

The Moravian Music Foundation

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Music Suggestions for Moravian Music Sunday 2022

Organ Music

The Moravian Music Foundation has published a significant body of music for organ or piano based on Moravian tunes. We encourage you to consider these for Moravian Music Sunday! For specific contents of collections, please visit the website:

<https://moravianmusic.org/product-category/sheet-music/organ-sheet-music/>.

A Moravian Celebration for organ, by Wade Peeples (2003): This large three-movement work can be presented as a single work; or any of the movements can be played separately; or the first two movements have individual sections which may be excerpted quite effectively. The second movement in particular is a set of variations on *Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice*, some of which can be played on manuals only or piano.

Eight Organ Preludes, volumes 1-4, by Francis Florentine Hagen (of *Morning Star* fame). Each of the four volumes contains eight works in a later-nineteenth-century style - quite different from most of the music we think of as "Moravian"! Many are based not on Moravian tunes but on tunes familiar to the ecumenical world.

Moravian Medley for organ, by Rebecca Lepore. A dramatic, and engaging, work which includes settings of several well-known and beloved Moravian tunes.

Moravian Sketches for organ, Volumes 1 and 2, by Brian Henkelmann. While these volumes have seasonal emphases (volume 1: Advent and Christmas; volume 2: Lent and Easter), many of the tunes are used not only in those specific seasons but throughout the year. These are quite accessible, and some are playable on manuals only or piano.

Organ Preludes for the Church Year, volume 1: General, Advent, Christmas, by various composers. Moderate difficulty.

Prelude on "Covenant", by Wayne Wold. This setting of the familiar Moravian tune is more challenging and very rewarding to the organist and the congregation.

Three Moravian Hymns for Piano, by Stewart McElroy: lovely piano settings of tunes HERRNHUT, COVENANT, and WORSHIP.

Three Settings on "Covenant", by Stewart McElroy: three contrasting organ settings of the same tune.

Five Organ Preludes by Lawrence Hartzell: scheduled for publication in early 2022.
Contact our office for a pre-publication examination copy. 336-725-0651

Choral Anthems Published in the Moravian Star Anthem Series

All of the choral anthems suggested were written by composers with strong connections to **Herrnhut**. Feel free to include the biographical information in your bulletin or newsletter!

Lamb of God, by Ernst Immanuel Erbe: This SATB work is based on John 1:29, where John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The four voices move independently for much of this lovely piece.

Ernst Immanuel Erbe (1854-1927) was born in Bern, Switzerland, where his father was a Moravian minister. He was educated in Herrnhut, was a regular church organist when he was fourteen, and was such an accomplished musician that at age seventeen his entry in a musical contest was returned because the judges thought it must have been written by a teacher. He came to America when he was thirty-five and spent most of the rest of his life in St. Louis, serving as organist in several congregations of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and supplementing his income by working as a bookkeeper. His works include organ and piano pieces, string quartets, solos for men, a cantata, and numerous anthems.

Make a Joyful Noise, also by Erbe, is a jubilant setting of Psalm 100 – always appropriate for Moravian Music Sunday! This work is in several sections and is one of the more challenging pieces among these suggestions – but it rewards the work needed to prepare it.

Lift Your Heart, Be Joyful, by Christian Gregor, is set for SSAB voices (but may be presented in unison or with whatever voicing you have available).

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 and minister and held important positions as a church administrator, visiting Pennsylvania and North Carolina in that capacity 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 – over 1100 manuscripts of Gregor's music are preserved in the American collections. He died in Berthelsdorf, near Herrnhut, on November 6, 1801.

This Is a Day, also by Gregor, reminds us that the Lord has made the day and calls us to rejoice in it. It is set for SSAB voices and is accessible and enjoyable for both choir and congregation.

There Is Salvation in Christ Alone, by Johannes Herbst, is a lovely setting of Acts 4:12, reminding us that where there is salvation, there is Christ. It is written for SATB choir, and the voices are paired so that all four parts are really needed to carry this anthem effectively.

Johannes Herbst (1735-1812) was born at Kempten, Swabia, and joined the Moravian Church in 1748. He first served the church as bookkeeper and teacher, and especially as an organist, before coming to America in 1785 to be a pastor in Lancaster and Lititz, Pennsylvania. In his spare time he was a prolific composer, producing over 100 anthems and 200 sacred songs. He was also an avid copier of other composers' music, and his personal collection of over 1000 anthems and many larger works is a source of incalculable value for the study of Moravian music. He was consecrated a bishop in Lititz on May 12, 1811, two days before leaving to take up new work in Salem, North Carolina. He brought his precious music collection with him, but served only a few months before his death there on January 15, 1812. He is buried in God's Acre in Salem.

For God So Loved the World, also by Herbst, is his beautiful setting of John 3:16. It is set for SSAB choir, but can be sung in unison (all the harmonies are in the keyboard part) or with whatever voice parts you have.

Praise the Lord, All His Hosts, also by Herbst, is set for double choir: SATB and SSAB. This joyful anthem was written for the consecration of the sanctuary at Lititz Moravian Church in 1787. It can be sung by two equal choirs, or one choir with a quartet singing the other parts. Enjoy this jubilant work!

The Lord Be Mindful of You, by Christian David Jaeschke, is an anthem of benediction. For SSAB chorus, all of the harmonies are included in the accompaniment so that it can be sung with fewer than the four parts.

Christian David Jaeschke (1755-1827) came from one of the early Czech immigrant families who renewed the old *Unitas Fratrum* under the patronage of Count Zinzendorf. He was born in Herrnhut. He served as a teacher and organist at Ebersdorf and later as copyist of the *Gemein-Nachrichten* in Barby. He served as organist and choirmaster at Herrnhut for forty years, from 1786 to 1826, composing many anthems and vocal solos. C. F. Hasse, writing in 1829, calls him a "musical Genius" and laments that his works had not become more widely known. Jaeschke died in Herrnhut in 1827 after an illness of a year and a half.

O Be Faithful Unto Death, by Heinrich Lonas, is a meditative and lovely setting of Revelation 2:10. Written for SATB voices, the anthem requires all four parts as the voices move independently.

Heinrich Lonas (1838-1903) was born in Herrnhut and studied music there and in nearby Zittau. He became organist in Herrnhut in 1856, but in 1870 went to Berlin as Moravian Church organist and instructor in the Schmidt Conservatory. In 1873 he became organist in Neuwied, a position he held for almost thirty years. In addition to a number of choral anthems, he produced a chorale book for use in Germany. He died on March 30, 1903.

Anthem Possibilities from *Sing to the Lord a New Song: A New Moravian Songbook*

These are songs and hymns written by living American Moravian composers/authors. While there is not an historical connection to Herrnhut, they do relate to the scripture passages of the day, to singing and worship in general, and they reflect Moravian theology – an outgrowth of the Renewed Moravian Church’s origins and development in **Herrnhut**.

Use an instrumental quartet or full band to play a verse as an introduction, or an interlude between verses; for many of these songs, the second half of the music would make a most effective interlude. If you need help transposing parts for your group, contact our office!

30, *Lord, Son of God*

A response to the call to follow Christ. Text author Dirk French is Professor Emeritus of Classics at Davidson College in North Carolina, and the author of a great many hymn texts and composer of anthems.

40, *Sing for Joy!*

Based on the tune we know for *Morning Star*, this hymn encourages us all to sing, no matter our circumstances. The youth and children would have a wonderful time with this!

From text author, the Rev. Christine S. Johnson: “When I set out to write a hymn appropriate for Moravian Music Sunday, I wanted to base it on a tune that was uniquely Moravian, favored and familiar, but not overused. It struck me that ‘Morning Star’ is well-known to most Moravians, but it is usually sung just once a year. I thought it might be the ideal melody, and yet I was hesitant to use it because it is so closely associated with Christmas Eve and candlelight. To differentiate it from the beloved Christmas hymn, I chose to have it sung straight through rather than antiphonally.”

45, *Walk With Me Each Day, Savior*

A prayer for the journey, which would be very effective leading into the prayers for the church and the world.

From text author Susan Cox Starbuck: “My intent was to write something only for myself. It was meant to be a private, personal and heartfelt prayer for me to pray in times when I felt discouraged and doubtful, when I needed guidance or when I felt that I had failed God. The text flowed out of me when I sat down to write ... it was completed on that afternoon. I feel strongly that this text was inspired by the Holy Spirit.”

46, *Journey*

A jubilant celebration of the journey, recalling Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness, Esther, Solomon, Paul, and our role as today’s disciples. Choose whichever verses you want for the occasion!

From text author the Rev. Rick Beck: “I began attending Moravian Church camp in 1974 as a staff person. I was studying music in university at the time and longed to write a camp song, but everything I wrote ended up sounding like a ballad. Then in 2010, as Director of the Jr. High camp at Van Es Camp and Conference Center (Canadian District), I was inspired to write a song that accompanied the theme of camp that year. The program leaders told me what their daily themes would be and that became the basis for the verses of the song. As the campers became more familiar with the song they began adding their own parts and actions.”

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