



**SPREADING
LIGHT
HOPE &
JOY
THROUGH
SONG**

Let us take you on a journey ...

As life's burdens pile up, how do we find light and hope?

Where does our hope come from? God? Ourselves? Each other?

How do we return to joy after being worn down?

*"Music will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character
and sensibilities, and in time of care and sorrow,
will keep a fountain of joy alive in you."*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

MICHELLE GEHRZ, *artistic director*
**Jeffrey Patry, Chris Starr and
Jamie Schmidt**, *collaborative pianists*
Mike Riddle, *guitar*



**Bella
Lumina**
spreading light, hope & joy
through song

Nov. 11 | 7 PM
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins
Nov. 12 | 3:30 PM
St. John's Lutheran Church, Howard Lake

Spreading LIGHT, HOPE & JOY through Song

Please hold your applause until the end of the concert.

LIGHT

Dawn Canticle (from Dawn Mantras)

Ross Edwards / text sources from Latin, Bunjalung, Japanese and Indonesian words

Tanya Kirschenman, soloist

Where the Light Begins

Susan LaBarr / text Jan Richardson

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

arr. Craig Hella Johnson / text and music Dolly Parton

Sarah Abelsen, soloist | Gay Gonnerman, recorder

Be Like the Bird

Abbie Betinis / text Victor Hugo

HOPE

Hope

Jason Robert Brown

Kate Johnston, soloist

She Lingers On

Zanaida Robles

Even When He is Silent

Kim Andre Arneson

Hope Lingers On

Lissa Schneckenburger / arr. Andrea Ramsey

Monica Healy and Mindy Mennicke, percussion

& JOY

Sister Song

Sarah Quartel

Mike Riddle, guitar

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Robert T. Gibson

A Little Song of Life

Reginald Untersehrer

Closer to Fine

Indigo Girls / arr. Brandi Carlile

Nancy Pearson and Kim Ries, soloists | Mike Riddle, guitar

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TEXTS

Dawn Canticle (from Dawn Mantras)

Ross Edwards – composer b. 1943, Australia

The work, written for Sydney's contribution to the millennium celebrations, was telecast worldwide to an audience of billions, attracting great international acclaim. The text is sourced from various languages, namely Latin, Bunjalung, Japanese and Indonesian. Text translation: dawn, peace, healing, whole, and "May the grace of the Holy Spirit be with us."

Where the Light Begins

Susan LaBarr – composer b. 1981, Missouri

Jan Richardson – poet b. 1967, Florida

Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.
Perhaps it takes a lifetime to open our eyes,
to learn to see what has forever shimmered
in front of us—
the luminous line of the map in the dark
the vigil flame in the house of the heart
the love so searing we cannot keep
from singing,
from crying out in testimony and praise.

Perhaps this day will be the mountain over
which the dawn breaks.
Perhaps we will turn our face toward it,
toward what has been always.
Perhaps our eyes will finally open
in ancient recognition,
willingly dazzled, illuminated at last.
Perhaps this day the light begins in us.

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton – songwriter b. 1946, Tennessee

arr. Craig Hella Johnson – b. 1962, Minnesota

It's been a long dark night
And I've been a waitin' for the morning
It's been a long hard fight
But I see a brand-new day a dawning
I've been looking for the sunshine
'Cause I ain't seen it in so long
Everything's gonna work out fine
And everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand-new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay

Be Like the Bird

Abbie Betinis – composer b. 1980, Minnesota

Victor Hugo – poet b. 1802, France

Be like the bird that,
pausing in her flight awhile
on boughs too slight,
feels them give way beneath her, and sings,
and sings, and sings
knowing she hath wings.

Hope

Jason Robert Brown – composer b. 1970, New York

I come to sing a song about hope
I'm not inspired much right now, but even so
I came out here to sing a song, so here I go
I guess I think that if I tinker long enough,
one might appear
And look! It's here
One verse is done
The work's begun

I come to sing a song about hope
In spite of everything ridiculous and sad
Though I'm beyond belief depressed,
confused, and mad
Well, I got dressed
I underestimated how much that would take
I didn't break
Until right now
I sing of hope
And don't know how

So maybe I can substitute "strength"
Because I'm strong
I'm strong enough
I got through lots of things
I didn't think I could
And so did you
I know that's true

She Lingers On

Zanaida Robles – composer b. 1979, California

This piece touches on the subject of depression in an artful and meaningful way. Using only a few words the notes swim through the deep waters of depression; first feeling the sensation of drowning, then remembering to swim to the surface to take a breath.

She walks in pools of sadness.
Her face is cool in moonlight.
No one can cover it.
She walks in pools and moonlight.
She lingers on..."

Even When He is Silent

Kim Andre Arneson – composer b. 1980,

Norway

I believe in the sun even when
it's not shining.
I believe in love even when I feel it not.
I believe in God even when He is silent.

Hope Lingers On

Lissa Schneckenburger – composer b. 1979, Vermont

Andrea Ramsey – arranger b. 1977, Missouri

Hope Lingers On, originally performed by "Low Lily" carries a timely message of encouragement and perseverance for justice, equality, honor and love.

My mother, when love is gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on
My father, when peace is gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers

REFRAIN: I will not hate, and I will not fear
In our darkest hour, hope lingers here

My sister, when equality's gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on
My brother, with tolerance gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on

My love, when honor is gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on
My country, when justice is gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on

Sister Song

Sarah Quartel – composer b. 1982, Ontario

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!

This Little Light of Mine

*Traditional African-American children's song
Robert T. Gibson – arranger b. 1991, Missouri*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All day and all night, I'm gonna let it
shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

My God gave it to me, I'm gonna let it
shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

A Little Song of Life

*Reginald Untersehrrer – composer b. 1956,
Washington
Lizette Woodworth Reese – poet b. 1856,
Maryland; d. 1935*

Glad that I live, am I;
That the sky is blue;
Glad for the country lanes,
And the fall of the dew.
After the sun the rain,
After the rain the sun;
This is the way of life,
Till the work be done.
All that we need to do,
Be we low or high,
Is to see that we grow,
Nearer the sky.

Closer to Fine

*Indigo Girls: Emily Saliers b. 1963 &
Amy Ray b. 1964 – songwriters;
Brandi Carlile – arranger b. 1981, Washington*

I'm trying to tell you something
'bout my life
Maybe give me insight between
black and white
And the best thing you ever done for me
Is to help me take my life less seriously
It's only life after all, yeah

Well, darkness has a hunger
that's insatiable
And lightness has a call
that's hard to hear
And I wrap my fear around me
like a blanket
I sailed my ship of safety till I sank it
I'm crawling on your shores

REFRAIN: And I went to the doctor,
I went to the mountains
I looked to the children,
I drank from the fountains
There's more than one answer
to these questions
Pointing me in a crooked line
And the less I seek my source
for some definitive
Closer I am to fine, yeah

And I went to see the doctor
of philosophy
With a poster of Rasputin
and a beard down to his knee
He never did marry or see
a B-grade movie
He graded my performance,
he said he could see through me
I spent four years prostrate
to the higher mind
Got my paper and I was free

Closer I am to fine, yeah
I stopped by the bar at 3 A.M.
To seek solace in a bottle or
possibly a friend
And I woke up with a headache
like my head against a board
Twice as cloudy as I'd been
the night before
And I went in seeking clarity

There's more than one answer
to these questions
Pointing me in a crooked line
And the less I seek my source
for some definitive
Closer I am to fine
Closer I am to fine, yeah

Special appreciation to the
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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HOWARD LAKE:
Pr. Paul Koch
for sharing their beautiful sanctuary spaces
with us for these concerts.

Jim Arneson, Tim Jyrkas and Chris Lovagnini
Recording and streaming services at Gethsemane.

Jeffrey Patry, Chris Starr and Jamie Schmidt
Collaborative Pianists

Mike Riddle
Guitar
www.riddlememusic.com

**Grace Barry (Light), Tricia Porter (Hope) and
Shari Tivy (Joy)**
Readers

Sarah Abelsen, Jeffrey Patry and Chris Starr
Sectional Rehearsal Leaders

**Liz Farmer, Paige Kamin, Barb Kern-Pieh,
Jean Olson, Ellen Junko Sandoval and
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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.