

2017 September-December 24th Chancel Choir Anthems

September:

September 17th: There is an everlasting Kindness Getty/Townend and Larson

This gentle anthem is known as "The Compassion Hymn".

Providing inspiration and hope, this song speaks to all of the love and compassion God has for His children. Regardless of where we are, God offers boundless love and fathomless grace.

September 24th: Come Down, O love Divine Bianco da Siena (1367) Music by Mark Hill

Ann Buchholtz Violin

This expressive music and beautiful text is intensely personal and intensely passionate. The incipit (first line) invokes the Holy Spirit to "seek thou this soul of mine and visit it with thine own ardor glowing." Classic images of Pentecost appear throughout the hymn.

October:

October 1st: Above All Else Joel Raney

This SATB Anthem offers deep passion, as we sing of a Lord who calls us and makes us his own. We ask the Lord starting with a crescendo of our voices then moving gently to the end to "Above all else, bind us in love".

October 8th: Love Shall Overcome Carlos Colon

Linda Muldoon Flute, John Willim Guitar

Written to Commemorate the Martyrdom of six Jesuit priest and two women on the campus of Universidad Centro Americana (UCA) in El Salvador in 1989.

This SATB piece sung with reverence includes parts for Woodwinds, Guitar, and Opt String Quintet.

Inspire from Romans 12:21: 'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'

October 15th: Think on These Things Mark Patterson

An eloquent and beautiful duet between a solo Cello and SAB Choir.

This gentle and reflective song asks us to think on what is really significant, just, pure and good. Living and rejoicing together in these things brings us closer to God and to a place of peace.

October 22th: The Image of God Craig Courtney

Simple and sincere with violin solo, this SATB anthem touches the core of our spiritual humanity.

Written for Brock McCauley and all Gods disabled children. Brock, a beautiful six year old boy with Down syndrome reminds us that we all bear the Image of God.

Psalms 139 – We are created in God's image uniquely gifted for his own plan and purpose.

October 29th Without Love Kevin Riehle

A stunningly beautiful rendition of 1 Corinthians sung a Capella in SSAATTBB format. Sensitive and moving, these lovely phrases of music speak of Patience, Hope and Love.

November:

November 1st: Brahms Requiem: Wednesday at 7pm

This timeless and expressive work by Johannes Brahms is set with Organ, Instruments and SATB Chorus. It also includes Baritone and Soprano solos, along with the beautiful and well known movement "How Lovely Is Thy dwelling place".

This spiritually moving work is dedicate to healing as we remember those who have passed on before us.

November 5th: How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place**Brahms**

One of Brahms most Beloved and beautiful movements (IV) in his Requiem.

Clara Schumann expressed her deep feeling in a letter to Brahms at Christmas in 1867. Here She wrote: "It is a truly tremendous piece of art which moves the entire being in a way little else does."

November 12th: What Does the Lord Require of you**Robert Hobby**

This gentle and inspiration anthem beautifully translates a verse from Micah 6:8

It is one of the most popular verses among both Jews and Christians promoting social justice. It reads, "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

November 19th: Before You I Kneel**Getty/Townend and McDonald**

Also known as "A Workers Prayer" Arranger Mary McDonald builds on Bach's timeless melody, "Wachet Auf,"

An energetic and freely sung piece, before You I Kneel is a hymn for the working day, a prayer for each task we are given. The spark for the song came from Getty's friend Jeff Barneson, who introduced him to a special service called "The Holy Ordination to Daily Work" that Intervarsity conducts annually at Harvard University.

November 23rd (Thanksgiving): God whose giving knows no ending**R. Edwards
Z. Highben**

Includes Organ, Handbells and SATB Choir

This beautiful text starts as a simple unison melody moving gently to multi parts, including a lovely Soprano descant. Listen carefully and you will recognize a very well known Thanksgiving hymn woven into the Anthem's melody.

November 26th: To the Lamb on the Throne**Dan Forrest**

Includes SATB Choir, Organ (or piano) and optional Brass Quintet and Timpani.

Majestic, triumphant setting of Charles Wesley's (1744) text "Ye Servants of God", interwoven with choral acclamations of "Worthy the Lamb!" The song of praise rises from all quarters, and from all forms of creation. The whole universe, animate and inanimate, joins in this glad acclaim.

December:**December 2nd: Thou Shalt Know Him****Mark Sirett**

This Anthem was written for the Cathedral Church of St. George, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

This quietly starts with the sopranos, building with all parts as we realize that we will know him through the spiritual harmonies within the depths of our soul.

December 10th: People Look East**William M. Schoenfeld**

This well-known Advent Anthem is based on Besancon traditional French Carol of the coming of our Lord. Included in this lively work of great expectations are Handbells to create joyful sounds of the season.

December 10th: **CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 4PM**

Gloria Fanfare

Jeffery Ames

This glorious work was the choral opener for the 2009 Christmas at Belmont national PBS Broadcast.

Showcasing 6 part harmonies within the choir, it also includes brass and percussion. This exuberant proclamation of "Glory to God in the Highest" is filled with excitement and joy as it celebrates the birth of Christ.

December 17th:

Verbum caro factum est

Z. Randell Stroop

*Commissioned by St. Olaf Lutheran Church- Ft Dodge Iowa
In honor of organist Lavon Wings 60 years of service*

A lovely a cappella Chant for SATB includes a Soprano solo Sung in Latin, The word (Jesus) becomes flesh full of grace and glory. Those who walk in darkness and in Death's Shadow have seen a light shining. We sing-Alleluia.

E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Ruth and Paul Manz

This beautiful and well-loved adagio motet written for SATB, includes verses from the Book of Revelation, much of which is drawn from chapter 22.

Paul and Ruth Manz wrote "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" in 1953 during a time when their three-year-old son was critically ill. Ruth Manz reported, "We'd reached the point where time was running out, so we committed it to the Lord and asked, 'Lord Jesus quickly come'" While at his son's bedside, Paul Manz began drafting the composition, which later became the current piece. Their son did recover, to which the couple owed to prayer.

December 24th:

Unto Us a Son Is Born

Trever Manor

Translated from Puer Nobis Nascitur, found in Pia Cantiones, a 14th Century collection of medieval carols. This SATB includes solo flute, along with Brass and Percussion.

Most will recognize this cheerful and celebratory Anthem adapted for the Alexandria Presbyterian Church 2015 Christmas Candlelight Service. "Welcome Noble Guest"!

December 24th:

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Z. Randell Stroop

This 6-part (SSATBB) A cappella Anthem is Adapted from "Frohlich soll mein Herze springen (Paul Gerhardt 1607-1676)

A light and playful concertato that includes an option for flute. The wonderful Paul Gerhardt text and traditional tune WARUM SOLLTICH are masterfully set here in a way that breathes new life into the singing of this great hymn.

Be uplifted with this heartfelt Anthem rejoicing as we hear the Angels in the air and everywhere praising our Lord with sweet voices-"Gloria! Dwell in the house of love forever."