

Moravian Music Sunday 2019

Theme: Christ Makes All Things New

Music Suggestions

This year we are suggesting a variety of anthems for you to consider for Moravian Music Sunday. For any of these that you choose to use, feel free to print the information about them in your bulletin or newsletter;

You're very welcome to print any of the information below in your bulletin or newsletter where you describe what you're doing for Moravian Music Sunday! Knowing something about the piece's composition can be enlightening to your congregation and inspire them to pay closer attention to both text and music. Your choir members in particular will appreciate learning more about the composers and the music they're singing.

Brian Henkelmann, *Sing to the Lord* – SA chorus, flute and piano or organ. (Moravian Star Anthem Series)

This new anthem for women's voices could also be done with two-part mixed voices. The soprano part divides towards the end, with the upper part either a solo or sung by a few voices. The rhythmic energy makes the piece exciting to hear; it will be well worth the little extra rehearsal time needed for the choir to navigate the meter changes. (Hint: Teach these by having the choir speak the words in rhythm before you have them try to sing it. Introduce the accompaniment as they continue to rehearse by speaking the words in rhythm. Only after the rhythms are second nature should you have them try to sing.)

Brian Henkelmann (b. 1956) received his Bachelor of Arts in music through Moravian College, his Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Moravian Theological Seminary, and his Master of Church Music from Concordia University (Chicago). While in Bethlehem, he served as church musician for several congregations. He has been an Artist/Lecturer at Moravian College and accompanist for many projects at Muhlenberg College. He currently serves as Organist/Accompanist at First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He is active as a composer, piano teacher, and free-lance accompanist. His published pieces include choral and instrumental works with publishers GIA, Concordia Publishing House, and Northwestern Publishing House, and the Moravian Music Foundation. *Sing to the Lord* was commissioned and dedicated to the Rev. Dr. M. Lynnette Delbridge by the Congregation and friends of Castleton Hill Moravian Church, Staten Island, New York, on the occasion of her 30th Anniversary of Ordained Ministry.

Margaret Kolb, *Join We All with One Accord* – two-part chorus with piano or organ. (Moravian Star Anthem Series)

This anthem setting of the beloved Moravian hymn is creative and enjoyable, accessible to choirs of all ages, and also effective with a unison choir with an instrument playing the other vocal part. Your children's choir can learn this!

Margaret Leinbach Kolb (1923-2017) was educated at Salem College and received her Masters in Music from Columbia University, with additional study at the Philadelphia Conservatory and the Juilliard School of Music. She taught piano at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Margaret was an accompanist to many musical groups and artists including over 30 years with the Winston-Salem Symphony. In addition, she has served the Winston-Salem community as a board and committee member of Piedmont Opera Theatre, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Associates, Winston-Salem Symphony Guild, and Friends of the Salem College School of Music. She was one of three music editors for the 1969 *Hymnal and Liturgies of the Moravian Church*, and was a trustee of the Moravian Music Foundation from 1969-1988 and 1992-1999, where she served as President, Vice President, and member of the Executive Committee. The hymn *Join We All With One Accord* was first brought to the American Moravian congregations with the 1969 hymnal, and this setting was written to help introduce this hymn.

Christian Gregor, *This Is a Day* – SSAB chorus with piano or organ. (Moravian Star Anthem Series; parts for strings available, or the organ part is also available in a lower key)

Psalm 118:24 exhorts us to rejoice in the (new) day that the Lord has made. This is the first anthem in the *Psalm of Joy* compiled by Johann Friedrich Peter for the celebration on July 4, 1783, marking the end of the American Revolutionary War. While the psalm text (Psalm 118:24) says, “This is *the* day...”, and copies of this anthem in some of the other Moravian music collections use that text, this copy clearly indicates “This is *a* day...” The publication of this anthem was sponsored by the Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc., in celebration of the 275th Anniversary of the Moravian Congregation of Bethlehem, organized on June 25, 1742. This anthem was performed by a mass choir comprised of Bethlehem Moravians for the Anniversary Lovefeast on June 25, 2017 in Johnston Hall of Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Christian Gregor (1723-1801) has been called the “father of Moravian music.” He was born in Silesia and joined the Moravian Church when he was seventeen. He served the church as organist, minister, and church administrator, visiting Pennsylvania and North Carolina in 1770-1772. He was consecrated a bishop in 1789. Gregor was instrumental in Moravian liturgical development and introduced the use of concerted anthems and arias into the services. In addition to editing the hymnal of 1778 and the chorale book of 1784, he composed several hundred other musical works. He died in Berthelsdorf, near Herrnhut, on November 6, 1801. *This Is a Day* was edited from manuscript copies in the Salem Congregation music.

Johann Friedrich Peter, *Those Who Sow with Weeping* – SSAB chorus with piano or organ. (Moravian Star Anthem Series; parts for strings available, or the organ part is also available in a lower key)

The text, from Psalm 126:5-6, reminds us that God brings new joy from times of mourning; that a joyful harvest follows sowing in tears. This anthem has some of the most moving harmonies in the Moravian choral repertoire. *Those Who Sow With Weeping* was edited from the multiple manuscript parts in the Bethlehem and Salem Congregation Collections and a score in the Johannes Herbst collection. The publication of this anthem was made possible by Dr. John V. Sinclair, who wishes with this sponsorship to honor all his Moravian friends.

Johann Friedrich Peter (1746-1813) was born in Heerendijk, Holland, to German Moravian parents. He was educated in Holland and Germany, and, with his brother Simon, came to America in 1770. Peter appears to have begun composing very shortly after his arrival in the new world. He served the Pennsylvania Moravians in Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Lititz, and was sent to Salem, NC, in 1780. There, among other duties, he assumed the position of music director for the community. Under Peter’s energetic and capable leadership a musical tradition was established in Salem which benefited the community long after his departure in 1790. He afterwards served Moravians in Graceham, MD; Hope, NJ; and Bethlehem, PA. J. F. Peter’s many works have earned him the reputation of being the most gifted of Moravian composers in America. His six string quintets, written in Salem and dated 1789, are the earliest known chamber music written in this country. He died in Bethlehem on July 13, 1813, almost literally at the organ bench, shortly after playing for a children’s service.