

Dynamic Music

By the Rev. Dennis Hamilton

They say it is air, moving, vibrations of air,
 traveling across the room, even through walls,
 coming to move the cochlea, the eardrum.
That is miracle enough.
But music is more—the ear, moving the heart,
 making hands clap, feet move,
 whole troops of dancers, to sway,
 to leap, to move as one.
It is this miracle of the ear, moving marchers to
 sing songs of freedom, songs of courage—
Moving worshippers, to chant the news of grace,
 or moan the news of loss.
But how? How does it work?

First take the heart beat, and the sound of breathing
 in sleep, in love, in war.
And don't forget the love songs of elk
 or the creak of old boats,
 the whispering of cattails,
 or the conversation of starlings—
All of the world's songs are sacred.
They can mend the broken heart,
 or make a mountain dance.

More, music can overcome the confusion of
 tongues, the babble of languages,
 for music is the universal language.

Married to the spoken word—woven into song,
 it can heal the soul
 and raise dry bones to walk about.
So come, let us listen, those who have ears to hear.
And let us raise a joyful noise.