# Celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Christian Gregor (*The Father of Moravian Music*)



On Moravian Music Sunday, we take the time to thank God for the gift of music, a heartfelt expression of the faith, love, and hope that we share as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Through our voices and instruments we express our praise to God in a way that engages our minds, our hearts, and our bodies—our whole being.

Today is a reminder that we are blessed to be the recipients of a musical tradition that dates back hundreds of years. Whether old or new,

every anthem, hymn, and band prelude speaks to the centuries of hardwork, dedication, and love of God on the part of countless musicians and composers that have built the

foundation of our musical heritage we stand upon today. This year we celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of Christian Gregor (1723–1801), the father of Moravian music. Born one year after the founding of Herrnhut in 1722, Gregor would go on to shape the sound of Moravian music, introducing the concerted anthem and helping develop liturgical practice. A glance at



the index in the back of the Book of Worship shows how his music and words are still very much a part of our living tradition today.

As we reflect on the work of Gregor, may we also remember that our music connects us to our past, binds us to one another and to our God in the present, and encourages us for the future.

### Moravian Music Foundation

Winston-Salem Office: 457 South Church Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101 336-725-0651 Bethlehem Office: 41 W. Locust Street Bethlehem, PA 18018 610-866-3340

www.moravianmusic.org

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#### The Moravian Music Foundation

Preserving, Sharing, and Celebrating Moravian Musical Culture

The Moravian Music Foundation (MMF) *preserves* one of the largest archives of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century music in America, caring for over 10,000 music manuscripts, early imprints, and primary source documents. MMF holdings also include 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> cent. music.

MMF *shares* Moravian musical culture through research, music publications, production of recordings, and educational outreach. MMF publishes anthems, newly edited or newly composed, in the Moravian Star Anthem Series. Sponsorships of anthems are a meaningful way to honor or memorialize a loved one. MMF maintains an active Facebook page and sends its quarterly *Newsletter* to nearly 3,000 individuals and institutions.

MMF *celebrates* with concerts, special worship services, Moravian Music Weekends, Moravian Music Festivals, and other events throughout the year.

The Moravian Music Foundation, founded in 1956, is *both* an independent, not-for-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation, *and* an interprovincial agency of the Moravian Church in America. MMF receives only a small fraction of its annual operating funds from the Moravian Church and is *dependent upon the generosity of individual Moravians and music-lovers to continue its work – please consider an investment in your Moravian musical heritage!* 

## MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION 2023 Annual Friends Fund

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The Moravian Music Foundation

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The Moravian Music Foundation