

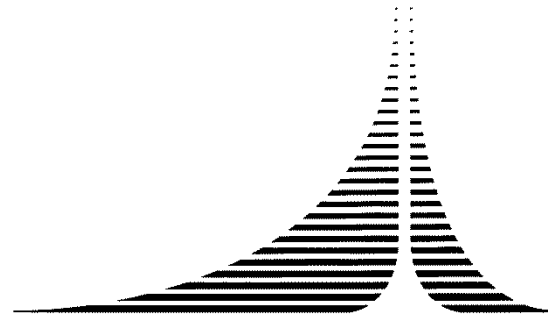
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

There are many ways to support the music program beyond musical participation and/or performance.

- Become a member of the Music Committee, which supports the music program of the church and the work of the Minister of Music.
- Make a contribution to the Bernhard Music Endowment Fund, which helps to support special musical events.
- Subsidize a concert performance at the church.
- Commemorate a birthday or an anniversary with special music or a commission.
- Help the Minister of Music with choral library duties.
- Be on call to help with Music Committee activities, such as cabaret set-up, concert set-up, publicity, tickets, and more.

Contact Edward Thompson,
Minister of Music,
or any member of the Music Committee
for more information.

THE MUSIC PROGRAM *at* ***The Unitarian Church*** ***Westport, CT***



Reverend Dr. Edward Thompson
Minister of Music
Unitarian Church in Westport
10 Lyons Plains Road
Westport CT 06880
203-227-7205, extension 18
ed@uuwestport.org
www.uuwestport.org

THE MUSIC PROGRAM

Music is a high priority in the life of our congregation and is an essential part of the Sunday worship service. Under the leadership of Doctor Thompson, Minister of Music, the Unitarian Church in Westport offers a program of music that is drawn from various eras, places and cultures. On a Sunday morning, you might hear a South African freedom song, a Gregorian chant, a Mozart sonata, acoustic folk, a Bach aria or jazz. We believe that such diversity is enriching, challenging, and nurturing to our spiritual growth. Far from being entertaining, music is a means of touching deep levels within an individual that words alone cannot.

The heart of our music program consists of several choirs, which range in ability from highly skilled singers to beginners. Guest artists are occasionally invited to provide an added dimension to worship services.

Another important goal of the program is to foster the musical growth of individuals through singing, sight-singing classes, voice classes and other performance opportunities. When appropriate, the Minister of Music invites special guest artists, teachers and facilitators to offer workshops and/or classes.

OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

The Reverend Dr. Edward Thompson has been at our church since 1978. He holds a Master's Degree from the Juilliard School and a Doctorate from the University of Hartford. He has concertized throughout the United States and Europe. In addition, he teaches privately, and coaches, composes and accompanies throughout the area. He is an active member of the Unitarian-Universalist Musician's Network. He was ordained by the congregation in 1997 in recognition of his ministry through music.

THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Music Committee supports the music program of the church and the work of the Minister of Music. The committee meets as needed to assist in the planning, organization and production of special musical events that are a part of our extended music program. Anyone with an interest in participating in the activities of the Music Committee is encouraged to speak to Edward Thompson or a member of the Music Committee at any time.

MUSIC PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

***There is room for everyone
in the music program at a level
appropriate to their time,
talent and interest.
We invite you to join us.***

WOMEN'S CHOIR

The Women's choir rehearses on most Thursdays from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m., and usually sings twice a month at Sunday morning services. They sing music from a variety of different traditions, cultures and styles.

MEN'S CHOIR

The Men's Choir rehearses on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., and usually sings twice a month at Sunday morning services. They sing a varied repertoire which coordinates with the theme of the service.

SPECIAL PROJECTS CHOIR

This is a mixed choir (SATB) that presents three special musical services each year in December, March and June. These programs feature longer and more challenging choral works such as: the Faure *Requiem*, the Poulenc *Gloria*, the Mozart *Vespers*. This choir rehearses on the four Thursdays prior to each event. The ability to read music is a prerequisite, as this group presents larger and more complex works with a minimum of rehearsal time.

CHAMBER CHOIR

The Chamber Choir consists of singers (SATB) who are chosen by the Minister of Music. They sing a variety of music that spans the centuries. They rehearse and sing on an occasional basis.

ONCE & AGAIN FOLKSINGERS

This choir meets on the first and third Monday of each month from 7:45 – 9:15 p.m. Their repertoire consists of world music that speaks about the universality of our human experience and the sharing of Unitarian Universalist values. Music reading skills and prior choral experience are desirable but not required.

BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir meets every week throughout the year and is under the direction of Debbie Handler. Although the ability to read music is not essential, it is strongly recommended. The Bell Choir performs at services on an occasional basis, using both bells and chimes. They also provide outreach by performing at other churches and community sites.

*“Music is not illusion, but rather
a revelation. Its triumphant power
lies in the fact that it reveals to us
beauties we find in no other sphere.”*

Tchaikovsky

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir meets on Thursdays from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., and includes youth from ages 8 through 13. In this choir the youth learn songs, hymns, and simple musical pieces that reflect Unitarian Universalist values. The primary function of the group is to experience singing in an ensemble. Some fundamentals of music are taught, including tone production, blending, dynamics, and the use of rhythm instruments. Because the voice is used in a constructive and expressive way, one of the side benefits that these young singers frequently experience is an increased sense of self-esteem. They participate in Sunday morning services on an occasional basis.

TEEN CHOIR

The Teen Choir - ages 13 and older - meets on Thursdays from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. It is designed to teach musical repertoire that reflects Unitarian Universalist values. The musical pieces are more advanced, including some three- and four-part pieces and some pieces without accompaniment. The need to be sensitive to other members of the group and the need to value each individual contribution are important aspects of this ensemble. Tone production, blending, and dynamics are some of the musical teachings of this group. They participate in Sunday morning services on an occasional basis and at other events in the life of the congregation.

SIGHT-SINGING CLASSES

These classes are offered at two different levels: one for beginners and one for intermediate singers. The classes are usually on Saturday mornings during the winter months. They are designed to provide the singer with rudimentary skill in reading music symbols and training the ear in the areas of pitch and rhythm. The goal is to provide an individual with greater musical facility so that he/she will have a better sense of involvement in one of the choirs.

VOICE CLASSES

These classes are offered on an occasional basis by professional voice teachers. Participants are able to develop their vocal techniques, improve their musicianship, and increase their repertoire. All of this occurs in a mutually supportive atmosphere.

CABARET EVENINGS

These are usually held on a Saturday evening. Participation is open to anyone who wishes to sing, play, tell a story, or recite a poem. Attendees bring their own food and drink and enjoy an evening of music, dance and surprises, offered by the talented and creative members and friends of the Unitarian Church in Westport.

OTHER EVENTS

Other events may include master classes, concerts, and workshops, occur with some regularity, and add a further dimension to the musical experience.