

Music Exploration Series # 4 – 10/11/20

Celtic Music, Taizé, and Native American Chant

Join the Zoom Coffee Hour discussion at 10:00 am here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82801190646>

Celtic music is influenced by sung and instrumental folk traditions from Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, Ireland, and Brittany. It is often meditative and mystical. The Iona Community was founded in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace, in the context of the poverty and despair of the Depression. Iona remains a center for pilgrimage. This music is used in many churches offering alternative worship services, often not on Sunday mornings.

“St. Patrick’s Breastplate” *Hymnal 1982* # 370; attributed to St Patrick, Irish Melody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UFYLgeE-Rc>

“Gloria in Excelsis” (Canticle 6) *Hymnal 1982* # S-206; set to Old Scottish Chant

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVlmOKkkU_Y

“Morning Has Broken” *Hymnal 1982* # 8; Gaelic melody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnRDXjaPjc0>

“Be Thou My Vision” *Hymnal 1982* # 488, Slane, Irish Ballad Melody with percussion

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CMclLT_Hjg

“The Summons” *Wonder, Love and Praise* # 757; Iona Community, traditional Scots tune

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0aAkOe87mo>

The **Taizé** Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic order in Burgundy, France. It is composed of brothers who come from Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions, from about 30 countries. The monastic order has a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. It was founded in 1940. Its music relies on simple tunes and short, repetitive texts, so that anyone can learn them quickly. Variations and additional lyrics sung by a cantor may be worked in. Latin is often used as a neutral language equally accessible to people with different native languages.

“O Lord hear my pray’r ” *Wonder, Love and Praise* # 827; Psalm 102

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKyU5BIlxc0>

“O Lord hear my pray’r, O Lord hear my pray’r. When I call, answer me. O Lord hear my pray’r. O Lord hear my pray’r, Come and listen to me.”

“Ubi Caritas” *Wonder, Love and Praise* # 831; an ancient Maundy Thursday hymn

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9e_QO1ATho&index=2&list=PLAFC3BF61F242A1C6

“Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.” English: “Where true charity and love abide, God is there.”

“Stay with me” *Wonder, Love and Praise* # 826; Matthew 26:38, 40

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmAQcHqvS0Q&index=9&list=PLAFC3BF61F242A1C6>

“Stay with me, remain here with me; watch and pray, watch and pray.”

“Bless the Lord” *Wonder, Love and Praise* # 825; Psalm 103:1; see text in comments; note use of multiple languages

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Svh-9ohg4>

Native American music, while varied across tribes and language groups, often takes the form of chanting with drums or other percussion. Many tribes have long-standing Christian communities which have adapted non-native hymns or composed new music. Notice that all of these three styles of music share some similar elements of simplicity, repetition, and use of percussion. Celtic music is the indigenous music of the Celtic tribes.

“Many and great, O God, are thy works” *Hymnal 1982* # 385; Dakota Chant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHwcdQGelmI>

“Heleluyan (Alleluia)” *Wonder, Love and Praise* # 783; Muskogee (Creek)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWJYam30qjQ>

“Peace before us” *Wonder, Love and Praise* # 791; based on a Navaho prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cw0gMW6gk0w>

Discussion questions:

How do these music styles speak to you differently from other music through its texts and music styles?

What more can you offer about this style from your experience as a singer, musician, or listener?

How often do we use this style at GHTC? Recent examples that come to mind?

How well do you like it? Would you like us to use more or less of it?