



## Chatham Music Club April Newsletter 2020

***“ Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear.  
If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today”***

**Thich Nhat Hahn**

Dear Members,

I hope this finds you all discovering new ways to enjoy being together at home under these extraordinary, unprecedented times. “Spare time” has gained new meaning! Aside from binging on Netflix, I have been listening to a lot of music, especially the free broadcasts from MetOpera.org, sorting through piles of music I will never sing and a zillion digital photographs, as well as cooking and baking what I never seemed to have time to do...I think I’ve gained a few extra pounds. I made a head start doing the outdoor spring cleanup (until the current April chill), including multiple bags of leaves and brush that are now sitting in the driveway because the Wellfleet transfer station is currently not accepting them. This too will pass.

I know you are, as I am, disappointed that we will not be able to present “Beethoven and Friends” in June. At this point it is hard to make definite plans and we may not be able to do the program until next year. However, there is the idea of doing a “free” concert in the fall to, hopefully, celebrate the return to life after Covid 19 and to give the gift of music to the community. More on that to come.

I offer the following “inspirations” from John O’Donohue’s “To Bless the Space Between Us” and the beautiful aria “Where’er You Walk” from *Semele* by Handel. (see body of the email)

“For Equilibrium”

*Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore, may the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.  
As the wind loves to call things to dance, may your gravity be lightened by grace.  
Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth, may your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.  
As water takes whatever shape it is in, so free may you be about who you become.  
As silence smiles on the other side of what is said, may your sense of irony bring perspective.  
As time remains free of all that it frames, may your mind stay clear of all its names.  
May your prayer of listening deepen enough to hear in the depths the laughter of God.*

Until we are able to resume our daily lives and activities, I wish you, your families and friends continued health, safety and the hope and resilience to manage this daunting time in our lives.

Chris Allen, Editor