

Celebrating Hellström, Voullaire, and Moravian Romanticism: Treasures of 19th Century Moravian Music



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

Whether singing, playing, or listening, we are all recipients of and participants in a musical tradition that has been passed down through the centuries. Today we prayerfully consider this rich and vital legacy of music.

This year, we celebrate the 200th birthday of both Georg Friedrich Hellström (1825–1912) and Henri Marc Hermann Woldemar Voullaire (1825–1902). Both composers represent a period of Moravian music that is often overlooked in favor of the earlier “Golden Age” of 18th century Moravian music. For that reason, we are choosing today to remember the rich musical tradition of 19th century Moravians. Embracing the new musical techniques and ideas of the era (known today as “Romanticism”), these composers ushered in a new style of composition that was both rooted in tradition, while also emblematic of its time. The increased value placed on emotional expression resulted in a new form of musical worship. Equally important, this was also a period of adjustment for the larger Moravian Church, which was confronting a new world rapidly changing with advances in technology. This new reality was reflected in the novel musical aesthetic that Hellström, Voullaire, and other composers of the era championed.

As we celebrate this music, let us remember that the sounds that fill our churches today are a reminder of those that have come before us, but also a reflection of who we are today.

Moravian Music Foundation

Winston-Salem Office:
457 South Church Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336-725-0651

Bethlehem Office:
1021 Center 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 18th and 19th century music in America, caring for over 10,000 music manuscripts, early imprints, and primary source documents. MMF holdings also include items from the 16th to the 21st centuries.

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

2025 Friends Fund

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