Ode to Happiness Monday April 27, 2020

I forgot to mention yesterday that Anne Akiko Myers, the violinist playing Samuel Barber’s Violin Concerto, is a native Santa Barbaran whom I had the privilege of meeting when she performed the piece with the Santa Barbara Symphony last year. (Karen Drown and I were concert sponsors.) Two years before she played Ralph Vaughn Williams’ Lark Ascending with the orchestra and gave birth to a daughter two days later. You can find more about her at <https://anneakikomeyers.com/>

Here’s Larry Green with some off-beat fun to the rescue…not a minute too soon.

A girl handed in a short story for her English class. The instructions were simple - the story had to be about religion, sexuality and mystery, and it had to be as short as possible.

Having received the marked paper, the girl rejoiced. She was the only student to get an A+. This is what she had written:

"God! I'm pregnant - I wonder how that happened."

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I met my girlfriend whilst she was working at the zoo. There she was in her uniform - straightaway I knew she was a keeper.

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People tell me I take mini-golf too seriously, but my caddy disagrees.

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Interesting fact: T-shirt is short for Tyrannosaurus Shirt. Because of the short arms.

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I've been learning German for twenty years. It's zwanzig Jahren.

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Just a quick note to say thanks to everybody for all the wonderful birthday cards and money yesterday. And to the USPS for giving me the job.

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What kind of movies are rated 3.14 stars?

Pirated movies.

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I bought some shoes from a drug dealer. I don't know what he laced them with, but I've been tripping all day.

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With the rise of self-driving vehicles, it's only a matter of time before we get a country song where a guy's truck leaves him too.

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My best mates and I played a game of hide and seek. It went on for hours...Well, good friends are hard to find.

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Here is a response to Sunday’s music extravaganza from friend Barbara Medaille, whom I first met in 1957 while I was taking a year off from college and working at Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica.

*I was so happy to get your music selections. Not a dud in the bunch. When my family just moved back from Switzerland, I remember listening to Beethoven’s 7th and 8th, over and over.*

*Also to the Bach Organ Passacaglia and Fugue. At one point my beloved stepmom poked her head in the door and asked, “Who died?*”

Barbara is an established artist living in Healdsburg, CA, so when I asked her to send a photo of a recent work, she did. Here it is, along with a note about its origin

*I painted it over the winter. As I get closer to death, I am pretty sure that I will have wanted to spend more time staring into the trees, which is what I do and is the title of this piece. It’s 40x56. I like that kind of real estate. I am doing a couple of small paintings now: 30x40. Light Through Branches.*

*When in doubt, stare into the trees, (The trees are in my back yard.)*

For a look at other works you might want to go to her site at [www.barbaramedaille.com](http://www.barbaramedaille.com).

THE ECONOMY IS SO BAD THAT....\*

• My neighbor got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.

• CEO's are now playing miniature golf.\*>

• Exxon-Mobil laid off 25 Congressmen.\*

• I saw a Mormon with only one wife.

• McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ouncer.

• Angelina Jolie adopted a child from America.

• Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names

• A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.\*

• A picture is now only worth 200 words.

• When Bill and Hillary travel together, they now have to share a room.\*

• The Treasure Island Casino in Las Vegas is now managed by Somali pirates.\*

And, finally...

I was so depressed last night thinking about the economy, wars, jobs, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc., \*I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Pakistan, and when I told them I was suicidal, they got all excited, and asked if I could drive a truck.\*

Ready for another Rube Goldberg? How about one from Honda showing pieces of one of its vehicles?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z57kGB-mI54>

And finally, a salute the Coronavirus from the Italian Airforce.