

Welcome to

Sound Connections

Unity's New Thought Music Resource

Issue #77 August, 2011

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

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THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS



Hello Sound Connections Family!

This month's greeting is bittersweet in a way. It will be the final edition of Sound Connections as we know it and the first step in transitioning to "The Path", Unity Worldwide Ministries, all-in-one, bi-monthly publication.

Beginning in September, you will begin receiving *The Path* - a new Unity Worldwide Ministries' email communication that combines all of our e-publications into one email with short snippets and links to the information you want. You will receive *The Path* every two weeks. Just open and look for the "Sound Connections" link to take you to all of the articles, CD and artist reviews, features, links and videos archived and categorized in one place for you.

This will open up Sound Connections to a whole new potential readership. Anyone opted on to receive any of UWM's electronic publications will be receiving *The Path* and will be free to browse all the other options as well.

A little SC History: So we began in April of 2005 with our very first Sound Connections. Gwen Olive from Gaithersburg, MD won the "Name the Newsletter" contest. Daniel Nahmod was our featured artist and the entire newsletter was a mere 6 pages long and went out to around 350 people. Now six and a half years and 76 issues later, Sound Connections readership is over 1600 and it has tripled in length to average around 18 pages each month. Our Free Sheet music offering began at issue 6 with Chris Foster's "Make Me An Instrument" Gone by the wayside was our monthly Featured Music Department which went on sabbatical in September of 2007, never to return.

A reminder that all 77 issues of Sound Connections are archived at our website (www.unity.org/music) for you to look back on and pull resources from. Eventually, all topics, CD reviews, Artist reviews, and Feature articles will be sorted and archived together for quicker reference.

If you have spam filters set to receive Sound Connections, you may want to add "The Path" to that list so you will be sure to receive the first issue next month.

My position as Editor will continue on in a slightly different capacity. We'll still have our Q&A about relevant topics. You are still free to ask questions and contribute articles. We'll still review CDs and stay current with Features on topics specific to music ministry. We know that change is unsettling at times, but that is mainly due to our unfamiliarity with what's ahead. The next few months, we will be eagerly processing your reactions and suggestions on how to make this change a huge plus for you, our dedicated readers and Sound Connections family.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT the Sound Connections Music Conference update chapter. It was the best SC yet. There is a link to pictures and videos on the new Sound Connections FaceBook Page.

Richard Mekdeci
Sacred Music Resource Coordinator
Unity Worldwide Ministries

THIS MONTH'S FREE SHEET MUSIC ATTACHMENT

" YOU ARE LOVE "

By Melinda Allen

Many of you got to sing this song along with Melinda at this year's Sound Connections. It also appears in the latest UWM songbook, "Something Wonderful". It is a soft, tender, easily harmonized prayer that can take you in and out of meditation.

You Are Love

Moderato ♩ = 80

Words and Music by
Melinda Wood Allen

A^bsus A^b A^bsus A^b

5 A^b D^b/A^b A^b D^b A^b

You are Love, you are strength, you are for - give - ness.

9 A^b D^b/A^b Fm D^b E^b A^b

You are Love and I can see you as you are.

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 to request more copies or other arrangements. 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.

SOUND CONNECTIONS MUSIC CONFERENCE

ongoing updates



WOW! Don't just take it for granted when you hear, as you do every year, "This was the best Sound Connections ever!" because this year truly was exceptional in every way: Our top notch presenters, smooth organization, educational and fun workshops, a fabulous closing night celebration and of course ALL OF YOU who attended and added your enthusiasm, love, excitement, talent and energy to the mix.

You can view a fabulous Photo Album and music video created by our own John Lombardo, and posted onto the new Sound Connections FaceBook page. Here's the link or you can just search Sound Connections from your FB page. Every picture in the music video is part of the Photo Album posted on the home page so you can find it and grab it for your own archives. Thank you John! And thank you Karen Taylor Good, JD Martin and Jan Garrett for allowing us to use your song for the video.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/create.php#!/pages/Sound-Connections-New-Thought-Music-Conference/101991323221523>

Scroll down to the video player and click the play button.

Be sure to become a "Friend" and rate the page after your visit. We'll be posting ongoing updates for SC-8 with David Ault and Faith Rivera on the SC FaceBook page beginning next month.

Some Testimonials

Richard, Sue and the Sound Connections Team,

I thought that this year's Sound Connections Conference at Unity Village to be the best yet. Jan Garrett and JD Martin were amazing, as was the presentation of Karen Taylor-Good. There was not a dry eye in the audience for the Keynote Presentation of KTG. I have since told her that I think a label needs to be applied to each of her CDs stating, "Do not operate heavy equipment while listening to this recording."

Each of the sessions that I attended were carefully researched and lovingly presented, inclusive of the wide range of levels and needs of the audience. Special thanks to Melinda Wood-Allen for putting up with me in the Unity Choir. Typically, Carole has that responsibility in the Unity of Fairfax Choir. She is more used to it. Thank you to each of the Sound Connections team for his/her dedication and for graciously giving of his/her time and talents.

Collaboration was a theme throughout the conference that was notable to me. Many more individuals joined their gifts for Spirit Sharing and throughout the week. There seems to be a concerted effort to come together as a musical community and literally Connect in our music making, writing, and arranging.

Blessings to you for a great conference and this important way in which New Thought music is shared, enriched, promoted, and sent to do good around the country. I know that my music would simply still be my music if you all had not created this important way of sharing among friends and colleagues from a variety of music venues throughout the country. What were once my babies have grown and gone to school through Sound Connections. Now they have made new friends, learned to play well in the sandbox with others, and have moved away from home. When I hear from them out in the world I am always astonished by where they have been, how they have changed, and the good that they are doing out in the world. Ahhh...how they have grown!

*Love to all,
Roger Tomhave*

This year more than ever before I got it, that this is not only about the songs and the people, it's about the process of empowering others to shine. I've witnessed my own change and that of others because of this love and encouragement.

Linda Chubbuck

My first time. It was extraordinary, wonderful!

I love the accessibility of the whole Music Team. Really felt they were serving and helping and giving and so very talented. Blessings and much gratitude.

There is no doubt that a church's music team would benefit from attending this conference. Sound Connections spiritually feeds those who devote so much of themselves to supporting the minister and congregation of our churches. The music team from my church has attended in the past but did not do so this year. If money was the reason, I'm holding to the vision that there will be more than enough to support their attendance in 2012. The entire church benefits by our support of the music team.

Cindy White Ministerial Candidate.

HOLD THE DATE for SC-8

*Next year's Sound Connections featuring **David Ault** and Grace Note Recipient*

Faith Rivera will be September 17 - 21, 2012.

Start budgeting now to send your entire music team.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED TOPIC

Quotes and Meditative Bits for All Our Creative Lives

by Fred Bogert

"Whether you think that you can, or that you can't, you are usually right."

Henry Ford.

That's how the law of attraction works. Think, feel, manifest, receive the reflection.

"Do or do not. There is no try." Yoda

The harder I try, the more trying the experience is. Fishing is fun. Trying to catch fish sucks.

"Obstacles are those frightening things you see when you take your eyes off your goal." Henry Ford.

Each step closer to your goal is a success. Do not see each step that isn't the final step to your goal as a failure.

"One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important." Bertrand Russell.

We are all blessed. Everything we choose to do with passion is Holy. Spirit's greatness allows us to be humble.

"If you're going through Hell, keep going." Winston Churchill.

Grief without grace is ego addiction.

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Thomas Alva Edison.

Studies have shown the common thread among geniuses is that they don't see Failure.

"An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered; an adventure is an inconvenience rightly considered." Gilbert Chesterton.

The library of your memories is filled with the stories you write about your experiences.

"You've got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there." Yogi Berra.

"I have an existential map. It has 'You are here' written all over it." Steven Wright

What's wrong with wandering? If the truth in your prayers is to wait until things are clearer, have a picnic, or whatever.

"Happiness is good health, and a bad memory." Ingrid Bergmann

"Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate." Thomas Jones

You are not your past.

"There is only one Nature - the division into science and engineering is a human imposition, not a natural one. It reflects our limited capacity to comprehend the whole." Bill Wolf

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." Albert Einstein

FROM THE ROAD - Traveling Artist Review

Bring this awesome artist to your church or center!



Joshua Rich

A child prodigy hidden for 40 years emerges when the world needs him most...

At the age of eight, Joshua Rich was shown with his right hand, what a "C" note was on the piano. The rest is history.

He began to play music and write songs with great ease and perfection. A self taught pianist and a child prodigy, Joshua is more than that.... Joshua modestly expresses that he feels the Love of GOD flow through his hands and his voice when he plays piano and sings his songs.

Although the past 40 years have been like a walk in the desert for this sensitive and caring man, he has always found the positive in whatever adversity he faced, and this gift of music to provide whatever healing he needed.

Today Joshua Rich is ready to share this gift of healing with all of us and is inspired to bring to the world his Music that lifts Spirits high, opens hearts and brings peace to the soul. Joshua's music, words, showmanship, and uplifting message give him an energy and strength that is both inspirational and engaging.

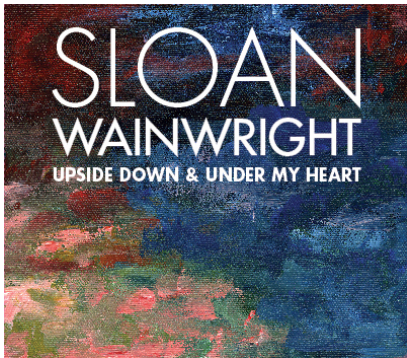
In addition to his CD's, Joshua offers specialty songwriting for couples, special events, and occasions, he also composes music for film and other songwriting professionals.

Currently Joshua is working on launching several new CD's and spreading his songwriting ability to movie and music industry professionals.

Joshua resides in the Washington D.C. area, and spends his time writing, composing and teaching music there.

Experience the GOD given Sounds of Joshua Rich at www.joshuarich.com

CD REVIEW



“Upside Down & Under My Heart”

by Sloan Wainwright
reviewed by Sue Riley

Any one who has ever heard Sloan sing realizes that she is a force of nature. In addition to being a mesmerizing singer and story teller, Sloan is a gifted and poetic songwriter. Sloan spent a couple of years supporting her husband George as he battled and ultimately lost his battle with cancer, and the songs on this CD are about that journey. But, these are not sad songs; rather they are healing, poignant, haunting and positive! These songs will remind you that everything is ok, and it always has been. I have played this CD constantly since getting my copy.

The first cut “Live out the Best of Your Life” is an amazingly catchy song. It is upbeat, fun, and has a great message. You could involve your whole music ministry in this affirming song.

The title cut, “Upside Down and Under my Heart” is an incredible song that I think will become a favorite of every expectant parent. It is a musical blessing to the unborn child, the child that is nestled upside down and under the mother’s heart. Isn’t that a beautifully poetic way of saying that?

“Today” is a haunting song of loss using metaphors of birds soaring through the heavens. It is very lyrical and beautiful. This version is a duet with the late Kate McGarrigle and it is stunning in its simplicity.

“Here I Am”, “I Am Free”, and “I Can See Now” all are reflections of where we are on our path. They speak of being ready for what life has to offer, of creating the space to accept the gifts of life, and being clear about what you want.

Most of these songs are solo numbers which could be performed by a soloist within your music ministry. The arrangements are created by her long time musical collaborator Stephen Murphy and these songs rock.

Rich and poignant lyrics, interesting melodies, Sloan’s gift of interpretation and her artistry with her voice insure that you will want to hear these songs again and again.

Give yourself the gift of this CD. You will be thrilled that you did.

The MAILBOX - YOUR LETTERS & QUESTIONS

SETTING A STANDARD FOR MD SALARIES

Hi Richard,

I thought this was the best conference yet. Of course, I've only been to two so far!

I really am seeing the Music as a Ministry picture more clearly right now. So, my question for pondering or perhaps a future blog is: What is the average rate of compensation for the music team in most Unity Churches compared to the Minister's salary? I was thinking it would be more appropriate to compare in terms of percentage rather than exact numbers. I assume contracts vary widely with size of church and proximity to major cities in the US. Is there a resource you know of that provides this info? Do you folks at Unity Village have any guidelines for Boards and Music Teams to use when drawing up their yearly budget?

Thanks for all you do!

Yours truly,

Chris Abeel

Unity of Fredericksburg, VA

540-220-6035

Chris,

I've been getting lots and lots of questions about md salaries lately. It's a good thing that we are feeling our worth and that ministers are supporting us.

It's not black and white of course, but using percentage of the minister's salary equation would create it's own sliding "scale" for church size and budget.

I've copied Rev. Kathryn Kellogg (Children and Family Ministry Coordinator here at UWM) to join the discussion in case there is a standard for Youth Ed salaries, it could also give us a starting point.

We talk about the three pillars of church leadership being the minister, youth ed director and music director. These are assuming fulltime positions so YED could be in a similar category with the MD.

I think the Youth Ed director and MD's salaries together should equal the minister's, but that is just a sense of a starting place.

R

Hi all,

For my part of the conversation, youth ministry directors are paid according to the hours per week and according to the direction the ministry is taking. If the ministry is intent upon growth, the YMD is paid for extra hours to invest in "research, development and growth" of a family program.

Taking into consideration that the majority of our churches are in the 50 - 150 people range, that doesn't lend itself to full-time positions. So, my suggestion to churches that ask about compensation is:

- Determine the hours per week it will take to fulfill the job description and intent for that position. (Don't underestimate the time it takes to put a weekend program together. One of the issues we have are ministries that write up a 40 hour job description and expect it to be done in 10 hours a week.)
- Be mindful of the cost of living in your area.
- Pay the director more per hour (according to the level of professionalism and responsibility - working with minors - you expect) as part of the ministry staff, not childcare or administrative support.

Richard, that is an interesting idea about both salaries together equaling the ministers. I will have to think about that. I would have gone for the percentage (maybe you are saying 50%). Sunday morning doesn't happen without the ministry team - one player missing and it begins to wobble.

Would love to hear how this turns out.

Rev. Kathryn Kellogg
Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator
816.434.6869
kid@unity.org

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.

Links will be rotated off every 3 months.

Send your link to music@unity.org

VIDEOS and LINKS

Voted the BEST commercial ever! Open the link below and see if you can figure out what they are advertising before the end. You'll be surprised.

Surprisingly New Thought!

<http://www.angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencerreport/stethoscope.html>



FREE DOWNLOAD - Here is a link for readers of Sound Connections to get a free download of my song *Prayer For Protection*. Our Prayer Chaplains at Christ Unity Church in Sacramento have used it for Wednesday meditation services and for monthly group meetings: <http://www.reverbnation.com/carolmansonmusic>

Namaste, Carol Manson - www.carolmanson.com

8/11



Hi Richard - don't know if Sound Connections folks would be interested in this - but here are two videos of our music team doing updated arrangements of hymnal selections. A nice call-back for the folks who remember our hymnal fondly, but still accessible enough for contemporary audiences.

I am Free I Am Unlimited: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-QbVUCuxwI>

Only believe - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afgJ8PpDsug>.

Best - Erin McGaughan, Seattle Unity

8/11



This is so adorable and love-filled.....

Enjoy and share!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwIm-oa71lw>

Warmly,

Scott Kalechstein Grace www.scottsongs.com

8/11

FREE SCORE FROM LORRAINE NELSON WOLF - As a special gift this month, I invite you to visit the sheet music page on my website and choose a free score. From vocal solos to choral anthems, I'm hoping you'll find something useful for your summer music ministry. The music comes with my permission to make as many copies as you need. To listen to recordings and view sample pages, just click the link below: <http://nelsonwolf.com/sheetmusic.htm>

Many blessings to you! Lorraine

8/11

New Song sung by the Unitones - I've written another song for my church group, The Unitones. My hubby has graciously video taped at rehearsal and put together a great video for us. <http://www.lyralindamusic.com/live-purpose>

Linda Missad www.lyralindamusic.com

7/11

HELP FOR MDS - I created this site as a resource for music directors, like my self, who are working with no budget. On it I am sharing music that I have written and also provide a link page for low cost or free resources for music production. I am providing free accompaniment tracks and vocal lead sheets on the site for use during church services and only ask that they not be recorded. If someone wants to use my music for recording, I will be glad to work something out with them.

Glenn Strouse

<https://sites.google.com/site/glennstrousemusic/>

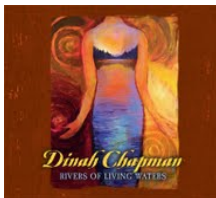
7/11

These kindergarteners in China will positively blow your mind.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=yE7waNi5dc0

6/11

NEW RELEASES



New Release! After 6 1/2 years, singer/songwriter Dinah Chapman has released her second CD "Rivers of Living Waters". Her gospel roots shine through on "Faithful," and she takes her listeners to new heights with her "Abwoon Chant," which is the first line of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, and her contemplative ballad "Touching the Stillness.": www.dinahchapman.com (CD cover painting by Jenny Hahn, www.jenspaintings.com)

8/11



Dear friends, please visit my new website www.jimmyscottsongwriter.com and receive a **free download** of my song "You Make Me Smile." - while you are there, please check out my new album "Little Love Songs" on the Listen/Buy Music page. All the very best,
Jimmy



Beloved Brothers and Sisters,
My upcoming recording project, *Straight From My Heart*, is now posted on at www.kickstarter.com. Please check it out and please join me: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1166745428/straight-from-my-heart-cd-recording-project>

Love and Light, Jonas (a.k.a. Shirdibhai)

6/11

SUBMIT YOUR SONGS FOR UNITY'S NEXT SONGBOOK

ONGOING: Each year your music ministry team meets in January to produce a new songbook of the best new thought music we can find from hundreds of submissions.

We gladly accept submissions throughout the year so send us your new congregational, solo, youth, Holiday, or choral songs to help build a huge library of available material for you to have at your fingertips.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA -

- >3 songs, maximum, per artist, per year please.
- >Songs must be submitted on CD or electronically as an MP3 file.
- >Songs should be accompanied by a lyric sheet in pdf or Word Doc format.
- > Songs should also include a lead sheet or piano/vocal arrangement in pdf format.
- >You will be paid royalties of .25 per song per book printed. This is higher than the standard print royalty.
- >Songs should be original. (This means we are not looking for new words to old standards or vice versa.)
- > Lyrics should be universally acceptable and have a uniting spiritual message that aligns with New Thought theology.
- >We look for music that is not "artist specific" and can easily be sung by your average soloist or congregation while at the same time being original and fresh in its melody and chords.

Mail submissions to:
Sacred Music Resources
Unity Worldwide Ministries
PO Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Electronic Submissions to: Music@unity.org

CHURCH MUSIC JOB OPENINGS

ACCOMPANIST WANTED BY UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY, TOPEKA, KANSAS

In mid-August, our extraordinary accompanist, Elizabeth Melton, will head off to college. We seek her replacement immediately so she can help with the audition process and help orientate our new accompanist to the way we do things. Applicants skilled on a digital keyboard (ours is a Roland) are encouraged to apply for an audition by calling 785-478-1333, or e-mailing unitytopeka@yahoo.com, or sending a letter to Rev. Michael Jamison, Unity Church of Christianity, 9126 SW Tenth Avenue / PO Box 750658, Topeka, KS 66675-0658. Salary for this position is \$300 per month for the 90-minute per mid-week rehearsal and 90-minute per Sunday warm-up and service.

*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*

*Unity Worldwide Ministries
401 SW Oldham Pkwy
Lee's Summit, MO 64081*

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You Are Love

Words and Music by
Melinda Wood Allen

Moderato ♩ = 80

A^bsus A^b A^bsus A^b

5 A^b D^b/A^b A^b D^b A^b

You are Love, you are strength, you are for - give - ness

9 A^b D^b/A^b Fm D^b E^b A^b


You are Love and I can see you as you are.

13 A^b D^b/A^b A^b D^b/A^b E^b/A^b A^b

17 A^b D^b/A^b A^b D^b A^b

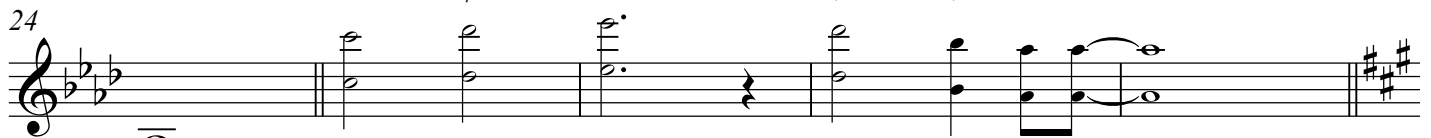
I am Love, I am strength, I am for - give - ness

21 A^b D^b/A^b Fm D^b E^b



I am Love_____ and I can see me as I

24 A^b A^b D^b/A^b A^b D^b/A^b E^b/A^b A^b




am.

29 A D/A A D A



We are we are__ love, we are strength we are for-give-ness_

33 A D/A $F^{\#}m$ D E A



We are love and I can see us as we are

37 D/A E/A A D/A E/A A

