



“Excellence is a bit like knowledge ... we should seek it and use it according to the grace and love of God.”

by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

You are receiving this newsletter within just a few days of a memorial service for Kenneth Jennings, composer, arranger, and long-time conductor of The St. Olaf Choir, who died recently at age 90. One of his choral arrangements will be featured on *Sing For Joy* in mid-October.

Those who sang under Ken’s direction often talk about his hands. They were extraordinarily expressive in a simple, graceful way. Anton Armstrong, current conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, compares Ken’s hands to a potter’s, used with an artist’s gift to mold something beautiful, fragile, exquisite. Instead of taking his hands to the potter’s wheel, Ken artfully shaped a choral sound, and those who sang for him knew they were participants in excellence.

Excellence, we might as well admit, simultaneously entices and worries the Christian Church. Is it good or bad? Does it call attention to The Holy One or to itself? Does it create unity because it is what we all desire? Or division because we are not all equally able to achieve it? Is it a proper goal of work and worship, or simply a tool of elitism? Perhaps the best way to ask the question is to use the Apostle Paul’s language in 1st Corinthians: does it build up or merely puff up?

If you think of music-making as a competition, excellence can create envy and bitterness in some, and arrogance and snobbery in others. It is capable of puffing up instead of building up. But music-making, in the Church for sure, is not about competition. Except maybe in this one sense: Ken Jennings encouraged his singers to compete against mediocrity and lackadaisical performance. Why? Because even if in the world of music-making, excellence is not sought for the

musician’s own glory, it is sought, nevertheless. It is sought for the sake of the music being made, and, as JS Bach put it, for the glory of God. Excellence is a bit like knowledge: the fact that we can use it to deflate others and puff up ourselves does not mean we should throw it all away. It means we should seek it and use it instead according to the grace and love of God.

As one whose own inner life was enriched by the artistry of Ken Jennings, I am grateful for the effort he expended, and the effort he called forth from others, to seek excellence in the performance of great music. In the same way as *Sing For Joy* hopes great Church music inspires you to care not only about music but also about the world God loves, so Ken’s music-making inspired many to care about the harmony of life itself. An old Chinese proverb says: if you have two coins, with one buy bread to stay alive, with the other buy flowers to make life worth living. Ken Jennings’ music-making handed me flowers every time I heard it. *Requiescat in pace.*

Peace be with you,



OCTOBER 4, 2015

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTONARY 27 (YEAR B)

- (1R) Genesis 2:18–24
(PS) Psalm 8
(2R) Hebrews 1:1–4, 2:5–12
(G) Mark 10:2–16

The Creation: And God Created Man in His Own Image –

Franz Joseph Haydn / Robert Shaw, arranger / Alice Parker, translator / Robert Shaw, translator (1R, G)
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, ensemble / Jon Humphrey, tenor / Robert Shaw
(CD) *The Creation* / TELARC / CD-80298-A
© 1992 Telarc telarc.com

The Creation: In Native Worth and Honor Clad – Franz Joseph Haydn /

Robert Shaw, arranger / Alice Parker, translator / Robert Shaw, translator (1R, G)
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, ensemble / Jon Humphrey, tenor / Robert Shaw
(CD) *The Creation* / TELARC / CD-80298-A
© 1992 Telarc telarc.com

Psalm 8: How Great is Your Name – Joseph Gelineau /

Richard Proulx, arranger (PS, 2R)
The Cathedral Singers: Chicago, IL / Richard Proulx
(CD) *Joseph Gelineau: Psalms of David* / GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-357
© 1995 GIA Publications giamusic.com

Lord, When Thou Didst Ascend on High (WASHINGTON) –

William Billings / Isaac Watts, lyricist (2R)
The Oregon State University Choir: Corvallis, OR / Ron Jeffers
(CD) *Make a Joyful Noise: Mainstreams and Backwaters of American Psalmody* / NEW WORLD RECORDS / 80255-2
© 1996 New World Records

For the Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter /

Folliott S. Pierpoint, lyricist (PS, G)
Cathedral Choir of St. John's Cathedral: Denver, CO / Eric Plutz, accompanist / Donald Pearson
(CD) *Sing We Merrily* / DELOS / DE 3125
© 1991 Delos, Delos Productions, Inc. delosmusic.com

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (MILES LANE) – William Shrubsole /

Edward Perronet, lyricist / Ralph Vaughan Williams, arranger (2R)
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / The St. Olaf Orchestra, ensemble / Steven Amundson
(CD) *He Comes to Us* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2388-9
© 2000 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

*“For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild.”*

-Folliott Sandford Pierpoint

OCTOBER 11, 2015

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTONARY 28

- (1R) Amos 5:6–7, 10–15
(PS) Psalm 90:12–17
(2R) Hebrews 4:12–16
(G) Mark 10:17–31

Soon One Mornin’ – African American Spiritual / Gail Kubik, arranger (G)
Robert Shaw Festival Singers / Wayne Bailey, baritone / Robert Shaw
(CD) *Amazing Grace: American Hymns & Spirituals* / TELARC / CD-80325

© 1993 Telarc telarc.com

All My Trials – Bahamian Traditional / Norman Luboff, arranger (G)

Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum: Omaha, NE / Almeda Berkey
(CD) *Arma Lucis* / SDG RECORDS / SDGCD 89
© 1989 SDG Records

Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen – African American Spiritual (2R)

The Elmer Iseler Singers / Elmer Iseler
(CD) *Spirituals* / MARQUIS CLASSICS / ERAD 115
© 1985 Marquis Classics marquisclassics.com

Lord, Thou Has Been Our Refuge – John Rutter (PS)

The Cambridge Singers / Brian Thomson, accompanist / John Rutter
(CD) *A Song in Season* / COLLEGIUM RECORDS / COLCD 135
© 2010 Collegium Records collegium.co.u

*“The hymns of the church seek to be truthful music.
They not only weep with a broken world, they sing
hope right into the human soul.”*

-Pastor Bruce Benson

OCTOBER 18, 2015

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTONARY 29 (YEAR B)

- (1R) Isaiah 53:4–12
(PS) Psalm 91:9–16
(2R) Hebrews 5:1–10
(G) Mark 10:35–45

My Song is Love Unknown (LOVE UNKNOWN) – John Ireland /

Samuel Crossman, lyricist (G)
Choir of St. John's Church, Elora / Noel Edison
(CD) *Faire is the Heaven: Hymns and Athems* / NAXOS / 8.557037
© 2003 Naxos, Naxos of America, Inc. naxos.com

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs – Evan Copley (1R)

Eastern Mennonite High School Touring Choir: Harrisonburg, VA / Jay E. Hartzler
(CD) *God Of All People* / EMHS / EMHS 00096
© 1996 EMHS emhs.net

Messiah: Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs – George Frideric Handel (1R)

The English Concert Choir / The English Concert, ensemble / Trevor Pinnock
(CD) *Messiah* / ARCHIV / 423 630-2
© 1988 Archiv, Universal Music Group universalclassics.com

Messiah: And With His Stripes – George Frideric Handel (1R)

The Choir of King's College / The Brandenburg Consort, ensemble / Stephen Cleobury
(CD) *Handel: Messiah* / ARGO / 440 672-2
© 1994 Argo deccaclassics.com

Messiah: All We Like Sheep – George Frideric Handel (1R)

The Choir of King's College / The Brandenburg Consort, ensemble / Stephen Cleobury
(CD) *Handel: Messiah* / ARGO / 440 672-2
© 1994 Argo deccaclassics.com

Let All Together Praise Our God (LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, ALLZUGLEICH) – Nicolaus Herman / Nicolaus Herman, lyricist / Johann Sebastian Bach, arranger (G)

The Cathedral Singers: Chicago, IL / Richard Proulx
(CD) *In Sweet Rejoicing: Ars Antiqua Choralis Volume III* /
GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-323
© 1994 GIA Publications giamusic.com

For God Commanded Angels to Watch Over You – Felix Mendelssohn-
Bartholdy / Kenneth Jennings, arranger / Kenneth Jennings, translator (PS)
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Advance Australia Fair* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2173
© 1997 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

*“Like the hidden current of a deep river,
there remains a sacred joy in life that flows
through all times and seasons.”*

-Pastor Bruce Benson

OCTOBER 25, 2015

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 30 (YEAR B)

(1R) Jeremiah 31:7-9
(PS) Psalm 126
(2R) Hebrews 7:23-28
(G) Mark 10:46-52
(R) Reformation Sunday

Gather Us In (GATHER US IN) – Marty Haugen /
Marty Haugen, lyricist (1R)
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson, organ /
Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith: Volume III* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3386
© 2011 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (EIN FESTE BURG) – Martin Luther /
Martin Luther, lyricist (R)
The Augustana Choir: Rock Island, IL / Bruce Bengtson, accompanist /
Jon Hurty
(CD) *Favorite Hymns from Augustana* /
DELTA RECORDINGS / DRCD98-85454
© Delta Recordings

Come, You Thankful People, Come (ST. GEORGES WINDSOR) –
George Elvey / Henry Alford, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (PS)
Sing For Joy Hymn Festival Congregation / John Ferguson, accompanist
(CD) *Home, Harvest, & Healing: A Sing For Joy Hymn Festival* /
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2648
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Psalm 126 – Abbie Betinis (PS)
Magnum Chorum: St. Paul, MN / David Dickau
(CD) *Home, Harvest, & Healing: A Sing For Joy Hymn Festival* /
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2648
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The King of Glory (PROMISED ONE) – Hasidic Tune /
Willard F. Jabusch, lyricist / Willard F. Jabusch, arranger (G)
John Ferguson, accompanist
(CD) *Home, Harvest, & Healing: A Sing For Joy Hymn Festival* /
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2648
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God, You Made All Things for Singing (UNION SEMINARY) –
Harold Friedell / Thomas Troeger, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (G)
Magnum Chorum: St. Paul, MN / St. Olaf Catholic Church Festival Choir:
Minneapolis, MN / John Ferguson, accompanist / David Dickau /
Lynn Trapp
(CD) *Home, Harvest, & Healing: A Sing For Joy Hymn Festival* /
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2648
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NEWS

Sing For Joy is now on 99.5 FM KTWH in
Two Harbors, Minnesota: Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

We have been unable to solidify a new station in the
Rochester, Minnesota area since KNXR closed their doors
last year. We encourage listeners to contact local stations
directly. Listeners have a powerful voice!

Have you visited singforjoy.org recently? We are running a
series on our blog (found at the bottom of the home page)
introducing the *Sing For Joy* team. Did you know that
Executive Producer Jeff O'Donnell won a Regional Emmy?
And Associate Producer Joshua Wyatt is a pilot and hobby
farmer? Come, get to know the individuals working to bring
you *Sing For Joy* every week.



LISTENERS' CORNER

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

*“I kind of go into grief when the program ends
each Sunday morning.”*
-Salisbury, Maryland

“Just listened. What a good way to end the day.”
-Facebook

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



singforjoy.org

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Don Malherek

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Ray Runkel, Class of 1953

Mike Swoboda

In Honor Of:

Mrs. Ruby Dyer

*our beautiful music at
Holy Trinity, Raleigh, NC*

Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Steele

OCTOBER 2015 / YEAR B

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



Sing For Joy staff:
W. Bruce Benson
Host
John Ferguson
Music Adviser
Jeffrey O'Donnell
Executive Producer and Music Director
Joshua Wyatt
Associate Producer
Carolyn Pierson
Communications Coordinator

Website: singforjoy.org
Email: singforjoy@stolaf.edu
Phone: 507-786-2600

Sing For Joy
St. Olaf College
1520 St. Olaf Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057



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