

Summary of Music Program 2009-2010

Dr. David Katz, Ph.D. was called to the position of Music Director of the UUC in August, 2009. His qualifications include a doctoral degree in Music with emphasis on voice, teaching experience at various levels, music directorship at Unitarian Universalist congregations as well as at Christian and Jewish congregations. He currently holds a full-time teaching position at Braden River Elementary School in Manatee County.

Music Director Job Description Summary:

The Music Director is expected to develop a high quality, diversified music program that offers the UUC community an avenue to enhance spirituality through music. The primary emphasis will be preparation for and delivery of music for Sunday worship services, special services, and other UUC events.

Position parameters: On average approximately 12 hours per week, August through May, with one paid Sunday off every month. Hours include meeting attendance and educational opportunities.

Continuing Education: to continue to develop and enhance the director's skills, deepen knowledge and understanding of the UU faith, encourage familiarity with new/varied repertoire, provide opportunities to network with other music professionals.

**Unitarian Universalist Musicians' Network membership
U.U.General Assembly Meeting --June
Choral Panorama--July**

Chorale:

The Chorale has:

Improved in quality and numbers

Provided music for 3 Sunday services out of 4 (compared with 2 Sundays a month last year).

Provided music for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Presented a Dec. Holiday Music Program

Presented music for Christmas Eve Service (last year, the chorale did not present music Christmas Eve)

Participated in a Spring Music Service featuring the music of Poulenc.

Provided social events in January and April

Non-chorale performances by Music Director

Dr. Katz contributes vocal and piano solos to support and enhance the Sunday worship experience,

Coordinates music by in-house and guest musicians (Guest Musicians are non-UUC members who are invited to perform for services and/or concerts)

Guest musicians this year include:

Jim Scott, UU song-writer, performed an original hymn with the Chorale and presented a concert.

**Marcella Ramsey, cellist, performed for Dec. and spring services; concert
Ron Bowers, oboist, performed for Dec. and Spring services**

Judith Alstadter, pianist, provided music for a Sunday service and performed a concert.

Religious Special events: Music director provided music for the International Association for Freedom

Pianist

Linda Jones provides excellent accompaniment for the Chorale and beautiful solo music for Preludes, Offertories, Special Music and Postludes as needed. Performed in the Cello/Piano Duo concert.

Children's Choir

A children's choir has been established with approximately 9 members who participate regularly. The Children's choir delighted the congregation with their singing.

Yashasvi Janamanchi was elected to participate in the 2010 General Assembly Children's Choir to take place in Minneapolis. Dr. Katz assisted Yashasvi in preparing a taped audition which he submitted to compete nationally for acceptance into the choir.

Stoles were made for the Children's Choir to provide a uniform appearance thanks to Jeanne Carney

Concerts

Spring, 2009: Claude Bolling Suite. Musicians: Linda Jones, Pat McGiverin, Don Ekberg, Ed Kraemer.

October: Piano concert (arranged by previous Music Director)

January : Jim Scott concert

February :Judith Alstadter piano concert

March : Marcella Ramsey, cellist, and Linda Jones, piano concert (March 28, 2010)

April: An Evening of Jazz performed by Catherine Costa, Norman Thalheimer, Barry Skeete

Music Library

The extensive music library is being catalogued with the data on computer (work in progress)

New music has been to provide diversity to our program.

Sheet Music (unmarked) on loan for the UUMN has been returned to the publisher.

Instruments

Pianos: the upright piano in the social hall has been repaired and tuned

The grand piano in the social hall has been donated to the UUC by Frank Wells. A letter of his

intent to donate this property has been requested as formal documentation of the donation.

Future Plans

Child-care is now provided during Wed. evening and Sunday morning rehearsals in order to enable parents of families with young children to participate in the adult chorale

Purchase sheet music arranged for various sections (SSA, SAB, etc.)

Stoles will be made for the Chorale to provide a more uniform appearance.

Complete library cataloging and continue to update catalog

Long term Goals:

Establish Soprano Section Leader as a paid position

Acquire Section Leaders for all choir sections.

Provide Educational opportunities for the Music Director

Provide child care for all concerts

Observations: The dedication, professional standards, and talent which Dr. Katz brings to our Music Program are very much appreciated. To achieve the high standards desired, our Music Director spends many extra hours above and beyond the “approximately” 12 hours in his job description. Choir members have expressed appreciation for the voice coaching and of the focus during rehearsals. Dr. Katz is supportive of activities which enable the chorale singers to bond and form an *esprit de corps* (including participation in a covenanting process and social events.) Members of our congregation have noted the improvement in the quality of the Chorale.

The formation of a delightful Children’s Choir was a long hoped-for dream which David achieved immediately.

Dr. Katz’s ability to work collaboratively with our ministers, pianist, musicians, and committee members is appreciated.

Music Committee: the committee holds regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Minutes are taken and kept on file.