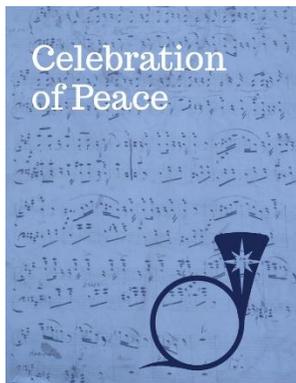


## The Psalm of Joy and the Celebration of Peace



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 in the United States we are marking the Semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Through all the ups and downs that this country has faced, the Moravians have been there. Back in 1783, with the Revolutionary War finally coming to an end, the Moravians in North Carolina received a letter from Governor Alexander Martin (ca. 1739–1807) proclaiming July 4th a day of celebration and thanksgiving. Unsurprisingly, the response by the Moravians was to turn to music. Out of this came a remarkable Lovefeast Ode by Johann Friedrich Peter (1746–1813) named the *Psalm of Joy*. Written to celebrate the end of the conflict, the Moravians, notably, did not revel in victory, but rather sought unity in the promise of peace. In this year of celebration, turmoil, joy, and anxiety, we choose to honor that legacy by searching for peace in whatever form it can be found. As Moravians have done for centuries, we choose to turn to God and our music. Whether it is on an international, national, local, or even personal level, we are all searching for and praying to find the peace that comes from God’s love and presence.

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.

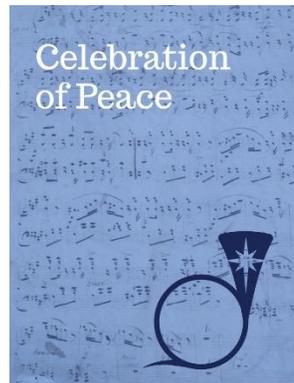
### Moravian Music Foundation

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

*Bethlehem Office:*  
1021 Center Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
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[www.moravianmusic.org](http://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. While MMF’s holdings include items from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, MMF encourages the composition of new vocal and instrumental music for worship.

MMF *shares* Moravian musical culture through research, music publications, production of recordings, classes, talks, tours, and other educational outreach. MMF publishes both newly edited anthems and newly composed anthems in the Moravian Star Anthem Series. MMF maintains an active social media presence and communicates directly through E-News.

MMF *celebrates* with concerts, special worship services and Singstunden, BandFest, 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!

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