You know, not all the good church music was written by Moravians.

That might seem like an odd thing to say on Moravian Music Sunday – but it’s true! And some of the pieces we claim now as Moravian weren’t written by Moravians at all – for instance, the words to “Morning Star”! So we may be singing some music not by Moravians, but now part of our worship and our lives as Moravians.

Today, we thank God for the gift of music, no matter who wrote it! Music at its best is a heart-felt expression of the faith, love, and hope that we share as brothers and sisters in Christ. Music often touches our hearts, gently moving past the defenses we raise with the spoken word; singing and playing music together, we are joined in Christian unity and we grow in showing love for one another.

Both Old and New Testaments call us to sing our praises to God – the God who created us, who saves us, and who showers gifts and graces upon us. Through our singing we respond to this God in faith, in love, and in hope. Whether we’re singing old songs or new ones – whether we’re charming the angels with our song or can’t carry a tune in a bucket – we’re called to praise God with our voices. And as we sing and hear one another, we are called to praise God for God’s actions and for each other as companions in our life of faith. Don’t compare your singing with that of your neighbor – God listens to your heart, and your heart is known only to God and to yourself.

The Moravian Music Foundation honors the music of our ancestors, and cultivates the composition of new music and words to express our praise and adoration. Moravian composers are male and female, young and old, clergy and lay people, professionally trained and musical amateurs. Moravian music, no matter when or by whom it was created, is an expression of the faith we share, the relationship we have with our Lord Jesus Christ and with one another, in his service.

We are grateful that God gave us the gift of music, an audible form of comfort, celebration, and worship which connects us to our past, and binds us to one another, and to our God. Let us all praise the Savior with music, in thanksgiving for all God’s mercies.

On this day, set aside to acknowledge our Moravian musical heritage, we lift our hearts and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. We express our thanks to the musicians among us who create and arrange, who organize and direct, who nurture and teach, and who play and sing. And, especially, we give thanks to God for the cherished gift of music. May it be so!