

## **EMC and Welkin**

Report to the 1U Annual Congregational Meeting – May 19, 2019

Respectfully submitted by John Brockman

### EMC - Eclectic Music Collective

This program has been on hiatus after not being able to completely get off the ground in 2017. I am in communication with 1U musician members who have expressed particular interest in re-booting this group with more solid commitment and intention; this time, with a more definite mission statement and commitment level. I may use the EMC title for a few key music performances through the end of 2019 and plan to re-boot first quarter of next year (2020).

### Welkin

With Jamie's 'retirement,' which frankly, left myself and most if not all of the group, in a bit of a head scratching 'what the...' state of broad-sided numbness as it occurred. This may have looked good and reasonable on paper, yet I believe the circumstances behind it cast us all in a bit of 'shade' and doubt about collective leadership's decision to expedite his retirement; however, what is done is done. We have managed well to maintain cohesion and continue to meet our goal and mission of quality musical performances, yet to a noticeably less frequent degree.

There was more lost with Jamie that was realized or was plain to the outside eye. Jamie was an experienced crafted musician, teacher, and friend; who instilled confidence in each of us through his experience of music as a living thing which he adored.

We are fortunate in that each of our current long-time members was committed to keep our band together, tight, creative and active. Yet, it is not what it used to be, and how could it be expected to be so. We are different, we are still going forward.

Through our challenges the last two years, we have found ourselves rising to and meeting/exceeding musical challenges in regards to music theory and technical hurdles which Jamie used to handle with ease. I am most proud of our team, our Welkin Family watching us all learn a little bit more, work a little bit harder, and push ourselves a little bit farther than we have before.

We are actively seeking and in great need of vocalists as we have recently lost Melissa Rosario no longer affiliated with 1U and on another spiritual journey, and Ed Holten, our latest dedicated guitarist, who recently moved for work related opportunities. Thankfully Jacob and I can cover a breadth of instruments and can fill in where best needed. It would be ideal to have a dedicated bassist, however we are not stunted without one, as Jacob and I are bassists and can switch to bass where there is less need for keys or guitar.

Welkin will continue to move forward, learn, grow and share our work and music with 1U for the foreseeable future.