

Welcome to

# Sound Connections

Unity's New Thought Music Resource

Issue #56 November, 2009

*Produced by Music Ministry Team and the Sacred Music Resources Department.*

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*Fred Bogert, Jennifer Ferren, Blair Tabor, Chris Foster, David Ezell, Carole Tomhave  
Melinda Wood-Allen, Todd Lowry*

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

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*Melbourne, FL,  
Fort Wayne, IN*

## MESSAGE FROM MELINDA



Dear Sound Connections Family:

*H*oly is the alarm clock that wakes me into a new morning.

Holy is the coffee pot that starts itself and has its aromatic elixir waiting for me. Holy are the books I read that center me and prepare me to do God's will today. Holy are the cats who let me know their needs in their native tongue-- loud and easy to understand. Holy are the dogs, jumping with joy just to be near me. Holy is the shower, pouring clean, clear, hot water over me. Holy is the clothing which covers me. Holy is the vehicle that brings me safely to work. Holy is the stereo which serenades me with music on my ride. Holy are the people I pass (or who pass me)...some with a "good morning" smile, some with scowls or even curses. Holy is the desk at which I sit to do what is mine to do today...holy are you...holy am I....

I have long made a practice of writing a "gratitude list," to bring me into a fuller awareness of how blessed I am even on my "worst" days. It works—even when I write it begrudgingly. In honesty I HAVE to admit how many blessings there are in my life.

Lately, I've one-upped my gratitude list to see how my world might change if, instead of just being grateful, I daily acknowledge the very sacredness—the holiness--of all of life. I start with my mundane daily routine and move out into the wider community, over which I can have absolutely no illusion of control. (Even at home I don't have actual control—just the *illusion*.) I've only been doing it a couple of weeks, and it is changing my world. I have long known that everything and everyone is a sacred, beloved creation of God—but this observance is helping me to *practice* that sacredness.

And, no, it's not making me airy-fairy or making me forget or ignore all the pain that is in the world. It's actually keeping me lighter, yet more sensitive, readier to surrender and more prone to see the humor in things. I just spent a week with a friend who lost her husband to a cruel and gruesome disease, and I was able to be truly present with her in her pain, knowing that even her pain is sacred, and though it is hers alone to bear, she is not alone.

God is working in my life...it's been that way all along, but when I make a practice of actively acknowledging it, new worlds of serenity and joy open to me. Blessings on you.

*"...When I was a boy each week / Sunday we would go to church/ Pay attention to the priest/  
And he would read the read the holy word/ Consecrate the holy bread/ And everyone would  
kneel and bow / Today the only difference is/ Everything is holy now...."*

*-Peter Mayer, from the song, "Holy Now"*

*Melinda Wood Allen is the Music Minister and Choir Director at Unity Church of Fort Worth,  
TX and a member of the Association's Music Ministry Team.*

## THIS MONTH'S FREE SHEET MUSIC ATTACHMENT

### BLESSING REPRISE

*Words and music by Clark Ford*

*This short and sweet blessing song is Clark's new musical, "1972", about a family in that year, trying to cope with changes in their life and in the world. In the first Act, the mother of the family sings "Blessing" as a soprano solo for the dinner prayer. In the third act, the whole extended family sings it in harmony as a Thanksgiving blessing ("Blessing Reprise").*

*Two part vocal with violin and piano accompaniment.*

*Below is a link to the soprano solo version of the song. The song is about a minute long.*

*<http://www.broadjam.com/artists/songs.php?artistID=67751&mediaID=444033>*

*Clark is music director at Unity Church of Ames, IA and has contributed music to SC in the past. For additional copies contact Clark [atcford@iastate.edu](mailto:atcford@iastate.edu)*

*You will find this song 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 future issues of Sound Connections, just send a PDF file of your song to [music@unity.org](mailto:music@unity.org) for review.*

# SOUND CONNECTIONS 2010

## SC6 - 2010

*The Sixth Annual Sound Connections New Thought Music Conference will be July 20 - 24, 2010 at Unity Village.*

*Submit your budget, start planning today.*

- *Early Bird Registration forms will be available in January.*
- *Presenters and keynotes will be announced in February 2010 Issue of Sound Connections.*

## *September's Sound Connections Pictures & Testimonials*

Joe Ginorio of Virginia took lots of pictures and posted them on a site for all to see. Just cut and paste the following link into your browser:

[http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=ginorio1&target=ALBUM&id=5385480374947511569&authkey=Gv1sRgCL7UqLSbhb7nlwE&invite=CI\\_Z16IH&feat=email](http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=ginorio1&target=ALBUM&id=5385480374947511569&authkey=Gv1sRgCL7UqLSbhb7nlwE&invite=CI_Z16IH&feat=email)

Music definitely spoke loudly at the 2009 Sound Connections music conference. Keynotes Daniel Nahmod, Karen Drucker, David Roth, Harold Payne and Sloan Wainwright dazzled, mesmerized and touched hearts. Wonderful discussions about New Thought worship, what makes a New Thought song, and how we can better serve our communities and the world ensued.

Here is the experience in the words of those who attended:

*You should be very proud of Sound Connections this year. Did you dream that you would have such a large impact on the music programs around the country when you started this conference 5 years ago? Here is what I have seen happen.*

- *The quality and quantity of music being composed, written, and performed inside of Unity churches, and going out to a much larger audience has been hugely increased. The bar has been and continues to be raised.*
- *Musicians/Singer/Songwriters who may have only been regionally known are now gaining national recognition and bookings at Unity churches.*
- *The sharing of information, comradery, and friendship among the music family of the Unity movement has been heartwarming and profound.*

*Congratulations!  
Roger Tomhave*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you so very much for the wonderful experience you created for all of us who attended Sound Connections. It was a wonderful event, we're already starting campaigning for our Board to budget to send our music director to next year's event.*

*Nita and Jon Strauss*

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*The few days I was able to attend the conference were wonderful beyond words. I met the most amazing people - let out the song of my heart - and found my joy amidst a very trying personal time in my life. . . I feel new songs rising from within and I can't wait to write them all down and work them out. The conference was an amazing experience for me and I look forward to doing it again next year.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Sound Connections 2009 had a huge impact on me. It took me days to stop crying. These were/are tears of joy and profound gratitude. The love that I felt there has opened my heart even wider. I feel so blessed that I get to be part of such a wonderful family. I had a huge shift there and I am so excited to be a voice for this amazing music.*  
Sally Peterson – Vail, CO

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*I am definitely still vibrating from the "sonic love". It was an unforgettable week filled with love and music.* Petros Long Jordan

\*\*\*\*\*

*I just wanted to say thank you for an amazing conference. It exceeded well beyond my expectations in every way! I know that I have been further deepened and enriched by the experience.....and I feel that the music is flowing out of me right now. Thanks again and Many Blessings,*  
Sue B.Proud Detroit, MI

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*The emotional sharing I had with my now new Sound Connection friends, in word and song, have moved me to a level of fellowship love that I have not experienced before. . . I am truly motivated to use my newly supported creativity to enhance my personal life and contribute more to the positive music movement. I will be back next year for sure!*  
Cherie Shipley, Carson City, NV

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*I thought the Sound Connections experience was just awesome...every year seems even better than the last. The Friday concert was just extraordinary.*  
CathyDewitt, Gainesville, FL

\*\*\*\*\*

*Richard, I had a fabulous experience last week and even though I returned Fri. eve to make a Sat. gig, I did so with a wide open heart. . . The combination of nuts and bolts learning for new thought music ministry and pure wake-up spirituality was perfect. The presenters were just right and the church service model that the music team gave us each morning I will never forget.*  
Love, Brad Henty, Music Director Unity Church of Charleston, SC.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thanks again for an inspiring experience. I've been changed at depth and look forward to speaking with my minister about how valuable this experience was.*  
Thanks for the prayers,  
Linda Missad

\*\*\*\*\*

*I was moved to tears more than once, again this year!.. and touched and inspired beyond my expectations Again, thank you all... so much!*  
Blessings in harmony, LINDA Chubbuck Lee's Summit, MO

\*\*\*\*\*

*Elizabeth and I feel that it was truly a life-changing experience, and we plan to return next year. Being able to sing in the choir was awesome, and for the first time I feel really connected to a particular movement (aka denomination). We feel so blessed to be included at Unity. Thank You, Michael Melton*

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## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED TOPIC

### NOVEMBER IS POSI MUSIC MONTH!

#### Take the Posi Music Challenge.

We are all familiar with that particular brand of empowering, uniting, socially conscious music we call Posi or New Thought Music. I personally am on a steady diet of this music listening to hundreds of song submissions for the yearly Posi Awards, our next songbook and for my radio program on Unity FM.

I truly feel that this musical "nutrition" (let's call it Vitamin "P") has contributed significantly to my health and well being over the years. Most of us reading this are already on a steady diet of Posi music because of our connection to New Thought Spirituality, and now we want the world to know about its positive, healing effects.

That's why November has been declared "Posi Music Month".

The idea originated with Jana Stanfield ([www.janastanfield.com](http://www.janastanfield.com)) in partnership with the Positive Music Association, Empower Music & Arts and Harmonizing with Humanity ([www.harmonizingwithhumanity.com](http://www.harmonizingwithhumanity.com)).

The motto is "Listen to Posi Music - for a change."

The goal is to "Fast" from your regular diet of whiny victim love songs and go on a steady diet of Posi music for a month. Pay attention to your moods and even use Posi Music to get you going in the morning, to get you out of a slump or to help you deal with an issue you're having in your life.

As a church community, you can ask your congregations to take the "Posi Music Challenge". You can start your 30 days at any time. Create little cards with these links and sites to hand out to them. Open up the space for them to give ongoing testimonials on Sunday morning. You could have a Posi Music Exchange Table where folks can swap out their favorite music with one another or lend music to those who don't yet have their Posi Music Library started. Then you can write about your experience in the December and January Sound Connections.

So where can you find significant doses of Vitamin P?

- EmPower Music & Arts' online store will be loaded up with lots of great music for your car and home. [www.empowerma.com](http://www.empowerma.com)
- There are internet radio stations that play Posi Music that you can tune into at work. [www.onevibrationradio.org/](http://www.onevibrationradio.org/) [www.quantumquest.org](http://www.quantumquest.org)
- And you can discover new artists at the Positive Music Association's site. [www.positivemusicassociation.com](http://www.positivemusicassociation.com)

As the pioneers of a grass roots movement, we need to be pro-active in fulfilling our intention to bring Posi Music to the masses. Therefore, I hope you will take this opportunity to participate in the FIRST ANNUAL Posi Music Month.

Let's embrace our own brand of music and help spread our message of spiritual social action, unity, healing and personal transformation to those who have not yet been privileged to discover it.

## FROM THE ROAD

*Bring this awesome artist to your church or center!*



### Christine Stevens

UpBeat Drum Circles

Christine is a REMO artist, author, speaker and music therapist. The founder of UpBeat Drum Circles, she has appeared on NBC, CBS and Living Better TV. She is the author of *The Healing Drum Kit* and *The Art and Heart of Drum Circles*. Her recordings include *Drumming up Diva*, *Reviving Rhythms*, and soon to be released, *Drumming up Spirit!* Christine has worked with Columbine High School, Ground Zero, survivors of Hurricane Katrina and recently taught the first drum circle training for peace-building in Iraq.

### Drum Ministry

Put rhythm into your services, events, choir, and community through drumming! Christine uses drumming to commune with Spirit, pray and share Creativity, Joy, Liberation and Peace. Through drumming, a group can create a positive vibration of entrainment to the Most High. There is an ancient lineage and tradition of drumming for spirituality from cultures of Sacred Drumming and Sacred Music. Though drumming, we can facilitate inter-faith and cross-cultural worship and demonstrate UNITY. From Mike and Ami Bowen's Soul Fire drum choir at Unity St. Petersburg, to Nina Gibson and Jeff Volk's drum ministry at Walter Reed Hospital, to Linda Chubbuck's drum circles at Unity Village, to music therapist Martha Bowman's drum prayer, drum ministers are popping up everywhere! There is a movement in Unity churches of drumming!

### More than a performer

Christine includes inspirational sermons on the power of music for peace-building, healing, and unity. She can be booked for healing drumming training programs and workshops.

*"Christine's work is anointed with the kiss of heaven's inspiration, celebration and joy. She absolutely fulfills her calling as an instrument of global peace on the planet."* Michael Bernard Beckwith, Agape International Spiritual Center

*"Christine weaves wit and humor into her presentation and music. There is a healing quality to her very presence...and then when she starts drumming....forget about it!"* - Richel Kompst, SoulSings, Las Vegas UNITY

Contact:

[info@ubdrumcircles.com](mailto:info@ubdrumcircles.com)

PO Box 1256

Boulder, CO. 80306

310-770-3398



Christine at Unity of Las Vegas

You Tube Videos

Christine's keynotes and drum circles - <http://www.ubdrumcircles.com/video.php>

Methodist Minister's ON DRUMS! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fU2vx0nExIq>

Web sites

[www.ubdrumcircles.com](http://www.ubdrumcircles.com)

[www.ashtidrum.com](http://www.ashtidrum.com)

[www.remo.com/health](http://www.remo.com/health)

### Benediction from Christine:

May our hearts resonate with the SONG of love.

May our bodies vibrate with the RHYTHM of life.

May our souls unify in HARMONY with Spirit.

May our minds rest in the SILENCE of Peace.

If you are a touring artists and would like to be featured in *From The Road*, submit your article to [music@unity.org](mailto:music@unity.org)

## CD REVIEWS



### **WORLD RISING** – BEN DOWLING

Reviewed by Richard Mekdeci

*"What a fantastic time to be alive and musical." - Ben Dowling*

At the forefront of musical exploration for the past 20 years, Ben Dowling was an early pioneer in music technology, working for Korg doing keyboard clinics and helping develop products such as the M1 and the incredible Korg Oasys. He

was the keyboardist and programmer on Michael Jackson's "Dangerous" and "History" CDs and has worked with Madonna, Don Henley, Dave Grusin and many others.

Ben now makes his home at the Agape International Center in Los Angeles.

Dowling's much anticipated most recent release, "World Rising," is a fusion of jazz, world and funk influences in a percussion-rich, groove-centric collection. With influences of Zawinul and Hancock, "World Rising" is a study in the power of percussive groove, polyrhythm and modality. "I wanted to create a type of music that lent itself to great improvisers, yet had enough structure to be cohesive. Kind of a four-on-the-floor, percussion-based groove, long meter horn ensemble in a modal soup," Dowling explains. Wow.

This CD is a complete and amazing juxtaposition of fast rhythms overlaid onto slow rhythms, of ancient sounds and modern synthesis, of improvisation and structure, of instrumental and vocal style. There is a "relentless groove" throughout the 10 cuts that is felt even through the slower and quieter compositions.

Like a great movie that can be seen multiple times revealing something new to the viewer each time, “World Rising”, thick with texture, melody and rhythm, can be listened to over and over again revealing something new to the listener’s ears each time.

Ben is a true artist that knows and understands art as “an evolutionary trigger for something greater to arise” and who understands the responsibility that the creation of art carries with it. Bens piano and keyboard work are perfectly woven into these often complex arrangements. He does not take the spotlight that often, but when he does, your ears will perk up and take notice.

The opening title song sets the stage for what is to come by laying down a very clean, meticulous groove, then introducing a slower, melodic motif over that by a muted horn section. Ed Wynne adds some absolutely world class tenor and soprano saxophone throughout.

Vocal standouts: “Love Embraces All” – Ben Dowling vocals and “Starting Over”, a duet featuring Carl Anderson and Niki Haris.

”World Rising” can be appreciated by the musical novice or by true music aficionado. It’s not intrusive yet it begs to be listened to. It will energize and amaze you.

Listen at [www.world-rising.com](http://www.world-rising.com)

## The MAILBOX - YOUR LETTERS / Q&A

### TODD’S COPYRIGHT CORNER

Todd

We are wanting to record our entire Sunday service, sell CD's, and put online for listening. Am clear about how to work with emPowerMA and using the Association Songbooks, and individual artists.

Two more questions:

Can we record songs from Wings of Song?

Can we record The Peace Song we still use at the end of the service...IF we chose?

Thanks!

Renee O'Geary

*Renee,*

*Wings of Song (WOS) was put together by the Unity staff in 1984. Some of the songs are public domain and some are copyrighted. The majority of songs are printed without a copyright notice indicating that they are probably public domain. But there are plenty of copyrighted songs—including songs by New Thought songwriters Carmen Moshier and Bill Provost and even the popular hymn “Weave” (copyright 1979).*

*“Let There Be Peace of Earth” (The Peace Song), though ubiquitous, is also a copyrighted song. It was written in 1955 by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson and is owned by Jan-Lee Music.*

*As far as I know, no songwriter or publisher has ever sued a church that recorded The Peace Song or songs out of WOS on their Sunday service recording. Of course, that doesn't mean it won't happen.*

*There's no problem recording songs out of WOS that are public domain. And you're probably safe recording other songs out of WOS and The Peace Song. However, technically, by the letter of the law, it's a violation of copyright to record a copyrighted song without the owner's permission.*

*A podcast is an audio or video recording that is "broadcast"—transmitted—over the internet. A use of music in a podcast is considered a "public performance." ASCAP and BMI, which administer performance rights, have farmed out this niche to Christian Copyright Solutions (www.copyrightsolver.com). CCS offers a license whereby one can webcast or podcast songs. As far as I can tell (and I'm not 100% sure of this), they make no distinction between a live streaming performance and one that has been archived.*

*By the way, there's another issue having to do with The Peace Song. If you consult WOS, #3, you'll find the correct words for The Peace Song, which include such phrases as "with God as our Father, brothers all are we," and "let this be my solemn vow." Numerous churches change these words. For example, they change "solemn vow" to "joyous vow." Some even change the entire meaning--"Yes, there is peace on earth." Jan-Lee has consented to the alternative line "With God as Creator, family all are we."*

*It's copyright infringement to change the words to a song. Furthermore, it's just bad form to change somebody's original creative expression.*

*Let me emphasize that anyone who wants to perform a song publicly must obtain permission from the copyright owner. However the copyright law provides an exemption for the performance of songs during the course of a religious service. So, at least, you can perform whatever songs you want, even if you are not free to record them all.*

*Anyway, now that I've rambled all over, the short answer to your question is: you can probably get away with it with no problem, but technically it's a violation of copyright.*

## **USING JAMES DILLET FREEMAN'S "PRAYER OF PROTECTION"**

Dear Richard,

Would you be able to advise me regarding permission to use a poem by Rev. James Dillet Freeman which I have put to my own original music, recorded, mastered, and am ready to produce. I actually received Rev. Freeman's blessing and good wishes in writing after I sent him a sound recording of the song (my music set to his Christmas poem, *Angel Song*) probably more than 10 years ago, but am unable to find his letter now. . .

My wife and I have fond memories of having Rev. Freeman renew our marriage vows, along with several other couples, at Unity village in the early nineties, and I was inspired to write the music to his beautiful poem shortly afterward. We perform it every Christmas season at our Unity Spiritual Center, Asbury NJ. It is a favorite way of honoring Rev. Freeman's memory.

For now, I want to be certain I wouldn't be violating any copyright of Rev. Freeman's work, and hope you will be able to advise me positively.

Blessings,  
John Beavin beavin@att.net

*Dear John,*

*My understanding is that permission is not needed unless you've changed the words of the author. Only proper credit and payment of royalties.*

*Also, I worked with Jim for 5 years and did over 70 retreats with him. He always gave a blanket permission for anyone to use his work and set it to music, and as far as I know, never asked for compensation for this.*

*Be sure you properly credit Jim's poem and the book from which it came and the publisher (Usually, Unity Books).*

*If you'd like, for karma's sake, send a love offering equal to the royalty that would be paid, to Silent Unity, Jim's ministry and passion. The rate now I believe is around 9.5 cents per song per unit. (\$9.50 per one hundred units produced - not sold.) Since we are only talking about the lyrics, it would be half of that.*

*Hope that helps,*

*Would love to hear your CD.*

*Send to address below.*

*RM*

## Conferences and Events



**Make your reservations now for the Fifth Annual Posi Awards in beautiful Orlando, Florida. Hear all of your favorite Posi and New Thought artists together, enjoy fun and educational workshops and the late night Pajama Jam Music showcases by the pool.**

**January 18-20, 2010**

**DoubleTree Resort**

**10100 International Drive**

**Orlando, FL 32821**

Call 1-800-327-0636 to make reservations. Ask for the Empower room block, at a beautifully discounted price of \$95 per room, including free in-room internet, and discounted breakfast vouchers.

go to [www.empowerma.com](http://www.empowerma.com) for a registration form and more information.

Help keep this section updated with music-related events and conferences by sending your information to [music@unity.org](mailto:music@unity.org)

## RESOURCES AND SERVICES

*We have moved this listing to our webpage at [www.unity.org/music](http://www.unity.org/music). Help us keep this resource updated with your favorite helpful links by sending your suggestions and comments to [music@unity.org](mailto:music@unity.org)*

## MUSIC DIRECTOR JOB OPENINGS

**Unity Church of Melbourne** is seeking part time music director. Currently we are able to pay \$1,000 a month. If you are interested, please call Rev. Beth Head.  
Unity Church of Melbourne  
1745 Trimble Road  
Melbourne, FL 32934  
321-254-0313 Tue - Thurs 10a - 3p EST  
321-253-9116 fax

**“Unity Christ Church, Fort Wayne, IN** is a loving and joy-filled community. We have an opening for a Music Director who can provide a presentation of diverse, first-rate, spiritually meaningful music for Sunday services and special events. For further information and/or a copy of the job description, please contact Rev. Mary Wood at 260-482-2477.”

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*Please do not reply to this email. Send your comments and suggestions to [music@unity.org](mailto: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/contact-us.html](http://www.unity.org/contact-us.html)*

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# Blessing Reprise

Music and Lyrics by Clark Ford

$\text{♩} = 120$  Em Em D

(violin)

(Maureen, Janice, Marnie)

Bless this food, bless our home, bless our fam- i- ly bless- ed

(Robert, Bob)

Bless this food, bless our home, bless our fam- i- ly bless- ed

*mp*

7 Em Am

7

be. Bless our lives, bless our spir- it, may we

be. Bless our lives, bless our spir- it, may we

*mp*

7 Am G Am Em

live in har- mo- ny, bless- ed be. Bless the poor bless the un-

live in har- mo- ny, bless- ed be. Bless the poor bless the un-

*mf* *mp*

10 Em D Em

for-tun- ate, may they nev- er be hun- gry, bles- sed be. Bless the

for-tun- ate, may they nev- er be hun- gry, bles- sed be. Bless the

*mp*

13

Am D Em

world, all the peo- ple, bring us peace, pros- per- i-ty, bless- ed be.

world, all the peo- ple, bring us peace, pros- per- i-ty, bless- ed be.

*mf*