**September 2020, Music report to the Board**

This month I’ve been preparing music with deadlines in mind, to optimize my workflow for smooth preparation. With the time from idea to reality now taking weeks, if not months, I’m looking ahead to services later in the fall.

Here’s what music looks like this year: let’s say we have a piece for a small group of the choir in mind - this work involves obtaining the music, hopefully obtaining copyright permissions, recording the piano music to rehearse, editing that with a rehearsal video where I conduct to help choir members through it, placing on our choir website for rehearsal, rehearsing for a couple weeks minimum, before asking choir members to record on their own and send me the videos. Then I’ll clean up the audio for background noise and other artifacts before mixing it with the videos in Adobe Premiere, and hopefully placing them somewhat aesthetically on the screen.

That’s one piece of music, and the process repeats itself for most things you see. Even a simple hymn requires planning, since I live on a main street in Providence and I work to ensure congregants just hear music, not the trucks starting up at the traffic light outside.

Beyond basic preparation, we also have a jazz service on October 18, where I’ll be getting footage and interviews with outside musicians. First session is this weekend, and it will be exciting to see what shape it takes!

I am also planning for Christmas Eve Eve, which I hope to be a nice respite for all in December. Currently 3 of our 4 usual singers will be with us, and we intend to record them in the sanctuary, individually, on different days, so I’m working on the first stages of imagining the evening and how it can be filmed.

My overall goal this year is twofold. Firstly, I’d like to create interesting and engaging choir rehearsals to keep choir members part of the community even during a time of great upheaval for choral singing. The second is to present the music to the congregation in a way that allows them to focus on the music, the message, and enjoy the worship services.

Thanks for indulging in a long report, as it’s the first ever. My third goal is to keep board reports a manageable length for you in the future!

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Galib