missing, the piece would feel wrong and empty. Often, the alto line is magical, just below consciousness. The alto line is texture, changing light, tension, weather.

I love singing alto. This is praise for the inner line, the line that sits just below your conscious hearing; this is about what it feels like to have that line. And it feels like nougat. It feels like the warm place inside the engine. It feels like being the secret ingredient, the red-gold saffron you paid \$50 a bottle for and loving the glow.

As an alto, I have a physical sense of being in the middle of a crowd, embraced on all sides. I am part of something. I lean my ear toward the sopranos on my right, or the tenors on my left. I feel warm presence all around me. And I try to shapeshift my voice, matching one color or another. Altos might come up under a soprano line for a three or four-note duet and disappear again. We might sing a line in unison with the tenors, not audible as a section, but adding woodsmoke to their sound.

....[T]he best choral composers love the altos, and give them complex and fascinating stuff to do. All the parts have magical qualities, and all the voice parts in some piece or another will experience these things I mention above. But next time you are listening to a choral piece..., hold still. See if you can hear the alto line. See if you can feel the alto line....

In your daily life, you may start to see altos. You may recognize an alto because she (or he) is singing a familiar tune, sort of — not badly, just bent through a prism somehow, not quite the notes you know. And altos could be anyone: our neighbors and friends, even family. Even now, altos are walking amongst us, making life richer, though we may barely know it!

<http://www.classicalmpr.org/story/2014/02/04/alto-eye-view>