

Music

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse, WI, Jan Thomsen, April 2014

This Session will require some preparation. If you can, please bring a CD of recorded music to share that has special meaning to you.

Opening Words:

“Jazz is a music of conversation, and that’s what you need in democracy. You have to be willing to hear another person’s point of view.” *Wynton Marsalis*

Check-in/Sharing

Topic:

Sound is a nutrient for our spirit as well as our body. It is how we express ourselves to the world. And sound in the form of music accompanies us throughout our lives, celebrating our brightest moments, sensualizing our romances, and offering comfort for our pain. For many of us, music is the bridge between the inner world and the external, between the invisible world of dreams and passions, and the concrete world we can see and touch. How music touches us is at once personal and universal.

Some sound patterns in nature seem musical; examples include: bird songs, whale songs, howling wolves and raindrops on the roof. Astronomers have been able to isolate the sound of the Big Bang and it turns out to be B-flat. It is 57 octaves below middle C and quite outside human hearing, but has been translated for human perception and linked to the World Wide Web. You can play the sound at:

<http://astsun.astro.virginia.edu/~dmw8f/index.php> The ‘sound’ is on the second page.

Activity:

Please take turns and share a small excerpt of a favorite piece of music. After your selection has been played, the other participants can offer their response to the music. Then explain your associations and/or feelings about the music. Try to keep the musical selections to approximately 2 minutes.

Questions for Discussion: If we have time, please respond to whichever question or questions you feel moved to answer.

1. What was your first favorite song? What drew you to that piece of music? What place did music have in your family or origin?
2. Have there been times in your life when music seemed more important? What were the circumstances and how did music seem to fit into your life at the time?
3. What draws you into a song? In what way does music add to or change the meaning or quality in your life?
4. What is the importance of music for you during the Sunday morning worship service?