

Welcome to

Sound Connections

Unity's New Thought Music Resource

Issue #65 August, 2010

*Produced by Music Ministry Team and the Sacred Music Resources Department.
Richard Mekdeci, Editor Sue Riley, Team Chair
Fred Bogert, Jennifer Ferren, Blair Tabor, David Ezell, Carole Tomhave
Melinda Wood-Allen, Todd Lowry*

Our online New Thought music community is now over 1600 strong!

IN THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM SUE - page 2

Another great Sound Connections Experience!

THIS MONTH'S FREE SHEET MUSIC ATTACHMENT - page 3

"The Lord's Psalm" by Richard Mekdeci

SOUND CONNECTIONS MUSIC CONFERENCE THIS MONTH! - page 3

2011 SC July 25 - 29 - This year's Testimonials - Link to Pictures

FEATURED TOPIC - page 6

Can Old School Really Be Cool? - by Jennifer Ferren

WHAT'S A NEW THOUGHT SONG - page 7

"The Fruit of the Spirit" by Dan Forrest

CD REVIEW - page 8

"The Answer Is You" - Music from Michael Beckwith's PBS special
"Affirmation Rock" - Cliff Rubin

The MAILBOX — YOUR LETTERS & QUESTIONS - page 10

New Words to the Mallote Lord's Prayer!
More Discussion and NT versions of the Lord's Prayer and the Millennium Prayer

VIDEO LINKS & NEW RELEASES - page 14

Devotion live at Sound Connections on YouTube plus more new video links!

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

No listings this month

MUSIC DIRECTORS WANTED - page 15

Atlanta, GA, Tampa, FL, San Diego, CA, South Bend, IN,
Chattanooga, TN, Conyers, GA, Panama City, FL

MESSAGE FROM SUE



Greetings Sound Connections family!

I am the lucky one who gets to write about the amazing week we just shared at Unity Village. Many of us are still basking in a magical glow from our annual Sixth Annual Sound Connections New Thought Music Conference. By popular request, this was the first year that the conference was held in the summer. I must say, it's a lot warmer in Kansas City in July than in September, but that didn't slow us down a bit. It was a glorious week! We had a week filled with prayer, music, new songs, friendship, swimming, inspiration, drumming, chanting, dancing, song circles, workshops, and spirit sharing.

Here are some of the highlights of the week for those of you who weren't able to be with us. Reverend **Blair Tabor** presented an amazing all music service based on Charles Fillmore's 12 Powers of Man ...and he actually got all 12 in!

The Unity World Orchestra gets better every year. **David Ezell** customizes the charts for the instrumentation each year, countless hours of work. **Carole Tomhave** pulled together over 60 voices for the Unity World Chorus with just 3 days of rehearsal and they were awesome. Honestly, soon the whole conference body will be in either the choir or the orchestra and we'll have to pull folks in from the campus to be in the audience!

The songs we heard at the Silent Spirit Sharing were simply breathtaking. What a wonderful body of work we are compiling together. **Fred Bogert** kept us moving along with his usual humor and style.

Cliff Rubin gave lots of practical advice on running a sound board. **Fred Albers**, **Rich Hill** and **Fred Bogert** offered personalized labs on piano and guitar stylings. We had Sibelius notation software workshops, song critique circles, songwriting workshops, and much, more.

Greg Tamblyn made us laugh and think, often in the space of a single sentence. **Jana Stanfield** showed us how much difference each of can make in our world. **Melinda Wood Allen** was a huge hit with her vocal coaching. **Richard Mekdeci** did an amazing job of organizing, playing, doing workshops, and creating a liaison between the conference body and Unity Worldwide Ministries. **Jeff Wolf** drove a huge truck of drums and other equipment down from VA to make sure everyone had a chance to drum. Wow! **Jennifer Ferren** prepared a stunning Grace Note Award presentation for Devotion. **Robert and Lori, of Devotion**, gave a heart warming presentation about being of service. It's easy to question why we do what we do sometimes. I imagine that around Easter or Christmas, many of us are questioning why we're doing this! Sound Connections is a yearly invitation to re-connect with our hearts, our fellow music directors, and our love of music. Music is the gift we share with the world and with each other.

Once again, a frequent comment was "I wish there was a way to go to every workshop". The team is still exploring ways to make recordings available for some of the classes in future years. In the meantime, you'll just have to return again to catch the ones you missed.

Every conference participant left an impact. Music was dancing along the corridors and whispering through the trees. **Alisha**, in the Unity Village Bookstore, told me she and her staff look forward to our conference the whole year.

Our conference next year will be held from July 25-29. We're starting on a Monday and ending on Fri to allow you to travel on Saturday without missing the closing circle. Please mark it down and make plans to be with us. We promise you will be uplifted and inspired. Besides, we're a family and it's just not the same when you're not there! Now Enough Talk, Let's Get connected!

Sue Riley
Music Ministry Team Chair

THIS MONTH'S FREE SHEET MUSIC ATTACHMENT

THE LORD'S Psalm

An Interpretation of the Lord's Prayer by Richard Mekdeci

The traditional Lord's Prayer is reduced to 8 rhyming lines then put to a simple, singable melody. In the recording, the original LP words are spoken as it is sung the second time through.

The full lead sheet is attached at the end of this PDF file. This service is offered with permission from the author. Please contact the author if you would like to purchase additional copies of this music.

If you would like a piece of your sheet music offered in Sound Connections, just send a PDF file of your song to music@unity.org.

SC 6 Re-Cap and Testimonials

***The 2011 Sound Connections New Thought Music Conference will be;
Monday, July 25 – through Friday, July 31***



ONE GREAT POWER; UNITING MUSIC & MINISTRY

Thank you all who attended for making the Sixth Annual Sound Connections New Thought Music Conference a huge success!

Comments From Some Of This Year's Attendees

We SO appreciate, respect and love all the music directors (in fact, all the attendees) . . . we have experienced many of their dreams, challenges and day-to-day victories. I believe Devotion was a great match for Sound Connections. Thank you for helping us to share our gifts!

We are EXTREMELY honored to be recipients of the Grace Note award. For me, it represents a lot of traveling, hard work and transformation . . . not only by Devotion but ALL the talented singers and songwriters who show up, do their valuable job and continue to blaze the exciting "Positive Music" trail. Truly, we all stand on each others' strong, beautiful shoulders!

Robert and Lori (Devotion)

A learning, growing, humbling, exhilarating experience, I look back on Sound Connections 2010 (my first SC conference) as one of the musical highlights of my life ~ right up there with playing in Carnegie Hall! Thank you, Music Ministry Team, for making it all so fun!

Meg Friedrich,

Music Director, Unity in the Pioneer Valley, Greenfield, MA

This years Sound Connections was really something - I'm still floating on a sea of notes and bliss and such divine stuff. I think it's an amazing event you and the others on your team have put together - very important.

Can't wait till next year!

Your brother In Spirit

Dada Nabhaniilananda

Thank YOU all for putting together such a great conference. It was really quite wonderful--I thought both the choir and the orchestra were the best yet. Loved the interwoven 12 Powers musical message--I'll be following that format more with my minister.

I decided that Sound Connections coupled with Unity Village is like a Spiritual/Inspirational Disneyland for us music Unitics! The rides are thrilling, fun, and unique! All the people are friendly and the goal is to be happy. . . .and SC succeeded in all. Again, I am floating with wonderful memories of fellowship and vitality. Thanks to the Team, once again, for producing a heartfelt experience. Can't wait for next year! The combination of new and old friends is always so profound and memorable that I truly feel blessed to have this opportunity for interaction with like-minded AND music-minded beings! The experience for my Granddaughter Makena (16), has been not only enlightening but healing. We are so grateful! Oh yeah. . .and my face still hurts from laughing and smiling! Love and hugs to all!

Cherie Shipley

I am so happy to have been to the Sound Connections Music Conference. The entire experience was just so thrilling and fun and I came home so calm and serene and excited to incorporate as much as possible into our music ministry

Kristy (Kat) Lund

El Paso TX

I wish to thank you for an amazing and beautiful experience at Sound Connections! Without your devotion, and that of the entire Music Team, this would not have happened. I was truly touched by the event. This was my first time!

Donna Greco

Thank you for all the fabulous music and THE MOST enriching experience of my life! I can't wait till next July!

Again, many thanks!

Michele Vanhooose, St. Louis, MO

My appreciation is great indeed for all you have done and continue to do for Unity and New Thought music. This was my fifth SC conference. I left the conference viewing myself, my music, my circumstances, and my life purpose as larger than when I arrived. Your commitment makes an important difference for everyone, and thus for our world. I was deeply moved several times and found myself connecting within to my truth in a profound way. Each of you individually is a loving spirit in action, and as a team your collective gifts are unparalleled! Please accept my loving thanks. I will look forward to next year, but in the meantime, my heartfelt prayers surround you, my friends.

*Sally Applegate-Rodeman
Unity North Spiritual Truth Center
Indianapolis, Indiana*

My first Sound Connections (and first Unity Village visit) was a transformative experience for me! Thank you so much!

Trina Goetz

Thank you all for all your work in putting this together. It is something I look forward to every year. This is our 5th time here and we're already "Saving the date" for next year.

All (presenters) were wonderful. Greg made me laugh harder than I remember laughing for a long time. Jana inspired and thrilled me, helped me see what is thrilling IN me. Devotion had me crying and seeing my next steps. Love you so!

I was very impressed, pleased excited about the conference again. I was especially glad that you all added the meditation in the morning. I hope that will continue. This is such a great service tot eh Unity ministries and to my own personal life and congregation. Thanks so much for all you do, have done, and will do.

Blessings.

My 1st time here it was a personal success from the 1st day. Never, ever, considered myself a songwriter, but on Saturday morning (in the shower) 4 ideas popped into my head. Amazing!

Thank you to each member of the music ministry team for another WONDERFUL week of love, music, learning, joy, and just plain FUN! I loved it, my husband loved it, our music director loved it. See you next year...

*Blessings- Nita Strauss,
LUT/Spiritual Leader
Unity Church of Peace, Tucson, AZ*

SEE A PHOTO MONTAGE FROM THIS YEAR'S EVENT AT

http://animoto.com/play/9HxrR94mDVzVPqPZ3MTX7w?utm_content=challenger

Thanks to John Lombardo for creating the montage, Jazz Christianson for the pictures and Greg Tamblyn for the music!

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED TOPIC



Can Old School REALLY Be Cool?

By Jennifer Ferren

At last month's Sound Connections music conference at Unity Village, I hosted a workshop entitled "Old School But Totally Cool". To be honest, I was a little worried that I was the only "old school" person out there, and as for being totally cool, well, my 16 year old reminds me every day how L7 (Wooly Bully reference) she thinks I am. And yet, low and behold, I put out the call and people showed up. There is apparently a whole contingency of folks who totally dig the old school hymns and more traditional pieces. "Bagpipe Dude" (otherwise known as Jim Baldwin from Roanoke, Virginia) blew us all away (pun intended) at Spirit Sharing with his bagpipe medley of multiple traditional hymns put forth in a totally fresh and crazy cool arrangement.

At my workshop the next day, we all got together and shared hip and happening arrangements of the oldies but goodies. There are a million ways, as we all found out, to make the older hymns and classic standards relevant and fun. For example, I put a Latin feel to Wings of Song #132 "I Am Healed" (think Bryan Adams "Have You Ever Really Loved A Woman"). Mike Davis had contributed ahead of time a cool reggae version of "God Is So Good" (#329).

Damon Cristol was jamming away on cello throughout the entire workshop, lending a really stellar vibe to every feel we laid down. Adding an instrument that is unexpected is yet another way to keep things fresh and new. Put feelers out to your congregation to see who has hidden talents. Trust me, there are closet harmonica, tin whistle and banjo people out there just waiting for an opportunity to shine.

Using these tunes keeps us all in good standing with our congregations, most of which are divided right down the middle. Half want contemporary new stuff, while the other half wants the tried and true that they are familiar with. By changing the feel, instrumentation and sometimes even the time signature, it's possible to breathe new life into even the moldiest oldie. When I change up an arrangement, I keep the integrity of the melody in tact as much as possible. On most of them, the melody is exactly the same, it's just the rhythm, feel and tempos that change.

Spotlighting a hymn as an a-capella piece is another cool idea. Have a friendly contest with your choir or vocal ensemble members to see who can come up with coolest vocal arrangement. Put different feels (reggae, rock/pop, R&B, Samba, etc) in a hat and have them draw. Then put hymn names in another hat and draw, then have them play and create. You'll be surprised what you can come up with. Actually, the point is, YOU don't have to do all the work. Empower your music team and congregation to come up with creative ways to express.

It's always great if you can write your own music or use any of the incredible "newer" stuff that has become available over the years in our current Unity songbook publications, as well as songbooks from individual artists. But again, you are always going to encounter people who gravitate toward the familiar. I personally think there are some REAL GEMS in our Unity hymnal. People like Carmen Moshier, Warren Meyer, Bill Provost and Clara Scott, to name a few, wrote some really beautiful melodies. Sure, the arrangements are often considered outdated, but it doesn't take much to dust them off and put some tasty new flavor into them. Most of the melodies will hold up no matter WHAT you do to them.

I challenge all of you to come up with something COOL from Wings of Song. Send them to me at jferrengins@aol.com. I'll compile them and see what I can do to put them all

together, with your permission (and the permission of the copyright holders of course). I am still in the process of editing my Old School workshop, and mp3s will be available ASAP on my website, www.freeflightatlanta.com, of what was shared and created at last month's conference.

So let's not toss aside a totally useful tool just because we assume it's un-cool. Rather, let's honor our forefathers and foremothers by coming up with some contemporary, hip, fresh new arrangements. God bless these talented individuals who worked with what they had at the time they were writing, attempting, themselves, to come up with new and contemporary lyrics and songs for their generation. We are all one, after all, and we can all learn from each other.

Keep on rockin', my cool, old school friends. Together, we can help each other help our churches and our congregations through music, one song at a time!

WHAT'S A NEW THOUGHT SONG

Richard,

Here's text from a choral piece for the "What's A New Thought Song" column.

It's called, "The Fruit of the Spirit" by Dan Forrest, published by Choristers Guild;

*"He that abideth in me, and I in him,
the same bringeth forth much fruit.
Love, joy, peace patience, tenderness,
goodness, faith, meekness and self-control."*

This text is based on John 15:5 and Galatians 5:22-23

David Ezell

David,

Although this scripture may appear to be dualistic and support Christian "exclusivity", in New Thought, scripture is usually interpreted metaphysically. Jesus used metaphor throughout his ministry to make his point and in this case he uses the metaphor of the grapevine, a very common and integral part of life in those times.

Reading the entire 15th chapter in the Gospel of John, we see that metaphysically, God, of course is the "vinedresser" who created, waters and prunes the vine - the source of life.

Jesus, speaking AS the Christ, compares himself to the vine and we, the individual branches. (It is interesting to note that Jesus does not place himself in the role of God but as a creation of God like us.)

In a nutshell, I'd interpret this scripture as saying:

Those who are aware of their indwelling Christ-ness and nurture it through prayer and meditation will accomplish great things. (bringeth forth much fruit) The "vine" therefore represents our direct connection to the source of all good. That is, our identification with our own divinity or Christ within.

In Galatians, Paul describes the attributes brought forth by those who honor and nurture that indwelling divinity and refers to those attributes as the "fruits of the spirit".

It is a very clever combination of scriptures for a choral setting.

Though not literally "New Thought", in Unity where the Bible serves as our main text, this scripture is relatively benign.

RM

CD REVIEW



THE ANSWER IS YOU

Will.I.Am, Siedah Garrett, Niki Haris, Rickie Byars Beckwith and the Agape International Choir and band.
Music from the PBS Special (www.the-answer-is-you.com)
Reviewed by Richard Mekdeci

“The Answer Is You” is Michael Bernard Beckwith’s first PBS special and was recorded live before a sold out audience in downtown Los Angeles. Of course Michael brought along his “Posse” and the incredible music performed that night and included in the special are compiled on this CD by the same name. There are 12 awesome, live recordings with special guest performers all backed by in my opinion, the best choir and band on the planet.

The CD opens with Siedah Garret singing her best known song as a songwriter, “Man In The Mirror”, made famous by the late Michael Jackson. Siedah’s live version backed by the Agape band and choir has an energy equal to if not more inspiring than Michael’s famous recording.

”Man In The Mirror” also represents one of two songs on the CD not composed by Rickie Byars Beckwith. The second is Track 3, “It’s A New Day” written and performed by Will Adams, alias Will.I.Am.

Other special guest performers include a powerful performance by Niki Haris singing Rickie’s “Someone Needs A Prayer Today”, and the new associate director of the Agape International Choir, Tim McAfee-Lewis on Rickie’s “Stretching Out”. The rest of the songs are performed by Rickie or by the Choir featuring member soloists.

I think my favorite track is “We Let It Be” fronted by Rickie and backed by the choir and band. I had previously only been familiar with the chorus of this one. Here we get the full Jamaican flavored verses that head full throttle into the familiar chant, “We let the love wash over us. We let, we let it be.” The goose bumps will rise, guaranteed.

Another familiar favorite that has a totally new energy and life when performed live by this amazing group is Rickie’s “My God Is So Good To Me” which features several guest vocalists from the choir.

The magic and amazement of this CD is not necessarily the fabulous songs of Rickie’s that are such a staple and so beloved in our hearts but the power of the live performances by some of Los Angeles’ best singers and performers, many of which are regular members of the Agape International Choir. The mix is perfect and gives a great live feel that brings you right into the Club Nokia at L.A. Live where it was recorded, August 20, 2009.

It is obvious that every single person on this record was having a blast and inspired by the energy and the music. After listening to this high energy upbeat CD I was left inspired and filled to the brim. I can only imagine what it was like to be there in person that August night.

No doubt they are still feeling the effects one year later.

Order “The Answer Is You” at www.agapemedia-international.com 310-348-1260, Ext. 1601.



“Affirmation Rock” by Cliff Rubin

reviewed by Sue Riley

Cliff has created a very useful CD full of affirmations set to upbeat music. He offers a songbook of lead sheets to accompany the songs as well. The affirmational songs are catchy, easy to learn, and good for congregational and children’s ministries. Cliff is also a newly licensed Religious Science practitioner so you can be sure the verbiage is aligned with New Thought Theology.

The title cut, *“Affirmation Rock”*, affirms that we are each powerful, creative spiritual beings and that the universe is on our side. Who wouldn’t want to affirm that thought each morning?

His song *“Welcome”* is featured in the Unity Worldwide Ministries songbook *“Shine On”* and is a joyous “meet and greet” song for Sunday morning. The opening line states: “Welcome to a place that knows you as God”. The song has a lot of great energy, yet the melodic line remains simple enough so that everyone will be able to sing along by the second time through.

“I Am Rich” is an energetic affirmation about claiming our abundance. The lyrics are in the first person, “I Am” and they embrace our personal prosperity on many levels. This song is also featured in the songbook *“Can I Get an Amen”* by Unity Worldwide Ministries.

“Happy Day” is a funky little number that would work well for a gathering song. It reminds us that each day we have the choice of how we will react to the little surprises of life. How could you have a bad day when you start the morning singing “Today is a happy day”?

In addition to these congregational songs, Cliff stretches as a songwriter to bring us some very inspiring music with Cliff’s trademark Rock Edge to them.

“Being Human” is a pensive look at one’s own journey and surrender to our humanness even as he affirms, “We are spiritual beings living a human experience.”

“Unbelievable” takes us on a journey through our recent history at the visionaries who created the “unbelievable” in our lives while reminding us we each have that same ability.

“Love is All that Matters” is a musical version of the O. Henry short story “Gift of the Magi” and focuses on what really matters in our relationships.

These are contemporary songs that will fit equally well with your congregation, your praise team, and your youth ministry. Exploring the joyous child in each of us, these songs let us affirm that we love ourselves, we’re happy to be alive, we’re prosperous and life is good.

That’s a pretty good way to start the day if you ask me.

The MAILBOX - YOUR LETTERS & QUESTIONS

SEEKING THE PERFECT "NEW THOUGHT" LORD'S PRAYER

Regarding the request for replacements for the Lord's Prayer:

Our church dropped the LP in 2003, and no replacement was needed. Wherever you are using it in your order of service, either to go into meditation or out of meditation, to tee up a talk or to close one, there's no reason not to simply open the slot to various other songs. Once you've broken the addiction to "required rep", why create another dependency?

We got letters when changed things, of course, from the veteran members who worried about cultural shift. On the other hand, we now have a younger (and larger) congregation. Now when we sing any of those older standard pieces, e.g. Surely the Presence, Lord's Prayer, etc, it's because it is a special occasion, and it becomes meaningful.

Erin McGaughan
Seattle Unity Joyful Arts Ministry

Thanks Erin,

Many Unity Churches still embrace our Christian roots and foundation. (in fact that's the trend our recent branding initiative recommends). The LP is rich in meaning, metaphysical and otherwise. True the original languaging and tune is likened to Surely the Presence and other (way too) traditional songs. And it's been dropped by churches like yours for those very reasons. But an interpretation of this foundational prayer in NT language and a contemporary setting would be, as Susan(Beck) said,(in last month's letter) a great service to the movement.

R

Hello Unity music team,

I was excited to read the request for a New Thought Lord's Prayer because I just wrote my own personal version of the Lord's Prayer last year. Every time I have performed it I get incredible response. I'm sorry that I don't have a recording of it, but I can have an MP3 available in about 4-6 weeks. I do have a lead sheet though. If someone wants the music in a different key, I can easily transpose it in Sibelius and send you a copy. Email me at ahriasings@gmail.com

Inifnite Blessings,
Ahria

My Lord's Prayer by Ahria

Verse 1:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, they will be done On **this** earth as it is in heaven

Verse 2:

Our Father, which art **within us**, Hallowed be thy name

Thy Kingdom come, they will be done **In my life** as it is in heaven

The rest:

Each day I see that everything we need is given so abundantly.
And when you look into our souls, Perfection's all you see.
Lead us all into the arms of love
That we may know the truth of who we are!
For Thine, Thine is the kingdom, Thine is the power,
Oh, and the glory for all eternity!
Thy Kingdom come, on this Earth As it is in Heaven!
Amen

Ahria

Thank you for your submission. I do like the "updates" you've made however in seeking the "perfect" New Thought Lord's Prayer, we want an interpretation that does not use gender specific language (Father), anthropomorphic references ("ARMS of love", "all you SEE"), archaic words such as Thine, Thy, which art, ect. And most basically to eliminate the dualistic nature of the prayer that is speaking to a God in heaven and asking or pleading with God to give us what is already present in creation.

In other words, we want to turn the Lord's Prayer into an Affirmative Prayer, stating the truth of the intention in the now moment.

Though the following may not be "poetic" enough to put to music (yet), it takes the original intention of the words and puts them into affirmative, non-theistic statements. Hopefully it will give an idea of what a NT interpretation may look like:

"We recognize and affirm the perfection and sacredness of creation and know that same sacredness and perfection exists in the material as well as the absolute realms.

We call forth the infinite abundance to fill every need and we do not block the flow of good by harboring unforgiveness and resentment toward ourselves or others.

Our innate power of Will is strong against the temptations of the world and through the light of Truth we see only good manifesting in the world.

All the power of creation is present in every moment and is unchanged and unchangeable."

Richard,

I read with interest Susan Beck's question regarding the Lord's Prayer. I am sending you an article from *The Fourth R* which is the magazine of the Jesus Seminar. The article is the 2nd of a 2 part article titled "Pray Without Seeking: Toward a truly mystical Lord's Prayer. The author, Paul Alan Laughlin is a Unity minister. He has a passion for a non-devotional, non-theistic version of the LP and he backs it up with the theology of affirmative prayer! He calls it evocative rather than invocative... I love it because he isn't just unitizing traditional words... he does a complete redo. (He also ends the article with a another contemporary version that is better than most of what is out there)

His version of a truly mystical LP conforms syllable for syllable to the traditional Malotte version of the LP.

O presence and pow'r within us,
being and light of all.

How we are filled,
how we o'erflow
with infinite love and gladness!
We shall this day sow grace and peace,
and show mercy to all,
and gentle loving kindness.
And we shall be not so self-serving,
but a constant source of giving.
For ours is the essence,
and the wholeness,
and the fullness
forever.
Amen

Hope you enjoy the article...
Thanks for all you do!
Mark

*Mark,
WOW, new words to the "sacred cow" Mallote melody. It is definitely an amazing improvement.
Thank you I will read that article from The Fourth R.
RM*

I am writing in response to Susan Beck's letter in SC#64.

Richard, my friend, you are perhaps too humble. Kaye and I find your *Lord's Psalm*, from **Getting Better Every Minute**, to be a beautiful interpretation of Matthew 6:9-13. Kaye and I sing it and have sung it at church. Your words speak clearly to the metaphysics of the passage and the melody is sincere and meditative. We do the second "verse", speaking the traditional words behind your sung verse as you recorded it, but, if someone really wanted to mix things up they could us, the Cherokee, Hawaiian, Aramaic or any of a number of other interpretations available on the web. It could be done without a second verse, also. We have received feedback that the second verse helps people identify with the metaphysics.

Folks, Richard Mekdeci has a beautiful body of music. He spends much of his time promoting Posi Music and Posi Musicians and helping to ensure, with his fellows in the music ministry team, that Unity Churches have great, cutting edge, spiritual music to emphasize and enhance their worship programs. He does not spend enough time promoting his own music. Check out Richard's catalog. You will find many gems.

Dennis Persons
The PosiLounge

*Thank you Dennis and Kaye, I humbly accept your compliment and thank you for the creative suggestions for using the Lord's Psalm.
I myself don't consider this interpretation "New Thought" either, but a simplification of the original words. Or as you said an interpretation of Matthew 6:9-13.
I have contributed the Lord's Psalm to this month's free sheet music offering.
R*

GREAT DISCUSSION - Let's keep them coming!

MORE ON THE "MILLENIUM PRAYER"

Richard,

Thank you for sighting the source of this 'prayer'! I have to admit that I was confused when you said that it was "practically word for word the traditional prayer" until I found it by Cliff Richard on YouTube. Those however are not the words that I have heard nor the words that I sing.

Having experienced this song at Unity of Omaha many years ago for the first time was the most beautiful song I had ever heard... and it was in the heat of summer! Loved expanding my experience of that tune (especially since I never really understood what the original song meant and yes, I looked it up once and it still didn't connect with me) and still sing it to this day. Not only that, I was easily able to join in, and it is so easy for me as a non singer to really belt it out and sound good!! LOL Please, no second opinions!!

Richard, It is no different for me to sing that song and give it new meaning that it is to sing the affirming uplifting words to the tune of Danny Boy.

The issue here would be the words--- again referencing the above article on 'Surely the Presence'

in LOVE & deLIGHT,
Vikki French

Thanks Vikki,

I get it. The familiarity of the tune makes it easier to sing and learn.

Would love to know the lyrics you use for next month's issue.

I differentiate Auld Lang Syne from Danny Boy in that the former is so closely tied to a specific holiday and the other is just an endearing tune.

Think of the Lords Prayer put to "Silent Night" melody sung year round.

Bottom line though as you say, are the words. To each his/her own on the melody. Check out the Cliff Richard's version on YouTube below.

RM

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1cG-4YSyhQ&feature=related>

VIDEO LINKS & NEW RELEASES

We welcome you to send us news of new CD releases, concert events, or YouTube links that you have come across that would be of interest to our community. It could be New Thought songs you've discovered on YouTube, touching stories for sermons, new music from your favorite artists or from your church. This will be updated each month. Links will be rotated off every 3 months. Send your link to music@unity.org

YouTube and OTHER LINKS

[DEVOTION at SOUND CONNECTIONS - Through the Eyes of Love](#)

Here is the link for the Devotion video uploaded to YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v758cjAM-E4> 8/10

[SEE A PHOTO MONTAGE FROM THIS YEAR'S SOUND CONNECTIONS MUSIC CONFERENCE](#)

http://animoto.com/play/9HxrR94mDVzVPgPZ3MTX7w?utm_content=challenger

Thanks to John Lombardo for creating the montage, Jazz Christianson for the pictures and Greg Tamblyn for the music! 8/10

[The MILLENNIUM PRAYER -by Cliff Richards](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1cG-4YSyhQ&feature=related>

[THE LIGHT WITHIN - Terra Bundance](#)

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Terra+Bundance&aq=f

Singing aCapella; singing with my friend, Mark Moerman; and singing with *The Human Tribe Live!!* band! :) Love and Blessings, 8/10

[A NEW PLEDGE \(Of Allegiance\) by Rev. David Ault](#)

Beautiful pledge and images on YouTube -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3yinryKz0s> 7/10

[Free Gift from Bob Baker and The Buzz Factor](#) - I want to give you a 15-minute audio training session on "How to Promote Your Music & Build a Buzz Online." You can access it now at this page <http://bob-baker.com/buzz/5-days-only.html> 7/10

[The Power of WE: Compassionate Activism for Global Healing](#)

A New Thought Perspective in a 7 Minute Video Experience Created for the New Thought Movement on the occasion of the Parliament of the World's Religions, 2009
Featuring AGNT Leaders: Rev. Wendy-Craig Purcell, Roger Teel, Rev. Mary Omwake, Rev. Michael Beckwith, Rev. Carol Carnes, Tom Zender, Dr. Kathy Hearn,
<http://agnt.org/monthlyfeature.htm> 6/10

NEW RELEASES

[Analog Brain in a Digital World](#) - new comedy CD from Musical Laugh-ologist Greg Tamblyn (reviewed in this issue). www.gregtamblyn.com 7/10

[Holy Karaoke! A New Thought Musical](#)

"Holy Karaoke!" is a Broadway-style musical production with a New Thought message. Written by Dr. Mark Broder, R. Sc. P., pianist and Music Director at Creative Living Fellowship Church of Religious Science in Phoenix, AZ, and several other singer-songwriters, "Holy Karaoke!" is the story of a group of friends whose lives are transformed by the healing power of love and friendship, and by the spiritual principles they learn on their human journey.

This heartwarming and inspiring musical premiered in March, 2010 at Creative Living Fellowship. All four performances had audiences on their feet, smiling and, in many cases, wanting to see it again. The original cast CD includes 19 fully orchestrated songs including solos, duets and full company numbers. Visit www.holykaraoke.com to hear excerpts of the music. The CD is available for \$12.95 (includes shipping anywhere in the U.S.).

For more information or to produce the show at your center, contact Dr. Mark Broder (602) 466-1773. 6/10

MUSIC DIRECTOR JOB OPENINGS

Unity of Tampa in Tampa, Florida (unitytampa.org) is seeking a pianist who expertly reads choir music accompaniment, has chord chart experience, and has experience playing with a live band. Must be available for two services on Sunday morning (arrive at 8am, usually through by 12:15pm) as well as Wednesday night rehearsal (7-9pm). Must be willing to work all major church holidays, i.e. Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve. Improvisational skills and ability to play during meditation a plus. Please contact Leah Clark at 813-727-0913 or email leah@soberstock.com.

Full Time Music Director Position at Atlanta Unity Church Atlanta Unity is known for the excellence and energy of its eclectic, rockin' music department. Music is vital to our ministry and we are looking for a music director who can inspire and fuel our musical vision. If you are deeply skilled in choral teaching and direction, New Thought principles and practice, and developing a widely varied music program; if you are passionate about coordinating a music ministry that includes a 25-member volunteer adult choir, three children's choirs, a rock 'n roll band, an active drama department, and a sound team, please consider applying for this full-time position. Atlanta Unity (www.atlantaunity.org) is located in Norcross, Georgia, a metro-Atlanta community. For more information, please email Rev. Barbara Huffman at BarbaraTHuffman@gmail.com for application information and job description.

Christ Church Unity, San Diego, CA - 6 Month temporary Music Director Position
May through September, 2011

Christ Church Unity, San Diego, work with one of the premier music programs in Unity.

Responsibilities include preparing the choir and music team for Sunday morning: gathering music, special music, offertory and hymns. Work with minister in selecting appropriate music. Attend bi-monthly staff meetings.

Skills: choir directing, vocal arranging, keyboard/piano/organ skills, sight reading. Part-time salaried. \$1,667 per month.

Please contact Rev. Blair Tabor.
619-280-2501 ext 107

Unity Church of Peace-South Bend IN: is seeking a Part Time Music Director to provide high quality, spiritually up-lifting music for church services and occasional special functions. We are an active, loving, and serving congregation of 100+ attendees, and our MD recently retired. We desire an accomplished musician/accompanist with leadership ability, who is an up-beat team player, able to read music (vocal skills a plus though not required), with an enthusiastic desire to inspire people through music. Must work with Minister and Worship Service Team on a weekly basis to plan, select, and provide enlivening music and creative ideas. South Bend is two hours east of metropolitan Chicago, and home to two major universities, Notre Dame and IU, as well as The Morris Performing Arts Center, lakes and rivers for recreation, and many diverse opportunities to learn, grow and play. Who we are seeking is seeking us, and through the affirmative power of prayer and God's synchronistic plan of Good we will find each other. Please see our website for greater details www.unitychurchofpeace.org Contact RevSandie.unity905@sbcglobal.net 574.233.8004

Unity of Panama City, FL is seeking a part-time Music Director for our growing congregation (presently 85 – 95 on a Sunday). We affirm this person is a skilled pianist who can lead congregational songs, perform as a soloist, select and rehearse other soloists, and work with our choir. They must be familiar with a wide range of New Thought music. Panama City is located in the northwest panhandle of FL and known for its beautiful white sand beaches and year-round lovely weather. With a new airport opening in May 2010, we are poised for growth over the next few years which will add to our culture and arts, ecotourism, and economy. Our city also hosts a community college and a campus for a major university. The position would likely involve 8 – 10 hours per week (less on typical weeks and more during holiday events). Contact Rev. Darby Neptune at 850-769-7481 or darbyneptune@aol.com.

Unity of Chattanooga, TN is seeking a Music Director. We are a seven year old and growing church with a choir and 55 to 70 congregants on a Sunday. We are seeking a part-time music director who is a skilled pianist, singer, and can work with and develop the choir. This person must also be familiar with a wide variety of New Thought music. Located only two hours from Atlanta, Nashville, or Asheville, North Carolina, Chattanooga is the best kept secret in the South, offering an abundance of year round outdoor activities, as well as the cultural, arts and necessary metropolitan amenities, We are both a college town and a center for medical research. If interested, please contact Rev Doug at 423-755-7990 or revdoug@unityofchttanooga.org.

Unity Church in Rockdale, Conyers, Georgia - We are looking for a part time, experienced Music/Choir Director for our small congregation. We are in transition of growing and our needs now are more than a piano player and song leader. Conyers is located just 30 minutes East of Atlanta. We plan to pay \$150.00 per week for this part time position. We need someone who can play the keyboard as well as direct and practice the choir. I expect it would involve between 8-10 hours a week. Contact Joyce Crawford joyfuljoyce222@hotmail.com

*Send your comments and suggestions to music@unity.org
Please feel free to forward this email to a friend. To unsubscribe hit
reply and type "unsubscribe" and your name in the letter field.
To sign up for any of the Association's e-letters, go to
www.unity.org/music*

*Association of Unity Churches International
401 SW Oldham Pkwy
Lee's Summit, MO 64081*

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The Lord's Psalm

words and music Richard Mekdeci

Largo ♩ = 60

C Am Dsus D G

Ho-ly Cre - a - tor we praise your

5 D C⁹ D D⁹

name Your Will in Hea - ven and earth the same. Sup-ply our

8 G Bm C Am⁷ Am⁷/D D

needs Lord from day to day. Let Your for-give-ness light our way. Lead us a-

12 G D C D

way from temp-ta-tion's hold. De-li-ver us Lord in-to Your fold. For all the

16 G Bm C Am

King-dom, po-wer and praise with You be-gan and with You

19 1. Dsus D 2. Dsus D C A men G

stays. Ho-ly Cre -stays. A men. A men.