

**MMF 60th Anniversary
Moravian Music Notes**

2016 Week	Moravian Music Note of the Week
January 4	On January 9, 1789, Johann Friedrich Peter completed his Six String Quintets, thought to be the earliest instrumental chamber music composed in America (parts are dated February 28, 1789)
January 11	Beginning in 2002, the position of Assistant Director of the Moravian Music Foundation (in Bethlehem) became a full-time continuing position; prior to this time it was a shared position with the Northern Province Archives, and the Music Foundation's portion was largely grant-funded for the microfilming project.
January 18	The Moravian Daily Texts were first printed in 1731. These were used from their earliest years as the text of musical compositions written for specific occasions.
January 25	On January 25, 1744, a spinet arrived in Bethlehem, one of the first instruments the Moravians transported to the New World. It suffered some damage during the voyage, but was repaired for use in services the following day.
February 1	In 1893, pastor and composer Francis Florentine Hagen presented a memorial to the Northern Province Synod, <i>Unitas Fratrum in extremis; or, thoughts on the Past and Present Condition of the Moravian Church in America</i> , in which he expressed deep concern about the future of the church and questions of musical style in worship. It is good to note that discussions concerning whether to use "traditional" or "contemporary" music in worship date back well over a century in the Moravian Church. Hagen was a proponent of including newly-written music (which would have been "gospel" music) rather than German chorales.
February 8	In 1984 the Salem Trombone Choir was re-established under the direction of Donna Rothrock.
February 15	The first publications of Moravian music in H. W. Gray's "Early American Moravian Church Music" series were issued in 1954. These early publications included such gems as <i>Sing O Ye Heavens, It Is a Precious Thing, O the Blessedness Is Great</i> , and many more, bringing Moravian music to the notice of choir directors and scholars world-wide.
February 22	In 1815 - 1817, composer and church administrator Christian I. Latrobe traveled to South Africa, writing <i>Letters to My Children</i> on his long voyage. Some of his music is still preserved in South Africa.
February 29	The year 1505 saw the publication of first hymnal of the Unitas Fratrum. The 1501 hymnal, while it contained hymns by members of the Unity, was not a Unitas Fratrum publication. No copy of the 1505 hymnal is known to exist.
March 7	In 1958, Donald M. McCorkle, the first Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, completed his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Indiana: <i>Moravian Music in Salem: A German-American Heritage</i> , which laid the groundwork for Moravian musical research for the next half-century

March 14	On March 21, 1728, David Tannenberg was born in Berthelsdorf; he moved to America in 1749, and built an impressive number of organs for Moravian churches and those of other denominations. He died in Lititz, PA, in 1804.
March 21	On April 3, 1983, the newly-founded Glenwood Moravian Trombone Choir played for Easter services at Glenwood Moravian Church, Madison, Wisconsin
March 28	On March 27, 1900, the Bethlehem Bach Choir presented the first complete American performance of J. S. Bach's B Minor Mass, under founding conductor John Frederick Wolle.
April 4	In the summer of 2010, the Moravian Music Foundation assumed full responsibility for Moravian Music Festivals. Prior to this date, organization and financing of Festivals was the responsibility of the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America, with the Moravian Music Foundation providing programmatic assistance.
April 11	Now celebrating its twentieth anniversary year, the Unitas Chorale presented its first concert on April 12, 1997, with Jill Bruckart as founding director.
April 18	The English Moravian hymnal, published in 1789, contains as its final hymn, written by editor John Swertner to fill up a blank space on the last page of hymn texts. This two-verse hymn, entitled "Eternal Praise", is known today as "Sing Hallelujah, Praise the Lord." The text was probably sung to tune 159 A, as tune 159 D (Bechler) was most likely written in 1813 or 1814.
April 25	On May 1, 1956, the Moravian Music Foundation was chartered as a nonprofit corporation in the state of North Carolina
May 2	May of 1995 saw the publication of the <i>Moravian Book of Worship</i> , including many new hymns by living Moravian composers and authors.
May 9	On May 12, 1811, Johannes Herbst was consecrated a bishop in Lititz, PA, just before leaving to take up new work in Salem, NC; he served for 7 months in Salem before dying on January 15, 1812.
May 16	Johann Friedrich Peter was born in Heerendijk, Holland, on May 19, 1746.
May 23	David Moritz Michael wrote <i>Die Wasserfahrt</i> ("The Water Journey") for the Whitmonday celebration in Bethlehem on May 22, 1809. The work, for woodwind ensemble, features a few "programmatic" movements, including a depiction of a whirlpool in the river, and a calm chorale at the conclusion.
May 30	On June 1, 1731, the Herrnhut congregation received their first trombones, and used them to welcome guests to the <i>Singstunde</i> .
June 6	Thor M. Johnson was born on June 10, 1913, the son of a Moravian minister. He grew up to be the first American-trained conductor of a major symphony orchestra, and conducted the first eleven Moravian Music Festivals. He died in 1975.
June 13	On June 15, 1780, Johann Friedrich Peter arrived in Salem, NC, as record keeper and music director; he served there for 10 years, leaving on August 23, 1790.
June 20	John V. Sinclair conducted his first Moravian Music Festival June 19-26, 1999. The 2017 Festival will be his sixth as choral conductor.

July 27	The First Early American Moravian Music Festival and Seminar was held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, June 26-July 2, 1950. The 25 th Moravian Music Festival will be held 23-29 July 2017.
July 4	The "Psalm of Joy", organized by Peter and presented in lovefeast in Salem, NC, was part of earliest-known celebration of American independence.
July 11	On July 10, 1779, composer and missionary John Antes sent copies of six string quartets, with a letter, to Benjamin Franklin. Here we have an American-born missionary in Egypt sending copies of his quartets to an American diplomat in France, quartets which he had written for an English nobleman and his associates in India!
July 18	On July 13, 1813, Johann Friedrich Peter played for a children's service at 8:00 a.m., and went directly to the apothecary shop, saying that he did not feel well. Having said this, he was seized by a stroke and, as it appeared to an onlooker, he departed this life "gently and easily".
July 25	This isn't history yet, but it will be - the 25 th Moravian Music Festival will be in Winston-Salem, NC, July 23-29, 2017!
August 1	Henriette Luise von Hayn wrote "Weil ich Jesu Schäflein bin", known to American Moravians as "Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice", as a birthday gift for Single Sister Christine Petersen, August 1, 1772.
August 8	Now celebrating its fortieth anniversary year, tunitas Moramus Chorale presented its first concert at Montreat, North Carolina, on July 27, 1976, with Kay Phillips conducting.
August 15	1969 saw the publication of <i>Hymnal and Liturgies</i> (the "red hymnal"), which introduced such hymns as <i>Join We All with One Accord</i> to the American Moravian church
August 22	Coming in the summer of 2018: the 3 rd Unity Brass Festival to be held in Winston-Salem, NC
August 29	The Bethlehem Area Moravians Trombone Choir celebrated its 250 th anniversary in 2004 with an international trombone and brass festival.
September 5	In 1558, <i>Musica</i> , the first of the only two music textbooks known to have been written by Czech Protestants during the Renaissance and Reformation years, was published. It was written by Jan Blahoslav, one of the editors of the 1561 hymnal of the Unitas Fratrum.
September 12	On September 12, 1971, one of the opening concerts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., featured all Moravian music, including Latrobe's <i>Dawn of Glory</i> .
September 19	The <i>Collegium musicum</i> was begun in Herrnhut in 1731.
September 26	On September 29, 2001, the Archie K. Davis Center was dedicated as the new home of the Moravian Archives (Southern Province) and Moravian Music Foundation.
October 3	In the fall of 2007, <i>The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> by J. C. Bechler was published as the first in the Moravian Star Anthem Series!

October 10	The brand-new Unitas Chorale held its first rehearsal on October 20, 1996, with Jill Bruckart conducting.
October 17	Amelia Adelaide (“Miss Amy”) Van Vleck was born on October 18, 1835, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She would later teach at Salem Female Academy for some 60 years, and composed a great deal of beautiful piano music and songs.
October 24	On October 30, 1815, composer, pastor and evangelist Francis Florentine Hagen was born in Salem, NC. He later served in Staten Island and Pennsylvania.
October 31	In 1822, musicians from Bethlehem, PA, traveled to Philadelphia to assist the newly-established Musical Fund Society in its performance of Haydn’s <i>Creation</i> .
November 7	David Moritz Michael’s <i>Psalms 103</i> was performed for the first time on November 8, 1805, in Nazareth, PA, where he taught from 1795 to 1804 (in 1804 he became overseer of the Single Brothers’ Choir in Nazareth).
November 14	November 17, 1765, marks the earliest mention of <i>Collegium musicum</i> in Lititz, PA, under the direction of pastor Bernard Adam Grube.
November 21	Jeremias Dencke wrote a short anthem in 1766 for the Provincial Synod in Bethlehem – this is the earliest known Moravian concerted church music written in America.
November 28	Candles were first given to children at a worship service in Marienborn, Wetteravia (Germany) in 1747.
December 5	Francis Florentine Hagen wrote the music to <i>Morning Star</i> in 1836, to the 17 th -century text by Johann Scheffler, translated by the Rev. Martin Hauser. Hagen was currently teaching at the Salem Boys School.
December 12	Some time before 1795, John Antes “Three String Trios” were published in London, dedicated to the Swedish ambassador in Constantinople. They may have been written years earlier, perhaps even in the 1770’s while he was serving in Egypt.
December 19	The 1784 <i>Choralbuch</i> edited by Christian Gregor standardized the Moravian hymn tune repertoire, “fine-tuning” a numbering system developed by J. D. Grimm and eliminating tunes no longer in use. The majority of the harmonizations, and the tune numbering system, are still in use in the American Moravian church.
December 26	Christian David Jaeschke was born in Herrnhut on December 29, 1755, where he died in 1827 (the same year as Beethoven’s death). He served as organist and choirmaster in Herrnhut for 40 years, 1786 – 1826.