

# Songlines

*Notes from the musical staff*

## Drumming dreams

After worship one week in August, Ace came up to Cheryl and asked if he could have a go on the conga drums. Within ten minutes, Josh and Quamay had joined him, and Quincy and I were at the piano, feeling our way into the rhythm.

One-year-old QuiLaya could feel it too –

she was tapping Lori's chest and jiggling to the beat. At that moment, I had a vision of fifty drums at Summit, and fifty people playing them every week during worship.



drums in waiting

Drums are wonderfully inclusive instruments: rather like a choir, a group of drums can be the vehicle for joining people together in rhythm and song – and worship. At the Drum Circle at Summit this April, during the Campus Music Hop, elderly people joined with children, disabled people with vigorous ones, and novices with musical experts. It sounds too good to be true, but it really worked. At the end of the session, people reported feeling relaxed, yet energized. Something about the rhythm, and the vibration, and the fact that everyone can join in, gives people feelings of great well-being.

The summer is when music directors dream – before the schedule gets going again and it feels as if there's no time for anything more than getting ready for the next rehearsal – and my dreams this year are of drums. I'd like to program *Missa Luba*, a Congolese mass for choir, soloist, and drums, for Summit's Easter music next year. I'd like to get enough copies of *Zion still Sings*, the United Methodist supplementary hymnal of African American music, for at least the choir. And I'd like to buy a few more drums .....

## Other musical notes

The fall concert in aid of Neighborhood Services Initiative will be on Sunday November 11 this year, at Holy Name Catholic Church, with a focus on Spirituals. Other musical highlights this year will include welcoming the Columbus Women's Chorus back within our walls, for a concert on Sunday November 18. Our main choral Sunday in Advent will be on December 16.



drums in use

As always, we extend an open welcome to anyone in the Columbus area to join in music-making at Summit. Please just bring your voice - or of course an instrument. Especially a drum!

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