



*Te Deum:  
Through the Church,  
the Song Goes On*

ST. OLAF CANTOREI REUNION CHOIR

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*John Ferguson, Conductor and Organist  
Anton Armstrong, Guest Conductor*



# HONORING JOHN FERGUSON



For John Ferguson, being a church musician is not just about leading a congregation in song. It's about helping members find their own voice and encouraging everyone to participate.

That approach is one of the defining elements of the numerous hymn festivals that Ferguson designs and presents

across the country each year. It's also a lesson he's imparted upon scores of students over the years.

"John has changed the whole paradigm of how we understand and teach church music," says Anton Armstrong '78, the Harry R. and Thora H. Tosdal Professor of Music at St. Olaf College and conductor of the St. Olaf Choir.

"He understands how to bring the Gospel to life. So often church musicians can be tied to a denomination," he adds. "It's been powerful to see the influence John has had in an ecumenical fashion."

Ferguson, the Elliot and Klara Stockdal Johnson Professor of Organ and Church Music at St. Olaf College, is one of America's most respected church musicians and teachers. His interest in music as an expressive, evocative language informs his teaching, performing, and conducting, and especially his composing and arranging.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Ferguson earned degrees from Oberlin College, Kent State University, and the Eastman School of Music. After a 15-year tenure on the music faculty at Kent State, where he also served as organist and choirmaster for the Kent United Church of Christ, Ferguson accepted an appointment as music director and organist at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

It was at Central Lutheran Church that Ferguson found St. Olaf, "or St. Olaf found me," he says. "I knew that if I was going to go back to teaching in higher education, it would have to be in a place where I could really teach church music."

He joined the St. Olaf music faculty in 1983 and for 29 years has stressed both the development of excellent performance skills and the vocational understanding of being a church

musician. "Students who work with him learn quickly to develop their capacities. That means they sound like themselves, not like Ferguson clones," says Paul Westermeyer, a professor of church music at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. "This is no small achievement."

Ferguson, better known to his students and colleagues as "Ferg," has enjoyed three important roles at St. Olaf: professor of organ and church music, cantor to the student congregation, and conductor of the St. Olaf Cantorei.

His tenure at St. Olaf has also been the inspiration and catalyst for a career in composing and arranging, including scoring hymns sung at the St. Olaf Christmas Festival. He has more than 100 titles in print, including many based upon existing hymn texts and tunes as well as newly commissioned texts. Along with Armstrong, Ferguson re-envisioned the St. Olaf Choral Series for Augsburg Fortress and has worked to make it relevant to a wide variety of 21st-century choirs.

In addition to writing numerous articles for professional journals, Ferguson has served as music editor for the United Church of Christ Hymnal (1974); published a book on organ building, *Walter Holtkamp: American Organ Builder*; and two on church music, *A Musician's Guide to Church Music* with Kent State colleague Joy Lawrence and *Worship Blueprints: Guide to Planning for Worship Music*.

After retiring this June, Ferguson looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Ruth, and taking care of the seven antique military vehicles he owns. He also plans to continue composing and arranging, as well as designing and presenting hymn festivals across the country.

In addition, Ferguson has a contract to write a book, which he says will focus on "how church musicians need to think of themselves as collaborators." Each chapter will contain a brief response from a colleague, with contributions from several of Ferguson's co-workers, including former College Pastor Bruce Benson and St. Olaf Choir Conductor Anton Armstrong.

"When we do something in collaboration, people can feel it," he says. "They can sense how comfortable we are with each other, and how completely happy we are to let music be the vehicle for a spiritual encounter with the transcendent. And all of that has been, for me, very, very special."





# TE DEUM: THROUGH THE CHURCH, THE SONG GOES ON

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012 • 4 P.M. • BOE MEMORIAL CHAPEL • ST. OLAF COLLEGE

*To us this day it may not be clear, and we may not all agree whether what we do is worship or performance, but, as a sign of appreciation and gratitude, applause is welcomed following the Benediction Anthem.*

## OPENING HYMN

*Please stand at the sound of the bells and join the choir at "and from morn."*

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

GROSSER GOTT  
Katholisches Gesanbuch, Vienna (1774)  
arr. John Ferguson  
GIA Publications

1. Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we  
2. Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -  
3. Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train Join your sa - cred  
4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,  
bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
three we name you, Though in es - sence on - ly one;

All in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with  
And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; And from morn to  
Un - di - vid - ed God we claim you And, a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
sweet ac - cord; "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.  
bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

Katholisches Gesanbuch; tr. Clarence A. Walworth (1820-1900)

*Please be seated.*

## READING

Psalm Collage

## HYMN

*Please stand and sing as noted.*

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX  
Conrad Kocher (1786–1872)  
arr. John Ferguson  
GIA Publications

*Unison* 1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,  
*Men* 2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
*Harmony* 3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,  
*Women* 4. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
*Unison* 5. For your - self, best gift di - vine To the world so free - ly giv'n;

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon and stars of light:  
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
A - gent of God's grand de - sign, Peace on earth and joy in heav'n:

*Refrain*  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835–1917), alt.

*Please be seated.*

## REFLECTION

## HYMN

“He Comes to Us as One Unknown”

REPTON  
C. Hubert H. Parry (1848–1918)  
arr. John Ferguson  
*Augsburg Fortress*

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*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)*  
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## ANTHEM

“Two Kings”

Joseph W. Clokey (1890–1960)  
*J. Fischer & Bros.*

Yet if His Majesty, our Sovereign Lord  
Should of his own accord  
Friendly himself invite, and say,  
“I’ll be your guest tomorrow night.”

How we should stir ourselves, call and command  
All hands to work “Let no one idle stand.”  
“Set me fine Spanish tables in the hall,  
See they are fitted all.

Let there be room to eat and orders taken, that there want no meat.  
See ev’ry sconce and candle stick made bright,  
That without tapers they may give a light!”  
But at the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven,  
All’s set at six and seven:  
We wallow in our sin.

Christ cannot find a chamber at the inn.  
We entertain him always like a stranger.  
And as the first still lodge him in the manger.

*16<sup>th</sup> Century English*

## HYMNS IN ALTERNATION

*Please stand and sing as noted.*

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)  
arr. John Ferguson  
GIA Publications

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU  
Johann Crüger (1598–1662)  
arr. John Ferguson  
Augsburg Fortress

All: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Choir: Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended  
That mortal judgment has on you descended?  
By foes derided, by your own rejected,  
O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, has undone you.  
‘Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you;  
I crucified you.

All: Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord.  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Choir: Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;  
The slave has sinned, and the Son has suffered;  
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,  
God interceded.

For me, kind Jesus was your incarnation,  
Your mortal sorrow and your life’s oblation,  
Your death of anguish and your bitter Passion,  
For my salvation.

All: Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risn’ with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

*Charles Wesley (1707–88), alt.*  
*Johann Heermann (1585–1647); tr. Robert Bridges (1844–1930), alt.*

*Please be seated.*

## ANTHEM

“Lamb of God”

Nikolaus Decius (1490–1541)  
arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955)  
Augsburg Fortress

Lamb of God, most holy!  
Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Patient still and lowly,  
Thyself to scorn didst offer;  
Our sins by Thee were taken,  
Or hope had us forsaken:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesu!


*Nikolaus Decius; tr. Arthur Tozer Russell (1806–74), alt.*

## HYMN

*Please stand and sing as noted.*

“Thine is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABAEUS  
George Frederic Handel (1685–1759)  
arr. John Ferguson  
GIA Publications



Unison 1. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
Choir 2. Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
Unison 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with -  
vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,  
rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
through they death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan  
Refrain  
where thy bod - y lay. Thine is the glo - ry, ri - sen, con-qu'ring  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ri - sen, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou e'er death hast won!  
Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou e'er death hast won!  
Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

*Edmond Budry (1854–1932); tr. R. Birch Hoyle (1875–1939)*

*Please be seated.*

## REFLECTION

## READING & CANTICLE

“Mary’s Story as Told by St. Luke”

John Ferguson  
GIA Publications

“Magnificat”

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forevermore.

*Luke 1:26–33, 38–42, 46b–55*

## REFLECTION

## HYMN

*Please stand and sing the refrain when invited by the leader.*

“Walk in the Light”

JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
Traditional  
arr. André Thomas  
Choristers Guild

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*George D. Elderkin, refrain; Charles Wesley (1707–88), stanzas  
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*Please be seated.*

## HYMN

“In a Lowly Manger Born”

MABUNE  
Seigi Abe (1891–1974)

*Please see next page for hymn.*



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*Ko Yuki (1896–1985); tr. Composite*  
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## HYMN

*Please stand. Stanzas sung by choir; Refrain sung by all.*

“Christ Has Arisen”

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA  
Tanzanian Traditional

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*Bernard Kyamanywa, (b. 1938); tr. Howard S. Olson (b. 1922)*  
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*Please be seated.*

## REFLECTION

### HYMN

“In Deepest Night”

DEEP BLUE  
Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1962)

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*Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953)*  
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### PSALM PARAPHRASE

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

PISGAH  
*Kentucky Harmony (1817)*  
arr. John Ferguson  
Augsburg Fortress

The Lord’s my shepherd; I’ll not want. He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness, e’en for his own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,  
and in God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be!

*Psalm 23; Scottish Psalter (1650), alt.*

### PRAYERS FOR A HYMN FESTIVAL

“Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake”

Richard Farrant (1530–80)  
Choral Public Domain Library

Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake, lay not our sins to our charge,  
But forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
That we may walk with a humble heart before thee, Now and evermore. Amen.

*John Bull (c. 1562–1628), alt.*



# HYMN

*Please stand at the conclusion of the introduction and sing as noted.*

"God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven"

AR HYD Y NOS  
Welsh Traditional, harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

arr. John Ferguson  
GIA Publications

Unison 1. God who made the earth and heav - en, dark - ness and light:  
Harmony 2. And when morn a - gain shall call us to run life's way,  
Harmony 3. Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, and, when we die,  
Unison 4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, all - ho - ly Son,

you the day for work have giv - en, for rest the night.  
may we still, what - e'er be - fall us, your will o - bey.  
may we in your might - y keep - ing all peac - ful lie.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, blest Three in one:

May your an - gel guards de - fend us, slum - ber sweet your mer - cy send us,  
From the pow'r of e - vil hide us, in the nar - row path - way guide us,  
When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,  
grant us grace, we now im - plore you, till we lay our crowns be - fore you

ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us all through the night.  
ne - ver be your smile de - nied us all through the day.  
but to reign in glo - ry take us with you on high.  
and in wor - thier strains a - dore you while a - ges run.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826), st. 1, alt.  
William Mercer (1811-1873), sts. 2, 4, alt.  
Richard Whately (1787-1863), st. 3, alt.

*Please be seated for the Benediction Anthem.*

## BENEDICTION ANTHEM

“Beati Quorum Via” (Op. 38, No. 3)

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)  
*Choral Public Domain Library*

Beati quorum via integra est:  
Qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Happy are they whose way is blameless:  
who walk in the law of the Lord.*

*Psalm 119:1*

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### LEADERS IN THIS HYMN FESTIVAL

Martin Hodel and Anne Grapentine '14, *trumpet*  
Cole Stiegler '12 and Ryan Luhrs, *trombone*  
Peter Goodin '90, *percussion*  
Anne Schrooten '88 and Branden Grimmett '03, *readers*  
Anna Carlson Schattauer '11, Sigrid Johnson and Ariel Summers '12, *readers*  
Judith Seleen Swanson '57, *logo art*  
Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, *program design*

*Special thanks to Jeremy Haug '98, Kari VanDerVeen, Eric Hanson, and Melissa Sonnek*

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### A WORD FROM FERG

Today we have gathered for a time of singing — not just listening — but singing! We join with all creation and the saints of every time and place in praise to the Creator. We take delight in the inexpressible marvel of God’s handiwork displayed all around us. We remember God’s constancy and grace in caring for all generations. We respond in song because God designed us as singing beings. We sing because the Creator included song and music in the overall scheme of things, designed us with ears to hear that song, minds to imagine and create that song. We sing because our hearts respond to that song. We discover that text and music combined transcend the power of each in profound way.

*We sing because we were made that way*

So we will hear others sing and join their singing. In doing so, I enjoy yet another opportunity to lead members of the Cantorei and this community in song — a privilege accorded me these 29 years. Along the way so many have assisted me in this song, some of whom will do so again today. This is a significant part of the tradition of the Cantorei — drawing upon the multifaceted talents of its members who reflect the breadth and depth of the talented students on this campus. My profound thanks goes to all who have made this day and my time here so very special. Never could I have imagined the many wonderful things that I’ve been blessed to experience since joining the St. Olaf family.

*John Ferguson*





## THIS WEEKEND'S EVENTS ONLINE

*Te Deum: Through the Church, the Song Goes On* and many other events from the Cantorei and Organ Reunion will be available for on-demand viewing at any time via streaming from St. Olaf College. Visit:

*[stolaf.edu/multimedia/reunion2012](http://stolaf.edu/multimedia/reunion2012)*

You can also share the streams via Facebook and Twitter.

Many photos of Ferg, Cantorei, and organists have been posted to the "Ferg Retires" Facebook page.

To view photos and to upload your own, visit:

*[facebook.com/FergRetire](https://facebook.com/FergRetire)*

You may also submit photos via email to *[fergmemory@stolaf.edu](mailto:fergmemory@stolaf.edu)*

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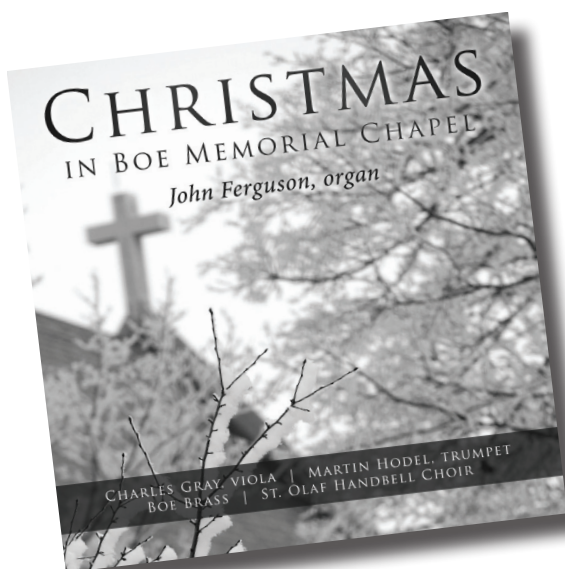
St. Olaf College will release a CD of this afternoon's hymn festival for sale to attendees. For ordering information visit the registration table in the Buntrock Commons Crossroads.

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## FROM "SING FOR JOY"

John Ferguson serves as music advisor to the *Sing For Joy* radio program produced by St. Olaf College, and will continue to do so in his retirement. The following appeared in the June 2012 edition of the *Sing For Joy* newsletter.



GRAND MUSIC  
GRACIOUS WORD

JUNE 2012 / YEAR B

*Sing For Joy*® is a production of St. Olaf College.



by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

June. One of the *Sing For Joy* programs this month will conclude with a performance by the St. Olaf Cantorei, John Ferguson conducting. When I introduce that final musical selection, I am going to mention that Dr. Ferguson ("Ferg," as he is affectionately known) is retiring this month from St. Olaf College. To be more precise, he is retiring from his professorial duties, but not from serving as consultant and music advisor to *Sing For Joy*.

Even if I had not been his St. Olaf College colleague for nearly 30 years, I would want to make note of his retirement simply because he has been such a creative and influential leader in the world of Church Music for the past several decades. There is hardly a church organist in the country who has *not* played a Ferguson arrangement of something! And church choir directors know his work almost as well.

But in my own decades long partnership with John, it has been his regular Sunday worship leadership that has seemed to me to be his greatest gift. You can think about this with an analogy from the world of sports. The athletes we most love to watch are those who are good enough to make what is difficult look easy; those who don't just *do* what they do but *love* what they do; those who don't lose their sense of play; and finally, those who make us appreciate the beauty of their sport- not merely their personal talent.

That is the Sunday morning artistry of organist and choir conductor, John Ferguson. He plays for worship, he always makes it sound easy, he loves what he does, and in the end, all of us in worship with him experience a new appreciation of God's grace and love.

The church needs its gifted musicians like John. One could object to my use of the word "need," I suppose, but anyone reading this newsletter is likely to agree. If the Gospel is a seed and the human heart is the soil, the arts are rain to soften the soil for life and growth. Or change the image if

you like: imagine a human being as a seed which grows to its fullest potential when planted in the good soil of the Gospel; the arts can still be thought of as gentle rains that assist both the Gospel and the person to flourish.

The church needs its gifted musicians for the good work of "farming" faith, hope, and love. And one of the great joys of my own pastoral ministry has been sharing worship leadership with John Ferguson. As organist, choir conductor, composer, hymn arranger, teacher, scholar, and more he has, inspired (and will continue to do so) thousands of people to "sing for joy." Thank you, John. The peace of God be with you.

Peace be with you,

*Pastor Benson has written eloquently about John Ferguson's contributions to the world of church music and musicians. I'd like to also mention something of a personal note.*

*"Ferg," as he is known, is also a teacher - a teacher who has influenced and inspired over a thousand students through his tenure as Professor of Organ and Church Music and conductor of the St. Olaf Cantorei.*

*Ferg's musicality, patience, compassion and quick wit served as a perfect model for being a servant and leader to congregations. I met him for the first time as a young prospective organ student, and was drawn to his immediate understanding and encouragement of my vocation. I would not be the person I am today without Ferg being a part of my life, and I know I speak for countless others of his students who feel the same way. Thank you, Ferg.*

Jeffrey O'Donnell, Executive Producer,  
*Sing For Joy*







