



"... music making is at its core a matter of heart."
by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

It was my privilege this past month to hear a choir whose members were all people with developmental disabilities. They were directed by the music therapist from their program, Laura Baker Services Association, of Northfield, Minnesota. Their concert reminded me again in a vivid way that music making is at its core a matter of heart. Music is not just notes sung or played in the right order following a set rhythm. Music asks its makers for some heart and soul.

I'm sure I've said this before, and I'll say it again. Music has qualities or characteristics that make it a significant friend and partner of the spiritual life; here was another example. The spiritual life, like music, is more than a matter of dutifully following directions in a prescribed pattern; it is more than just squeaky clean morality or well-polished religious decorum. The spiritual life, like music, asks for heart. I heard that heart in abundance at the Laura Baker concert.

In order to avoid patronizing or condescending, I should be clear that I am not overlooking the shortcomings a music critic would find with the concert. If you were going to judge this choir on the basis of elements like intonation, diction, rhythm and blend, you would likely find they miss the mark. But the total effect? Genuine music! Music that touched the hearts of all in attendance. The crowd rose to its feet with applause, certainly not for the technical virtuosity of the performance, and not, I would argue, out of sympathy, but because we had all heard true (and therefore beautiful) music.

What should we say then about talent and the well-rehearsed excellence of choral singing that is a hallmark of *Sing For Joy*? It is a gift; it is important, meaningful, and honorable. But remove the heart, and

those of us listening will be left longing for a bit more. An art form built out of breath wants to be fully alive.

Fortunately for singers, music has a way of enticing them to put heart into their song. Many a choir member has arrived at rehearsal feeling disheartened by events of the day or week, and there found a renewed heart, enlivened by the power of a song. It is the same with the Word. One needn't always bring a full and vibrant heart to the hearing; the Word is able to hearten those who seek it. May it be so for you this Easter season.

Peace be with you,



Dear listeners,

As Pastor Benson reflects, music making is a gift that comes from the heart. In fact, all gifts come from the heart, whether they be talents, kind words or monetary gifts. We are now entering our spring fund drive and ask that you take a few minutes to reflect this month on what *Sing For Joy* means to you. If you find it in your means — and in your heart — to give back, please use the gift envelope arriving with our fundraising letter shortly, or visit us online at singforjoy.org.

Many blessings,



May 4, 2014

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A

(1R) Acts 2:14a, 36–41
(PS) Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19
(2R) 1 Peter 1:17–23
(G) Luke 24:13–35

Christ on the Mount of Olives: Hallelujah – Ludwig Van Beethoven / Franz Xavier Huber, lyricist (G)
Atlanta Symphony Chorus: Atlanta, GA / Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, ensemble / Robert Shaw
(CD) *Choral Masterpieces* / TELARC / CD-80119
© 1985 Telarc, Telarc International Corporation telarc.com

On Emmaus Journey (HOLY MANNA) – William Walker / Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (G)
The St. Olaf Cantorei: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson
(CD) *Hidden In Humbleness* / GIA / GIA CD-594
© 2003 GIA giamusic.com

What Shall I Render – Paul Tiefenbach (PS)
The National Lutheran Choir: Minneapolis, MN / Larry L. Fleming
(CD) *Trinity* / NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR RECORDINGS / NLCA-22
© National Lutheran Choir Recordings nlca.com

Shout for Joy Loud and Long (PERSONENT HODIE) – Piae Cantiones / David Mowbray, lyricist / Gustav Holst, arranger (1R)
Sing For Joy 50th Anniversary Massed Choir and Congregation / John Ferguson, accompanist / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Through the Church the Song Goes On* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2801
© 2005 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

Be Known to us in Breaking Bread (BELMONT) – Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, London / James Montgomery, lyricist (G)
Cantus Choro / Norman Kaye, accompanist / Peter Chapman
(CD) *Sing Out With Joy* / MOVE RECORDS / MD 3032
© 1987 Move Records move.com.au

Captive and Free: Stay With Us – Egil Hovland / Gracia Grindal, translator (G)
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / St. Olaf Orchestra / Sigrid Johnson
(CD) *Rejoice, Give Thanks, and Sing* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3404/05
© 2011 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

Abendlied – Josef Rheinberger (G)
West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir / Betty Suderman, accompanist / Tony Funk
(CD) *As Evening Shadows Fall* / MCC SCS / IKR 010 CD
© 2000 MCC SCS mccscs.com

“Why have so many Bible stories, verses, and ideas been set to music? Because it just seems right. God is love, the Bible says, and singing it seems better than just saying it.”
-Pastor Bruce Benson

May 11, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

(1R) Acts 2:42–47
(PS) Psalm 23
(2R) 1 Peter 2:19–25
(G) John 10:1–10

The Lord's My Shepherd (PISGAH) – J.C. Lowry / John Ferguson, arranger (PS)
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith: Volume III* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3386
© 2011 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

The Lord is My Shepherd – Thomas Matthews (PS)
Kirk Choir of Pasadena Presbyterian Church: Pasadena, CA / Daniel Kerr, accompanist / Gregory Norton
(CD) *New Songs of Celebration Render* / PASADENA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ARKAY RECORDS) / AR6158
© 1997 Pasadena Presbyterian Church (Arkay Records)
ppc.net/music/homemusic.html

The Lord is My Shepherd – Henry Walford Davies (PS)
St. John's College Choir, Cambridge: Cambridge, UK / Philip Scriven, accompanist / Christopher Robinson
(CD) *O God, Thou Art My God* / LINDENBERG / LBCD47
© Lindenberg

Psalm 23 – Franz Schubert (PS)
Ascension Music Chorus: New York, NY / Dennis Keene
(CD) *Ave Maria* / DELOS / DE 3138
© 1993 Delos, Delos Productions, Inc. delosmusic.com

The King Of Love My Shepherd Is (ST. COLUMBA) – Irish Traditional / Henry W. Baker, lyricist / Jeremy J. Bankson, arranger (PS)
Plymouth Choir, First-Plymouth Congregational Church: Lincoln, NE / Jeremy J. Bankson
(CD) *Hymns from First-Plymouth* / PRO ORGANO / CD 7260
© 2013 Pro Organo proorgano.com

If the Easter message is like clear, pure, life-giving water, and Easter Sunday is like a glass, it isn't big enough. Easter overflows the day and splashes into the weeks that follow.
-Pastor Bruce Benson

May 18, 2014

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

(1R) Acts 7:55–60
(PS) Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16
(2R) 1 Peter 2:2–10
(G) John 14:1–14

Christ is Alive! (TRURO) – Psalmody Evangelica / Brian Wren, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (G)
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / St. Olaf Orchestra / Steven Amundson
(CD) *For God So Loves the World* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2939/40
© 2006 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

The Call – John Paynter / George Herbert, lyricist (G)
The Choir of All Saints' Episcopal Church: Beverly Hills, CA /
Thomas Foster
(CD) *Easter Hymns, Carols, & Anthems* / GOTHIC / G 49097
© 1997 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. gothicrecords.com

The Call – Lee Hoiby / George Herbert, lyricist (G)
The Choirs of Christ Church Cathedral: Lexington, KY / John Cummins
(CD) *Our Heart's Desire* / PRO ORGANNO / CD 7056
© 1999 Pro Organo proorgano.com

With a Voice of Singing – Kenneth Jennings (2R)
The St. Olaf Chapel Choir: Northfield, MN / Christopher Aspaas
(CD) *Sing For Joy Archives* / ST. OLAF COLLEGE / Not For Resale
© St. Olaf College stolaf.edu

The Stone Which the Builders Rejected – Gail Gillispie (2R)
The Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle: Chicago, IL /
Deward R. Rahm, accompanist / J. Michael Thompson
(CD) *Music for Easter II* / THE LITURGICAL PRESS / 7918-8
© 1997 The Liturgical Press litpress.org

Greater Love Hath No Man – John Ireland (2R)
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Russell Draeger, tenor /
Anna Shevik, soprano / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Sing For Joy Archives* / ST. OLAF COLLEGE / Not For Resale
© St. Olaf College stolaf.edu

The Choir of All Saints' Episcopal Church: Beverly Hills, CA /
Craig Phillips, accompanist / Thomas Foster
(CD) *Silence & Music* / GOTHIC / G49064
© 1993 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. gothicrecords.com

When I with Pleasing Wonder Stand (CREATION) – William Billings /
Issac Watts, lyricist (1R)
Bella Voce (Formerly "His Majesty's Clerkes"): Chicago, IL / Paul Hillier
(CD) *A Land of Pure Delight* / HARMONIA MUNDI / HMU 907048
© 1992 Harmonia Mundi harmoniamundi.com

Peace I Leave with You – Walter Pelz (G)
The National Lutheran Choir: Minneapolis, MN / Larry L. Fleming
(CD) *Jesu, Come* / NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR RECORDINGS /
NLCA-62
© National Lutheran Choir Recordings nlca.com

Hallelujah! Sing to Jesus (HYFRYDOL) – Rowland Hugh Prichard /
William Chatterton Dix, lyricist (G)
Huddersfield Choral Society / Owain Arwel Hughes
(CD) *The Hymns Album* / EMI (ANGEL, EMI CLASSICS,
EMI RECORDS, LTD) / CDP 7 46202 2
© 1986 EMI (Angel, EMI Classics, EMI Records, Ltd.) emiclassics.com

NEWS

You will notice a new logo on the back of this newsletter alongside our program sponsors. We have a new partnership with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)! To read more about their mission to promote excellence in choral music, visit them online at acda.org.

LISTENERS' CORNER

Thanks to our generous listeners who fuel us with gifts and praise. Your contributions and kind words are a blessing.

"Thank you for the wonderful program. I've been listening since 1956."
-Austin, Minnesota

"It's uplifting for this former choir member to be wrapped into harmonious voices once again. Physical disabilities limit participation with choral groups ... but that doesn't mean the need has left."
-Wellsboro, Pennsylvania

"Sing For Joy has enriched the lives (and grown the faith) of so many in [our] family."
-Fort Collins, Colorado

Join in the *Sing For Joy* conversation on Facebook and Twitter (@SingForJoyRadio) and stream the show online at singforjoy.org.

*"There is a difference between a reward and a gift.
A reward is a sign that you have done well. A gift
is a sign of the giver's friendship, affection, or love.
Hear the gift of music on Sing For Joy."*
-Pastor Bruce Benson

May 25, 2014
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

(1R) Acts 17:22-31
(PS) Psalm 66:8-20
(2R) 1 Peter 3:13-22
(G) John 14:15-21

Praise to the Lord (LOBE DEN HERREN) – Ernewerten Gesangbuch /
Joachim Neander, lyricist / F. Melius Christiansen, arranger/editor /
Catherine Winkworth, translator (1R)
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Heaven and Earth, Awake and Sing* / ST. OLAF RECORDS /
E-3504/05
© 2013 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

If Ye Love Me – Thomas Tallis (G)
Theatre of Voices / Paul Hillier
(CD) *Thomas Tallis: Lamentations, Motets, String Music* /
HARMONIA MUNDI / HMU 907154
© Harmonia Mundi harmoniamundi.com

If Ye Love Me – Philip Wilby (G)
Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir: Liverpool, UK / Mervyn Cousins
(CD) *The British Cathedral Choir Heritage* / PRIORY RECORDS, LTD. /
PRCD 5007
© 2003 Priory Records, Ltd. priory.org.uk

Nos vos reliquam orphanos (I Will Not Leave You Comfortless) –
William Byrd (G)



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*and faithful listeners
like you.*

Thank you for your gifts!

In Memory Of:

Ruth Ferguson

Jennifer Koenig

Karla Lind

Lois Ruth, dear friend

Teodorico L. Vidal

Mary Werner

MAY 2014 / YEAR A



Sing For Joy staff:
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