

# MUSICORUM

## "UKUTHULA" VOICING OUR HUMANITY

Saturday, April 18, 2026  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

[www.musicorum-mn.org](http://www.musicorum-mn.org)

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lake Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.





# *About Musicorum*

Founded in 1995 by David Taylor, Musicorum originally coalesced to perform rarely heard choral works from the late Medieval and Renaissance periods, affording listening variety from the musical ensembles already in existence in southern Minnesota. The chamber vocal ensemble has maintained a tradition of excellence over the past twenty-nine seasons, and the artistic output has expanded to include significant choral repertoire from all historical periods.

Currently, the choir is under the direction of Dr. Elisabeth Cherland, who is also the Director of Choral Activities at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Former artistic directors include David Taylor, Gregory Aune, David Dickau, Andrew Miller, Karen Boubel, Brandon Dean, and Andrew Kendall.

## *Conductor*

Elisabeth Cherland

## *Collaborative Pianist*

David Fienen

## *Singers*

Jessica Auel  
Angie Braunwarth  
Sara Buechmann  
Drew Burling  
Chuck Christenson  
Alisa Eimen  
Glen Ferguson  
Jeffrey Flory  
Brandy Gullickson  
Scott Hermanson  
Ole Karstad  
Erin Kingland  
Scott Kingland  
Linden Kirscht  
Billy Krager  
Rick Kramlinger  
Megan Kreinbring  
Sarah Krolak  
Paige Lang  
Grace Matson

Don McGinness  
Alex McLean  
Melissa Meouchy  
Grace Miller  
Chris Paul  
Elizabeth Paul  
Julia Pelzel  
Jeannie Phillips  
Megan Poehler  
Leah Renne  
Rob Satterness  
Ben Scheidel  
Brian Schrader  
Cindy Shirk  
Fred Slocum  
Andrew Stumbo  
Brad Ufer  
Bart Weelborg  
Sopida Wunder  
John Zehnder

## *A Note from the conductor:*

Peace. Praise. Redemption. Faith. Comfort. Victory. These words name a wide range of human experiences, desires, longings, and needs. We experience the impulse to praise, the need for redemption, expressions of faith, the warmth of comfort, and the high of victory throughout our lives. We aren't always good at naming these as needs. Music and the arts help us act these out, to experience them, and to voice our experience.

The traditional isiZulu Gospel song *Ukuthula* names Peace, Praise, Redemption, Faith, Comfort, and Victory in its verses, and gives the frame and touchstone for tonight's program. In the churches of townships in pre-democratic South Africa, this prayer was formed. It embodies longing, strength, emotion, and raw humanity. Through empathy and a common humanity, we relate to this music. Where do you seek peace in your life, or in our world? When do you feel the joy and awe that inspires you to praise? Where do you seek redemption? In what do you place your faith? What gives you comfort? Where do you feel or need victory? For what do you long?

- Dr. Elisabeth Cherland



## **Ukuthula**

isiZulu Prayer, arr. Karl Benzing (1939 – 2017)

Ukuthula  
Kulomhlaba we zono  
Igazi lika Jesu lin yenez  
Ukuthula.

*Peace  
In this broken world of trouble  
The blood of Jesus flowed  
(so that you could have) Peace.*

## **UKUTHULA - PEACE UKUBONGA - PRAISE**

Solo: Grace Matson

The lyrical poetry of the book of Psalms – a book shared by both the Hebrew and Christian bibles – runs the gamut of emotion and experience, but praise is at its center. All three pieces in the Praise portion of the program have texts from the Psalms. They span 300 years in their composition dates and use different techniques and styles, but joy and awe are present in each.

## **Haec Dies**

William Byrd (1543 - 1623)

Text: Psalm 118:24

William Byrd is often referred to as the greatest composer of the English Renaissance, and in this piece he captures the joy and playfulness of praise. The six voice parts imitate and dance around each other through the work, and the music changes in character from one line of text to the next.

Haec Dies quam fecit Dominus:  
Exsultemus et laetemur in ea.  
Alleluia.

*This is the day the Lord has made:  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Alleluia.*

## Taaveti Laul - Psalm 104

Cyrillus Kreek (1889 - 1962)

Estonian composer, Cyrillus Kreek, collected folk songs from the Estonian culture, but is perhaps best known in the international community for this piece and his setting of Psalm 1. The praise and glory of this setting begins gently but reaches its dynamic peak with the naming of the trinity. In two and a half minutes, Kreek takes us on a journey and leaves us changed.

Kiida, mu hing, Issandat!  
Kiidetud oled Sina!  
Issand, mu Jumal, Sa oled suur.  
Kui suured on Sinu teod, Issand!  
Sa oled kõik targasti teinud.  
Au olgu Sulle, Issand,  
Kes Sa kõik oled teinud!  
Au oilgu Isale, Pojale,  
Puhale Vaimule au,  
Nuud ja igavest. Aamen.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
Praise the Lord!  
O Lord my God, Thou art very great.  
O Lord, how manifold are thy works!  
In wisdom hast thou made them all.  
Glory be to Thee, O Lord,  
Who has made all things!  
Glory to the Father, the Son,  
And the Holy Spirit,  
Now and evermore. Amen.*

*without pause for applause*

## Laudate Dominum

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Psalm 117

Solo: Angie Braunwarth

Written in 1780 for use in the Salzburg Cathedral, this piece is the fifth movement in a larger service entitled *Vesperae solennes de confessore*. The beautiful, gentle, and lyrical melody have made this movement well-known and it is often performed on its own. Mozart takes a gentle approach to praise, and the piece sounds almost like a love song.

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes,  
Laudate eum, omnes populi.  
Quoniam confirmata est  
Super nos misericordia ejus,  
Et veritas Domini manet in aeternum.

Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto,  
Sicut erat in principio  
Et nunc et semper  
Et in saecula saeculorum, Amen.

*Praise God, all nations,  
Praise God, all peoples.  
For he has bestowed  
His mercy upon us,  
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the  
Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and forever,  
And for generations of generations, Amen.*

# USINDISO – REDEMPTION

Solo: Chris Paul

Ukuthula offers a Christian perspective on redemption. Regardless of faith, experiencing and offering grace and mercy is an essential part of our collective humanity.

## **The 23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother)**

Bobby McFerrin (b. 1950)

Of the 150 Psalms, the 23rd is perhaps the most beloved and well known. American composer, singer, and conductor Bobby McFerrin sets the text as a chant and opens the imagery by shifting all pronouns from male to female. The setting is dedicated to McFerrin's mother.

The Lord is my Shepard, I have all I need,  
She makes me lie down in green meadows,  
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,  
She leads me in a path of good things,  
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk through a dark & dreary land,  
There is nothing that can shake me,  
She has said She won't forsake me,  
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,  
She anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup overflows.  
Surely, surely goodness & kindness will follow me,  
All the days of my life,  
And I will live in her house forever, forever & ever.

Glory be to our Mother, & Daughter,  
And to the Holy of Holies,  
As it was in the beginning, is now & ever shall be,  
World, without end. Amen

*without pause for applause*

## Holy Manna

Tune attributed to William Moore (c. 1800 – 1890)

Text by Sylvia Dunstan (1955 – 1993)

The 19th century saw the publication of hundreds of shape-note singing tunebooks in the United States, including the Sacred Harp. The shape note system is a variation on traditional Western notation where the head of the note has a specific shape (triangle, circle, square, or diamond), and therefore indicates the syllable – *fa*, *so*, *la*, or *mi* – on which the note should be sung. This simple system helped build musical literacy and, in turn, the congregational and community singing that is very much a part of our American choral history. The Holy Manna tune is believed to have been written by William Moore, first published in *Columbian Harmony* in 1829. I particularly love the raw, less-refined sound that this music demands. We'll sing the shape note syllables initially, and follow with three verses by Canadian minister and hymn text writer Sylvia Dunstan.

All who hunger, gather gladly;  
Holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
All around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
Live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;  
Seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
In communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

## **Hymn to the Eternal Flame**

Stephen Paulus (1949 - 2014)

Lyrics by Michael Dennis Brown (1940 - 2026)

Solo: Scott Kingland

Stephen Paulus was a beloved Minnesota composer who often collaborated with Minnesota writer Michael Dennis Brown. The musical community lost Paulus in 2014 and Michael Dennis Brown died just a few short weeks ago on March 29, 2026. *To Be Certain of the Dawn* was a large work written to commemorate the Holocaust, and Hymn to the Eternal Flame is taken from that work. Brown said of this piece:

“The words commemorate the children who died, and so they are at the heart of this work. They are based on the image of the central flame and the many, many thousands of reflected flames at the children’s memorial at the Yad Vashem museum in Jerusalem. In spite of the hideous ways in which the Nazis used fire, we can see the flame as a symbol of hope; in it, we can sense mystical victory—something lasts (beyond the body); something shines.”

Every face is in you, every voice, every sorrow in you.

Every pity, every love, every memory, woven into fire.

Every breath is in you, every cry, every longing in you.

Every singing, every hope, every healing, woven into fire.

Every heart is in you, every tongue, every trembling in you,

Every blessing, every soul, every shining, woven into fire.

## **UKUKHOLWA – FAITH**

Solo: Sopida Wunder

Singing is an essential aspect of multiple faith traditions. For many, faith is both formed and articulated in song.

## 67th Psalm

Charles E Ives (1874 - 1954 )

American composer, Charles Ives, was a church organist and choir director from New England who made his living in the insurance industry. As an innovator and one who liked to experiment with sound, many of his methods didn't become more widely adopted until later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In Psalm 67, published in 1898, Ives writes essentially for two choirs: first, the four-part soprano and alto voices in the key of C major; second, the four-part tenors and basses in the key of G minor. The sound of each choir is quite consonant on its own, but when combined the sound is dissonant and crunchy. Ives seems to capture the complicated mess of humanity with both its flaws and its tenderness. One of our choir members specifically asked for this piece. Do you hear its beauty, too?

God be merciful unto us, and bless us;  
And cause his face to shine upon us.  
That thy way may be known upon earth,  
Thy saving health among all nations.  
Let the people praise thee, O God!  
O let the nations be glad and sing for joy:  
For thou shalt judge the people righteously,  
And govern the nations upon the earth.  
Let the people praise thee, O God!  
Let all the people praise thee.  
Then shall the earth yield her increase;  
And God, even our own God, shall bless us.  
And all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

## Ich bin die Auferstehung und das Leben

Heinrich Schütz (1585 – 1672)

Text source: New testament book of John 11: 25-26

Schütz, one of the greatest German composers of the 17th century, took pride in crafting music of great beauty and intellectual depth. This double choir motet was published about 1620, and its text focuses on what many Christians believe to be the essence of their faith. Notice how each phrase is first presented by one choir, then the other, and then both choirs begin to overlap and join together. Listen especially for the emphatic “nimmermehr” (nevermore) statements near the end of the piece.

Ich bin die Auferstehung und das Leben.  
Wer an mich glaubet,  
Der wird leben, ob er gleich stürbe;  
Und wer da lebet und glaubet an mich,  
Der wird nimmermehr sterben.

*I am the resurrection and the life.  
Those who believe in me,  
Even though they die, will live;  
And everyone who lives and believes in me  
Will never die.*

*without pause for applause*

## **Tonight Eternity Alone**

René Clausen (b. 1953)

Solos: Megan Kreinbring, Jessica Auel

While the text of *Tonight Eternity Alone* is not associated with a major world religion, it is faith-filled nonetheless. Minnesota composer and conductor, René Clausen, used text based on a poem by American poet Thomas S. Jones, Jr. I sang this piece under Clausen's direction as a student at Concordia College and I remember him telling the story of how he came across the text. He said,

"I was judging a vocal solo and ensemble contest in Kansas and the event was held in a high school. My venue was an English classroom and the teacher had a beautiful poster hanging on the wall. It was very simple—basically a night sky the color of midnight blue with a soft moon rise at the far edge of the horizon. Against this background the text was printed. I was immediately struck by both the beauty of the picture and the poem. I copied it and soon after wrote the piece in a short time—just a couple of days."

Clausen's music paints the glory of the sunset and frames the assurance that "there is no space for fear."

Tonight eternity alone is near,  
The sunset and the dark'ning blue,  
There is no space for fear,  
Only the wonder of its truth.

**~ INTERMISSION ~**

# INDUDUZO – COMFORT

Solo: Jeffrey Flory

We give and receive comfort through song. While comfort is not the topic of each piece here, they each center the peace that comes through being cared for.

## **I Hunger and Thirst**

Traditional Shaker Song

Arr Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

Solo: Billy Krager

The Shakers were an 18<sup>th</sup> century Protestant sect based in New England, and were dedicated to simplicity, communal living, pacifism, and known for their music. The text of this beautiful hymn articulates our most basic human needs and vulnerabilities. There is a touching and child-like grace to this music.

I hunger and thirst after true righteousness;  
In what I've obtained my soul cannot rest.  
An ocean I see without button or shore,  
O feed me I'm hungry, enrich me I'm poor.  
I will cry unto God, I never will cease,  
Till my soul's filled with love, perfect love and sweet peace.

*without pause for applause*

## **Evening Song (Esti dal)**

Zoltán Kodály (1882 – 1967)

English words by Geoffry Russell-Smith

Solo: Grace Miller

Like his fellow Hungarian composer, Béla Bartók, Zoltán Kodály was profoundly influenced by folk music. Evening Song is a beloved prayer song in Hungary, and its simplicity, earnestness, and child-like expression of faith and comfort add to its beauty.

Peaceful woods, the dusk descending  
Fragrant now with summer's ending;  
There I rested and e'er sleeping,  
Praying, sought His sweet safekeeping.

Thus I lay there, silent, praying;  
“Lord, I wander ever straying;  
Wand’ring through the world, yet knowing,  
Thou wilt guard me, and my going.”

“Let not darkness from Thee hide me,  
May Thine angels watch beside me.  
Guard us all while we are sleeping,  
Safe forever in Thy keeping.”

## Ayyuha Samuhu

Mansour Labaky (b. 1940) and Shireen Abu-Khader (b. 1972)

This piece is a simple hymn by the Lebanese Maronite priest, Mansour Labaky. While its text originally centered more Christian language, Labaky was once asked to teach this song in a multi-faith context, and while walking to the stage he changed the lyrics to be more expansive and inclusive to all those present. We will sing two verses on “loo,” and two verses in Arabic. This piece gives comfort in reminding us that regardless of faith or cultural tradition there is much that unites us.

أَيُّهَا السَّمُوحُ، خَالِقِي وَرَبِّي،

O Generous One, my Creator and my Lord

ضَوْءُكَ يَلُوحُ، فِي ظِلَامِ دَرْبِي،

Your light shines forth in the darkness of my path

يَا سَلَامَ قَلْبِي،

In You I find rest, O peace of my heart

تَعَصْفُ الرِّيحِ، نَفْسِي لَا تُبَالِي،

The winds rage, but my soul is not concerned

تَتَّخُنُ الْجِرَاحُ، فِيكَ أَنْسَى حَالِي،

The wounds grow heavy, yet in you I forget my state

قُرْبِكَ تُزَاحُ، عَتَمَةُ اللَّيَالِي

By your nearness, the darkness of the night is removed

# UKUNQUOBA – VICTORY

Solo: Linden Kirscht

We express and experience the rush of victory through song. Triumph, joy, and hope abounds.

## **Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord**

Undine S. Moore (1904 - 1989)

Solos: Rob Satterness, Andrew Stumbo

Undine Smith Moore was an American composer and professor who taught music at various colleges - including Carleton College & the College of Saint Benedict here in Minnesota - in the 20th century. Known for her excellent teaching and as the “Dean of Black Women Composers,” she composed a wide range of pieces, including more than 50 choral works. Her setting of the story of Daniel and the lion’s den in this Spiritual is playful, dramatic, and triumphant.

Oh, the king cried,  
Oh, Daniel, Daniel, oh!  
Daniel, Daniel, oh!  
A-that-a Hebrew Daniel,  
Servant of the Lord!

Among the Hebrew nation,  
One Hebrew Daniel was found  
They put him in the lion's den  
He stayed there all night long.

Now the King in his sleep was troubled  
And early in the morning he rose  
To find God sent His angels down  
To lock the lions' jaws.

Oh, the king cried,  
Oh, Daniel, Daniel, oh!  
Servant of the Lord!

## Alleluia

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

Text by St Augustine (354 - 430)

Iowa composer Elaine Hagenberg has become a beloved contemporary choral writer, and this piece was commissioned and premiered by the Gustavus Choir in 2020. Victory over death is a core tenet of Christianity and Hagenberg's piece dances in that joy.

Alleluia

We shall rest and we shall see.

We shall see and we shall know.

We shall know and we shall love.

Behold our end which is no end.

We invite you to join us in singing Ukuthula as we close our program. We begin with verse 2.

### Ukuthula

### Zulu Prayer, arr. Karl Benzing

(U - ku - thu - la)\* (U - ku - thu - la)\*\* Ku - lom - hla - ba - we - zo - no i -

\* Soloist only \*\* Chorus repeats the soloist

ga - zi li - ka - Je - su lin - yen - yez (U - ku - thu - la)

- |             |            |              |         |
|-------------|------------|--------------|---------|
| 1. Ukuthula | Peace      | 4. Ukukholwa | Faith   |
| 2. Ukubonga | Praise     | 5. Induduno  | Comfort |
| 3. Usindiso | Redemption | 6. Ukunqoba  | Victory |

Ukuthula

Kulomhlaba we zono

Igazi lika Jesu lin yenyez

Ukuthula.

Peace

In this broken world of trouble

The blood of Jesus flowed

(so that you could have)Peace.

# *Thank You*

A heartfelt thank you to the staff of **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** for hosting us in this beautiful sacred space.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the **Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council**, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Musicorum is a proud supporter of the **Twin Rivers Council for the Arts**. Visit [twinriversarts.org](http://twinriversarts.org) to learn more about arts opportunities in greater south-central Minnesota and for a calendar of upcoming arts and entertainment events.

Thanks to **Megan Poehler** for designing our poster and program cover.

Visit us online at [www.musicorum-mn.org](http://www.musicorum-mn.org)



## *Save the date!*

**Musicorum Christmas Concert**  
Saturday, December 12, 2026  
6:30 pm