



April 2019

Dear Friends,

Over the last few months all we seem to have heard about in the media is Brexit - about unity and disunity, being together or going it alone. Don't worry I'm not going to be political! However, after writing about singing last month I started thinking about the similarities between the diversity and unity that exists in music and being a Christian.

Generally music has a central tune with additional chords that run through it. In a choir we have people who can sing at different pitches. There is

- Soprano,
- Mezzo-Soprano,
- Alto,
- Contralto,
- Tenor,
- Baritone
- and Base

The central tune is called the *cantus firmus* - the melody used as the basis for a polyphonic composition. The choir sings together in harmony, but... sung apart, or on their own, each part may seem very strange and it may not sound like they are singing the same song or tune at all. However, the song is complimented when each one sings their part of the melody. In fact without them all singing their individual part the sound we hear is quite different and can often seem as though it's missing something.

For Christians Christ is the *cantus firmus* - the central tune - and in our different ways we interpret, echo, and have melodies around the Christian Faith. We have different Christian denominations, different styles of church and being church. There are Christians who worship in different ways; they sing hymns to organ music or modern worship songs with the accompaniment of a guitar or modern music band; or they meet in ancient churches or modern halls. This may give the impression that we are fragmented and not in unity. But that's not so.

The body of the church is its people and God made us individuals and unique. Therefore there is no reason why the body of the church can't play different tunes within the melody and yet be of the same body. Some people have the gift of being able to sing more than one part in a choir. They maybe able to sing soprano and alto, or tenor and baritone. I believe this is the same as Christians who enjoy different church services and practices.

There are times when we sing out of tune and others in the choir can bring us back in tune. We have conductors who help us do that. Jesus can be your conductor. If you sing out of tune, or sing a different tune he will help you to follow and pick up the right melody. For Christians the important thing to remember is that whatever tune we sing it needs to be rooted in Jesus Christ.

May you sing in harmony with all around you whatever your beliefs or faith,

*Rev'd Nicki*