

BELLA LUMINA CHOIR PRESENTS

*Choose*

LOVE

*light, hope and joy*

**Michelle Gehrz, Artistic Director | Jeffrey Patry, Accompanist**

**Saturday, November 23**

**7 PM**

**Vista Lutheran Church**

**4003 Wooddale Ave S**

**St. Louis Park**

**Sunday, November 24**

**4 PM**

**First Lutheran Church**

**1555 40th Ave NE**

**Columbia Heights**



Bella  
Lumina

Choose **LOVE** ... *light, hope and joy*

— Please hold applause until end of program —

**Psallite** | Kyle Pederson

**Heaven Unfolding** | Andrea Ramsey/text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

**Sweet Radiant Mystery** | Catherine Dalton

**For the Beauty of the Earth** | Philip Stopford/adapted text by Folliott Pierpoint

**Sister Song** | Sarah Quartel

**Sing, My Child** | Sarah Quartel

**Prayer of the Children** | Kurt Bestor/arr. Andrea Klouse

**God Will Give Orders & Sweet Child** | Sarah Quartel

**Ave Maria** | Michael Head

**I Choose Love** | Mark A. Miller/arr. Michelle Gehrz

**Sisi Ni Moja (We Are One)** | Jacob Narverud

Michelle Gehrz, Artistic Director  
Jeffrey Patry, Accompanist  
Tamara Rogers, Dancer  
David Birrow, Djembe  
Andrea Glass, Cello

*Bella Lumina*  
Concert Roster

Cheri Almquist

Chris Ball

Grace Barry

Kelsey DeGayner

Chandra Erickson

Stacy Glaus

Gay Gonnerman

Jen Hazen

Monica Healy

Christine Heiberg

Stephanie Henry

Barb Kern-Pieh

Susan Lach

Jan Lillemo

Julie Lindstrom

Doreen Lorentz

Lissa Miller

Joan Nelson

Kay Netland

Lauren Piper

Cynthia Scherer

Hannah Stark

Cindy Stauffer

Julie Stauffer

Judy Sunderland

Shari Tivy

Virve Van Sloun

Nancy Verba

Heidi Vickerman

Beth VonEschen

Sarah Wiechmann

# TEXTS

## Psallite

*Latin translation:*

Sing! Sing together. At the same time, sing praises!  
Sing for life, for love, for light;  
Sing for friends who stay by your side.  
Sing for tears, sing for joy,  
Sing for hope, sing for home.  
Sing for moon and sun that shine,  
Sing for touch and time,  
Sing for tears, sing for joy, shout for joy!

## Heaven Unfolding

Heaven is here unfolding,  
Where starlight and wonder mingle,  
Where sky and earth collide  
In the vast expanses of the universe  
And in the smallest interstitial spaces of cell and atom.

In quiet moments, in soaring songs of light,  
In unexpected beauty, in a smile,  
In laughter and in love, in harmony (and hope),  
In the depths of solitude  
As in the joy of fellowship;

In the burnished golden light of Autumn,  
In Death, and in sweet partings;  
Just as in the quickening fire of newfound love,  
Is Heaven here unfolding.

Drink deeply!  
For widely flows the fountain,  
And deep is Heaven here on earth.

## Sweet Radiant Mystery

O Sweet Radiant Mystery,  
Set us free from that which binds,  
Beckoning the soul to fly.

O Sweet Radiant Mystery,  
Open our eyes to see beyond  
That which hides the soul from light.

O Sweet Radiant Mystery,  
Help us hear the endless song  
of all that is and was and ever shall be.

## For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies;

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r  
Sun and moon and stars of light;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above;

Pleasures pure and undefiled;  
For each perfect gift of Thine,  
To our race so freely giv'n;  
Graces human and divine,  
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.

For Thy Church which evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Off'ring up on ev'ry shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.

## Sister Song

Tell me, sister, why the sky is blue.  
Tell me, sister, how your song is new.  
Why do the leaves grow strong in the rain?  
Why do the breezes sing again?  
Tell me, sister, how to see them too.

Listen, sister, joy makes all things new,  
Listen, sister, hope will see you through.  
Light in the darkness, sun in the rain,  
Breezes that whisper once again.  
Sing your song and you will see them too.

Then tell me of joy – does it keep you singing?  
I'll tell you of joy – oh, it keeps me singing.  
Then tell me of hope – does it keep you moving?  
I'll tell you of hope – oh, it keeps me moving.  
I sing of joy, I sing with hope,  
And I keep singing on and on!

## Sing, My Child

Sing for the promise in each new morning.  
Sing for the hope in a new day dawning.  
All around is beauty bright!  
Wake in the morning and sing, my child.

Dance in the joy of the day unfoldin.  
Dance as you work and dance as you're learning.  
All around is beauty bright!  
Take in the day and dance, my child.

But when troubles come  
and worry is all that can be found,  
Gather your strength and hear your voice.  
Sing, my child.

Laugh in the cool and the fresh of the ev'ning.  
Laugh in your triumph, laugh in succeeding.  
All around is beauty bright!  
Rest in the ev'ning and laugh, my child.

Peace in the stillness and dark of the night.  
Peace in the dreams of your silent delights.  
All around is beauty bright!  
Sleep in the night and peace, my child.

But when troubles come  
and worry is all that can be found,

Gather your strength and hear your voice.  
Sing, my child. Dance, my child.  
Laugh, my child. Peace, my child.

## Prayer of the Children

Can you hear the prayer of the children?  
On bended knee,  
in the shadow of an unknown room  
Empty eyes with no more tears to cry  
Turning heavenward, toward the light.

Crying, who will help me  
To see the morning light of one more day?  
But if I should die before I wake,  
I pray my soul to take.

Can you feel the hearts of the children?  
Aching for home, for something of their very own.  
Reaching hands, with nothing to hold on to,  
But hope for a better day, a better day.

Crying, who will help me  
To feel the love again in my own land?  
But if unknown roads lead away from home,  
Give me loving arms, 'way from harm

Can you hear the voice of the children?  
Softly pleading for silence in their shattered world?  
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,  
Blood of the innocent on their hands

Crying, who will help me  
To feel the sun again upon my face?  
For when darkness clears, I know you're near,  
Bringing peace again.  
¿Puedes oír las oraciones de los niños?  
Can you hear the prayer of the children?

## God Will Give Orders & Sweet Child

God will give orders to his angels about you,  
And all his angels, all his armies sing: 'ah!  
Do not think poorly of these little children,  
All of them have an angel in heav'n,  
And all the angels can see the face of the Father.  
All your angels can see the face of your Father.

Sweet child, hear my song.  
Sweet child, I will guard you.  
Sweet child, you're the future.  
Love and mercy show to others.  
Sweet child, hear my song.  
Sweet child, I will show you how to love!

Faith, like a child, can hear the song,  
A song that falls on ears of those who wait,  
Like a child, for peace to come.  
And trust that we will learn to show them love,  
Like a child, who knows no wrong  
From being loved by those who've taught them.  
Faith, like a child, forever strong.  
The circle goes on.

## Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum:  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesu.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei  
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.

### Latin translation:

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Hail Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death.

## I Choose Love

In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain,  
sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
In the midst of war,  
Hate and anger keeping score.  
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.  
When my world falls down,  
explanation can't be found.  
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

## Sisi Ni Moja

*Swahili meaning "we are one"*  
We all laugh, we all cry,  
we all feel hunger, we all feel pain.  
We all love, we all hate,  
we all hope, and we all dream.  
We are one world, one people.  
And we all breathe the same.  
A tribe of many languages,  
a group of many heartaches,  
fighting for peace among the land.  
Heja, heja, sisi ni moja.  
Heja, heja, we are one.

We all want, we all need,  
we all seek passion, we all seek joy.  
We all bruise, we all scar,  
we all fail, but learn to thrive.  
We are one world, one people.  
And we all breathe the same.  
In the darkness of the night  
and in the glory of the morning,  
we walk along the path and find our way.

Now we stand here together and lift our hearts in song  
to the rhythm of this moment in our lives:  
Heja, heja, sisi ni moja.  
Heja, heja, we are one.



Special appreciation to the Minnesota Family Law Firm of  
**Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O'Connell PLLC**  
as our official **MUSIC SPONSOR** for this season.

# Thank you

**Vista Lutheran Church**

for allowing us to use their lovely sanctuary for practice each week.

**First Lutheran Church**

**Jeffrey Patry – faithful, funny and phenomenal Bella Lumina accompanist**

**Andrea Glass – MacPhail Center for Music**

**David Birrow – Breck School**

**Tamara Rogers – dancer who carries and shares light, hope and joy**

**Walt Boyd and Nick Benson – sound recording**

**Soaping With Joy – Nancy Joy Healy**

**Julie Lindstrom Design**

## GIVING OPTIONS

**PayPal – [BellaLuminaChoir.org](http://BellaLuminaChoir.org) home page**

**Venmo – Search “Bella Lumina Choir”**

**Mail – 4610 Dallas Ln. N., Plymouth, MN 55446**

**All donations are greatly appreciated.**

## MISSION

**Bella Lumina spreads light, hope, and joy through the power of song.  
We present repertoire of high artistic quality that delivers a powerful message  
through illuminating texts and inspirational arrangements  
showcasing the extraordinary beauty  
of treble voices.**

