

Selections for Concert

* not necessarily in order, subject to change

Please hold applause until the end – thank you!

“Ode to Joy” Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

As a teenager, Beethoven became entranced by a poem written by Enlightenment poet Friedrich Schiller, entitled “Ode to Joy”, and dreamed of setting it to music. Many years later, performed for the first time in May 1824, “Ode to Joy” would become the crowning achievement of his crowning achievement — the choral finale of his ninth and final symphony. He was completely deaf when he wrote it. “Ode to Joy” was adopted as the anthem of Europe by the European Union.

“The Old Rugged Cross” George Bennard (1873-1958)

The most popular of approximately 300 hymns written by Bennard, who worked as a teenager mining coal in Ohio to support his family when his father died. Later he was an itinerant Methodist preacher and worked with the Salvation Army. The first church service that our organist today, Beverly Holt, played for was on Ash Wednesday at First Lutheran Church in Joliet. She had just turned 13 and this was the prelude she played for the service so it holds a special place in her heart.

Choral and Priere a Notre-Dame from *Suite Gothique* Op.25

Léon Boëllman (1862-1897)

Composed in 1895 for the consecration of the Ghys organ at The Church of Notre-Dame in Dijon, France.

***Rigaudon* André Campra (1660-1744)**

From the tragic opera *Idoménée* first performed in Paris in 1712. Campra was a leading French opera composer of his time, and also wrote religious music. He served as the music director at the cathedrals of Arles and Toulouse, then at Notre Dame de Paris for six years.

“Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

Tune: **MORECAMBE** by Frederick Atkinson (1841-1897) English organist and composer.

The words of this sung prayer, a masterpiece of Christian devotional poetry, were written by George Croly, an Anglican minister born in Dublin, Ireland, who in 1835 was challenged to reopen a church that had been closed for over a century in one of the worst slum areas in London. He prepared a hymnal for his congregation in 1854 and this is the only hymn written by him to have survived.

Trumpet Voluntary (The Prince of Denmark’s March)

Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707)

An English Baroque keyboard piece written around 1700 by Clarke and misattributed to Henry Purcell for many years after it was published under his name. It remains a very popular selection for formal ceremonies, royal events and weddings.

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" Will L. Thompson (1847-1909)

This hymn was written around 1880 by American composer and song-writer Thompson, as an invitation hymn, inspired by the parable of the prodigal son. Thompson famously loaded a piano onto a wagon and traveled through the Ohio countryside to sing his compositions for small rural communities.

***Allegro Maestoso (Hornpipe) from Water Music –* George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)**

One of Handel's most famous compositions, the *Water Music* is a collection of orchestral movements that premiered in July 1717 in response to King George I's request for a concert on the River Thames. The orchestra, with 50 members on a barge in the river that sailed from London to Chelsea and back, played from 8pm until well after midnight, as the king was so pleased with the music that he ordered it to be repeated at least three times. Händel was educated for two years at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

***Chanson (Chant)* Gordon Young (1919 - 1998)**

Young was a famous American organist and composer who wrote over 800 published organ and choral works. He served as music director at the First Presbyterian Church in Detroit, Michigan.

***Toccata in D minor* Gordon Balch Nevin (1892-1943)**

Nevin was an American composer and church organist from a musical family in Pennsylvania. He also published books on organ technique.

At the conclusion, we ask everyone to join in singing the first and last verses of "How Great Thou Art" #856 in the hymnal

"How Great Thou Art" Carl Boberg (1859 – 1940)

This beloved Christian hymn originated as a Swedish poem written by poet, preacher, government official and member of parliament Carl Boberg in 1885 before being translated into English and popularized worldwide. He wrote the original nine-stanza poem, "*O Store Gud*," after being caught in a sudden, violent midday thunderstorm in Sweden that was followed by calm skies, sunshine, and birds singing. The poem became matched to an old Swedish folk tune and sung in public for the first-known occasion in a church in the Swedish province of Värmland in 1888. British missionary Stuart K. Hine translated and adapted the hymn into English in the late 1940s, adding verses about salvation and Calvary. The hymn gained massive popularity during the Billy Graham crusades in the 1950s and was ranked second (after "Amazing Grace") on a list of the favorite hymns of all time in a survey by *Christianity Today* magazine in 2001 and in a nationwide poll by Songs Of Praise in 2019.

Purchase of the organ was made possible by a gift to the congregation from the Eisenbrandt Family Foundation.

The Eisenbrandt Family Foundation was inspired by lifelong Plainfield farmer and philanthropist William "Bill" Eisenbrandt, who passed away in 2018 at the age of 93. Bill was a faithful member of Plattville Lutheran for many years. Anyone who knew him here can agree that his obituary described him perfectly: "He was always a good person, very humble and a real quiet man." We give thanks for Bill's faithful life and good stewardship and the Foundation's ongoing support of the congregation.

Our organist today, Beverly Holt, was baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran Church in Joliet, became their organist at the age of 13 and has since played in many churches of all denominations in the Joliet and Chicagoland area, and has been an accompanist, teacher and mentor for many high schools, colleges, and universities. She continues her position of nearly 30 years as staff accompanist/adjunct faculty at Moraine Valley Community College. She is also a talented theatre organist and has performed locally at the Rialto in Joliet, nationally including the Kennedy Center, the Lincoln Center, and internationally in Belgium, and in England for King Charles and Camilla. She lives with her husband, Jim, in Shorewood and has two children and three grandchildren.

Our Allen GX-236e organ was installed by:

Peacock Music Company, LLC, based in Monticello, Indiana
and servicing the greater Chicagoland area and northwest Indiana.

Owned by Ryan Crawford, who began servicing and installing Allen Organs in 2006.

Special thanks to Plattville Lutheran Church Council member Mark Bols,
who spent many hours researching, soliciting bids, and arranging for installation.