This past month I accepted an enjoyable assignment to serve as narrator with an all-volunteer community orchestra performing a composition for orchestra and spoken word. Needless to say, it took us more than one rehearsal to achieve a good balance between orchestra and narration. Orchestra, voice and sound system all needed tweaking and fine-tuning to make music together. And each has limits. At the final rehearsal the conductor said, “We aren’t a large enough orchestra to play as softly as I would like.”

At first that sounds strange. It is certainly counter-intuitive. Shouldn’t it be more, not less, difficult for a large ensemble to play sensitive pianissimo sections? One would think so; but conductors — and you too, when you think about what you hear on Sing For Joy — know that the most delicate, lovely, gentle music is often performed by a full ensemble, and the stronger, more robust the ensemble, the more able it is to sing or play the pianissimo phrases.

I’m going to leap now to a Bible reading churchgoers will hear in July, but when we get there I think you’ll agree that the leap is just a short step from this matter of strength and gentleness in music. In II Corinthians 12, Paul tells his readers that “a thorn in the flesh” has been given to him to keep him from being too elated over his role as an apostle of Christ. He is understandably not happy about the thorn, and has prayed three times to have it taken away. The response he gets to his prayer is this: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”

To be sure, there is a difference between gentleness and weakness, at least in the way we normally use those words. But perhaps just as often, “weakness” is a label given inappropriately to gentleness. The tender, pp singing of a strong choir is not weakness even though it has no more volume than a weak voice. In a similar way, it is strangely empowering to recognize and accept one’s limits, one’s “weakness,” like Paul, and even more empowering to resist the urge to overwhelm, and instead cooperate or even serve. Jesus didn’t encourage a life of service because he sought to demean his followers, but because that “weakness” is the fulfillment, the perfection of power. A well-executed pianissimo is powerful, in music and in life.

Peace be with you,

by Pastor Bruce Benson, host
JULY 5, 2015
Time after Pentecost — Lectionary 14 (Year B)

(1R) Ezekiel 2:1-5
(PS) Psalm 123
(2R) 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
(G) Mark 6:1-13

The Apostles: Prologue, Op. 49 – Edward Elgar (1R)
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / The St. Olaf Orchestra, ensemble / Robert Scholz
(CD) Ria’n With Healing in His Wings / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2564
© 2002 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

Elijah: Is Not His Word Like a Fire?, Op. 70 – Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1R, G)
London Symphony Orchestra, ensemble / Willard White, baritone / Richard Hickox
(CD) Mendelssohn: Elijah / CHANDOS / CHAN 8774/5
© 1989 Chandos, Chandos House chandos.net

Three Antiphonal Psalms: Psalm 123 – Virgil Thomson (PS)
Gloriae Dei Cantores: Cape Cod, MA / Elizabeth C. Patterson
(CD) By the Rivers of Babylon / GLORIÆ DEI CANTORES / GDCD 027
© 1999 Gloriae Dei Cantores paracletepress.com/cds/gdc.html

Cathedral Choir of St. John’s Cathedral: Denver, CO / Donald Pearson
(CD) America: The Golden Dream / DELOS / DE 3203
© 1996 Delos, Delos Productions, Inc. delosmusic.com

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (CROSS OF JESUS) – Sir John Stainer
(CD) Great Hymns of Faith: Volume 1 / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2294
© 1999 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (LINSTEAD) – Jamaican Folk Tune / Fred Kaan, lyricist / Bradley Ellingsoe, arranger (G)
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson, accompanist / Anton Armstrong
(CD) Great Hymns of Faith: Volume 1 / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2294
© 1999 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

By and By – African American Spiritual / Carol Barnett, arranger (2R)
Dale Warland Singers: Minneapolis, MN / Dale Warland
(CD) Harvest Home / GOTHIC / G 49243
© 2005 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. gothicrecords.co.uk

Saint Teresa's Bookmark – Edward Tyler / St. Teresa (Of Avila), lyricist (2R)
St. Olaf Cantores: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson
(CD) A Thousand Ages: A Celebration of Hope / GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-474
© 2000 GIA Publications giamusic.com

“Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Immanuel) everywhere!”
-Fred Kaan

JULY 12, 2015
Time after Pentecost — Lectionary 15 (Year B)

(1R) Amos 7:7-15
(PS) Psalm 85:8-13
(2R) Ephesians 1:3-14
(G) Mark 6:14-29

O God Beyond All Praising (THAXTED) – Gustav Holst / Michael Perry, lyricist / Richard Proulx, arranger (2R)
The Cathedral Singers: Chicago, IL / Richard Proulx
(CD) Rare Beasts & Unique Adventures: Volume 2 / GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-468
© 2000 GIA Publications giamusic.com

Thy Holy Wings (BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR) – Swedish Folk Tune / Gracia Grindal, lyricist / Carolina V. Sandell-Berg, lyricist / Karle Erickson, arranger / Gracia Grindal, translator (2R)
The Gustavus Choir: St. Peter, MN / David Fienen, accompanist / Karle Erickson
(CD) Favorite Swedish Hymns / DELTA RECORDINGS / DRC91-131
© Delta Recordings

How Beauteous Are Their Feet (WORCESTER) – Abraham Wood / Isaac Watts, lyricist (1R, G)
Bella Voce: Chicago, IL / Paul Hillier
(CD) Goostly Psalms / HARMONIA MUNDI / HMU 907128
© 1996 Harmonia Mundi harmoniamundi.com

Glorify the Lord with Me – Jean Berger (2R)
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / The St. Olaf Handbell Choir, ensemble / Sigrid Johnson
(CD) Out of Darkness, Let Light Shine / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-1840
© 1991 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

Love’s Redeeming Work is Done (SAVANNAH) – Harmonia Sacra / Charles Wesley, lyricist / Dent Davidson, arranger (2R)
Cathedral Choristers of St. Mark’s Cathedral: Seattle, WA / Dent Davidson, accompanist / J. Melvin Butler
© 1997 Church Publishing Company churchpublishing.org

Dona Nobis Pacem: O Man, Greatly Beloved (Final Chorus) – Ralph Vaughan Williams (PS)
Atlanta Symphony Chorus: Atlanta, GA / Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, ensemble / Robert Shaw
(CD) Barber, Bartók, Vaughan Williams / TELARC / CD-80479
© 1998 Telarc, Concord Music Group telarc.com

JULY 19, 2015
Time after Pentecost — Lectionary 16 (Year B)

(1R) Jeremiah 23:1-6
(PS) Psalm 23
(2R) Ephesians 2:11-22
(G) Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

Requiem: The Lord is My Shepherd – John Rutter (PS)
The Choir of King’s College / The City of London Sinfonia, ensemble / Stephen Cleobury
(CD) Rutter: Requiem / EMI (ANGEL, EMI CLASSICS, EMI RECORDS, LTD) / CDC 7243 5 56605 2 7
© 1998 EMI (Angel, EMI Classics, EMI Records, Ltd) emiclassics.com

Shepherd Me, O God – Marty Haugen / Marty Haugen, lyricist (PS)
Calvin College Alumni Choir: Grand Rapids, MI / Kenneth Bos, accompanist / Pearl Shangkuan
(CD) Hymnale / CALVIN COLLEGE / CD 22
© 2002 Calvin College, Calvin College Music Department calvin.edu
Psalm 23 – Jeffrey Smith (PS)
Parish Choirs of St. Paul’s Parish, K Street: Washington, DC / Scott Dettra, accompanist / Jeffrey Smith 
(CD) Show Yourselves Joyful / PRO ORGANO / CD 7068 
© 1997 Pro Organo proorgano.com

Psalm 23 – Imant Raminsh (PS)
Elora Festival Singers: Elora, Ontario, Canada / Noel Edison 
(CD) I Saw Eternity / NAXOS / 8.572812 
© 2012 Naxos, Naxos of America, Inc. naxos.com

The Church’s One Foundation (AURELIA) – Samuel Sebastian Wesley / Samuel J. Stone, lyricist / William Baerg, arranger (2R) 
The Riverton Singers / Reg Kliewer, accompanist / William Baerg 
(CD) These Our Hymns / RIVERTON PRODUCTIONS / RP1200CD 
© Riverton Productions

“Whether the heart longs for home, or hope, or peace, music helps the heart to pray.”
-Pastor Bruce Benson

JULY 26, 2015
TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 17 (YEAR B)

(1R) 2 Kings 4:42–44
(PS) Psalm 145:10–18
(2R) Ephesians 3:14–21
(G) John 6:1–21

All Creatures of Our God and King (LASST UNS ERFREUEN) – 
Geistliche Kirchengesänge / St. Francis Assisi, lyricist / 
John Rutter, arranger / William Baerg, arranger (PS) 
The Cambridge Singers / The City of London Sinfonia, ensemble / 
John Scott, accompanist / John Rutter 
(CD) Te Deum and Other Church Music / COLLEGIUM RECORDS / 
COLCD 112 
© 1990 Collegium Records, Naxos of America, Inc. collegium.co.uk

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee – Jean Berger (G) 
Gloriae Dei Cantores: Cape Cod, MA / Elizabeth C. Patterson 
(CD) By the Rivers of Babylon / GLORIÆ DEI CANTORES / GDCD 027 
© 1999 Gloriar Dei Cantores paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html

Motet III: Jesu, meine Freude: Jesu, meine Freude (Jesus, My Sweet Pleasure), BWV 227 – Johann Crüger / Johann Franck, lyricist / Johann Sebastian Bach, arranger / Madeleine Forell Marshall, translator (G) 
The Holy Trinity Bach Choir: New York, NY / Richard Erickson 
(CD) Bach For All Seasons / AUGSBURG FORTRESS / 3-5855 
© 1999 Augsburg Fortress augsburgfortress.com

Praise and Thanksgiving (BUNESSAN) – Gaelic Traditional / 
Albert F. Bayly, lyricist (G) 
John Ferguson, accompanist 
(CD) Home, Harvest, & Healing: A Sing For Joy Hymn Festival / 
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2648 
© 2003 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

The Lord’s Prayer – Robert Stone (G) 
The Concordia Choir: Moorhead, MN / René Clausen 
(CD) Sing Joyfully Unto God / CONCORDIA RECORDINGS / E-1938 
© Concordia Recordings concordiarecordings.com

The Eyes of All Hope in Thee, O Lord – Richard Felciano (PS) 
Chamber Choir of Christ Church Cranbrook: Bloomfield Hills, MI / 
Charles Raines 
(CD) My Spirit Sang All Day / CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK / 
919D9 
© Christ Church Cranbrook cr.christchurchcranbrook.org

Let Us With A Gladsome Mind (MONKLAND) – John Antes / 
John Milton, lyricist / Alan Ridout, arranger (G) 
The Chancel Choir of Shadyside Presbyterian Church: Pittsburgh, PA / 
John Walker, accompanist / John Walker 
(CD) A Choral Harvest / PRO ORGANO / CD 7072 
© 1995 Pro Organo proorgano.com

NEWS
Thank you to everyone who participated in the spring fund drive. Now, for those interested in the nitty gritty, let’s do the numbers!

$8,048 raised
114 gifts received
Gifts ranged from $1 to $300, with $50 being the most common gift amount
28 Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil CDs distributed (to those who gave $100 or more)
Gifts came from 25 states
Top giving states: Minnesota, Virginia and North Carolina

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

“I appreciate your ministry very much. It has been a blessing during many seasons of my life ... I have always valued the richness of old and new melodies in church worship.”
-Dothan, Alabama

“I especially enjoy reading the comments in Listeners’ Corner, and notice others share my love of the music.”
-Waupan, Wisconsin

“@SingForJoyRadio is always lovely music to wake to on a Sunday.”
-Twitter Follower

“I enjoy listening to Sing for Joy on Sunday mornings on WCNP. It is such a good preparation for the worship of the day.”
-Online Listener

Join in the Sing For Joy conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@SingForJoyRadio) and stream the show online at singforjoy.org.
Thank you for your gifts!

In Memory Of:
Jean Jacobson Benson
Rev. Arvid E. Bidne
Clarence & Esther Hauck
My Mother
Darryl Patten
Helen Pootoogooluk, faithful servant of Seward Peninsula Lutheran congregations
Talitha Stark
Janet Sullivan

In Honor Of:
Kathy
Dr. and Mrs. David Lewis

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JULY 2015 / YEAR B

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Jeffrey O’Donnell

Music Advisor
John Ferguson

Host
W. Bruce Benson

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