



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Nothing Ever Goes Away

I used to ignore the mix playlists generated by YouTube according to what they calculate I might like. But about six months ago, I figured, what'll it hurt? They already have the data of every YouTube video I've ever watched, which ones I've watched again or over and over again, which ones I shut down after the first thirty seconds, or which ones I've even just searched for. So on my day off, after an hour on the phone with an investment broker and catching up on some emails, I clicked on just such a mix to see what the algorithm thought I might enjoy today.

It's definitely a weird mix, starting with ["Tadayou kanjō"](#) (Floating Feelings), written and performed by Kotoringo, a Japanese pianist-singer with a soft, breathy childlike voice. It was used as the theme song of a strange crime-mystery-romance series I watched in 2017 titled *Million Yen Women*. I hadn't listened to Kotoringo in years, but YouTube is like an elephant.

There was a cover of ["Waltz across Texas Tonight"](#) by the [Brandenberger Family](#), an Amish family of musicians who perform rather widely, especially in the Midwest. You don't think of Amish as performers. I mean, when I had Amish neighbors they rode in buggies and didn't use electricity, let alone have social media accounts. But I've been watching this cover over the last month – partly because I like the unironic country style, partly because of its gentle romanticism with a skosh of heartache, and partly because of its Texas connection:

The moon is so full/ The stars are so bright  
My hand is steady/ My touch is light  
Look in my eyes/ And hold on real tight  
And I'll waltz you my darling across Texas  
tonight

There's religious music in the mix from all over the place: Anglican choral anthems, Latter Day Saints hymns, Buddhist chants sung by Tina Turner, ["Gayatri Mantra"](#) and new songs sung by Deva Premal, New Thought songs by Rickie Byars, Contemporary American Islamic music, Jewish *Piyyutim*, and more. Pipe organ, harmonium, accordion, zither, autoharp, piano, string quartets, philharmonic orchestras. And a wide range of world styles. I like to end an evening's listening with the [Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Family Band](#) playing ["Ashokan Farewell."](#) Or an Austrian horn ensemble playing ["Des Jägers Abschied."](#) Farewells are always a little sad, even when departures are for good reasons. Music can capture so well the nuances that you can dance to or sit with.

This YouTube mix captures so much that connects deeply. How can I respond to the easy and the tough, the good and the bad, the spiritual and the corporeal if not through song?

[My life flows on in endless song](#) above earth's lamentation. I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing. It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing!

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Paul