ABRAHAM

AN ORATORIO FOR WORSHIP

OCTOBER 29, 2022



MUSIC BY

JOSH BAUDER

PERFORMED BY

DEO CANTAMUS OF MINNESOTA AL HAWKINS, DIRECTOR

CONDUCTOR

In August of 2003 the very first Deo Cantamus event was presented – a benefit concert for the still unrealized Metro Women's Center Amazing Grace maternity home. It's been almost twenty years of ministry and music-making, and I've had opportunity to work with some amazing people. God has been good and we have been richly blessed.

Chief among those relationships has been Josh Bauder. From *Psalm 149* to *God Be In My Head*, to the *Grace Alone* CD, to *The Five Solas of the Reformation*, and most recently the professional recording of *Songs For the Unborn* and *Tyndale: a Reformation Oratorio*, it's been a blessing and a privilege to watch him grow, mature, and prosper. He has been a gift to many, and his unwavering commitment to honoring Christ with his talents is beyond commendable.

I can still recall the beginnings of *Abraham: an Oratorio for Worship* in the spring and summer of 2014. If memory serves, I think Josh survived on about three to four hours of sleep each night while he worked tirelessly to complete the work before our first rehearsals. What he accomplished as a young composer was nothing short of amazing. It was a joy to perform the premiere and eventually record that work, but it's been equally exciting to prepare this repeat performance that includes several revisions and updates.

Thank you so much for coming, and we trust you will find the event to be enjoyable and edifying. Our God is on the throne, He is faithful, and the story of Abraham is a precious reminder of those truths during these tumultuous times.

Al Hawkins, conductor

The story of Abraham pierces through two layers of God's dealing with His people. On the first, local layer, it establishes Abraham as the father of the Jewish nation—a privileged people to whom is given the Law, the mark of circumcision, and the responsibility to reveal God to the nations. On the

A WORD FROM THE COMPOSER

deeper layer, however, the story of Abraham advances God's project of redemption begun in Genesis 3. The story reveals that it will be Abraham's seed who crushes the serpent's head, thus rescuing not only Israel but the whole world from "sin and Satan and the grave." The miraculous birth and near-sacrifice of the local seed, Isaac, hints at the life and death of the future Seed, Jesus. And Abraham's justification by faith, interpreted splendidly by the Apostle Paul, is a cornerstone of biblical soteriology.

In adapting Abraham's story into an oratorio, I have tried to connect the local and deep layers. First, I have occasionally given the local characters words spoken by their deep counterparts; Isaac, for instance, has lines from Jesus and John the Baptist, and Sarah sings Mary's Magnificat. Second, I have included, at key structural points, Christian hymns that serve as bridges between Old and New Testaments. Third, I have written several verses of new text to reinforce the plot and comment on its significance. Fourth, I have used the narration to give voice to the Apostle Paul (the "Hebrew of Hebrews"), whose epistles have a great deal to say about Abraham and the life of faith. My hope is that this oratorio will prompt reflection on God's long-unfolding plan for human redemption; that the themes of trust, sacrifice, and deliverance will encourage Christian faith and obedience; and that believers will remember that they too are a chosen people, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation called out of the world to receive a Promised Land.

Joshua Bauder, composer

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LIBRETTO

taken from Holy Scripture and Christian hymnody, with additional lyrics by Josh Bauder

From Generation to Generation

Chorus: The God of Abram praise.

Sarah and Abram:

Tho' the tree bears no fruit
Tho' no grapes grow on the vine,
Tho' no harvest takes root,
And no water turns to wine,
Still I rejoice in God my Savior.

2 The Vale of Siddim

Chorus: Behold, the wicked man conceives evil, and is pregnant with mischief, and gives birth to lies. He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole that he has made. His mischief returns upon his own head, and on his own skull his violence descends.

Melchizedek: Blest be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High who has delivered your enemies into your hand!

Chorus: Alleluia, amen. Blessed be Abram by God Most High.

3 Go from Your Country

God: Abram, go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Abram: "A great nation." O Lord God,

Tho' the tree bears no fruit Tho' no grapes grow on the vine, Tho' no harvest takes root, And no water turns to wine,

Tho' no children are born
To the man who fears Your name,
By Yourself You have sworn
To bring nations from the same.

Behold, behold, you have given me no offspring.

God: Lift up your eyes. Look toward heaven, and number the stars. So shall your offspring be. Abram, go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Abram: But O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?

God: I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur to give you this land to possess.

Abram and chorus: Still I rejoice in God my Savior.

God: I give this land to you.

4 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Abram:

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah Pilgrim thro' this barren land. I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand.

Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven, Feed me till I want no more.

Sarah:

Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.

Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

Chorus:

Lord, I trust Thy mighty power, Wondrous are Thy works of old; Thou deliver'st Thine from slav'ry, Who for naught themselves had sold:

Thou wilt conquer, Thou wilt conquer, Sin and Satan and the grave.

Abram:

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside; Death of deaths, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.

(William Williams, 1745)

God: Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.

5 The Promised Land

Here the instruments and chorus present the theme for the Promised Land.

6 Go in to My Servant

Sarah: Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.

7 She Shall Become Nations

God: Abram, I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly. Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. And I will establish my covenant between me and you for an everlasting covenant. As for Sarah your wife, I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.

8 Shall a Child Be Born?

Abraham: Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child? Oh that Ishmael might live before you!

God: No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac

Abraham: But Sarah my wife shall bear me a son, and we shall call his name Isaac. Oh that Isaac might live before you!

Sarah (laughing):

Shall I now bear a child,
Now that I am old, so very old?
Shall I now bear a son at ninety-one?
And so I smiled at the notion of a child
When it's clear my days are done.
My days are done, mother of none.

God: Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the LORD?

Abraham:

Why did Sarah laugh?

Sarah:

I did not laugh.

Chorus: Shall a child be born to man who is a hundred years old?

Sarah:

Shall I now bear a child,
Even tho' I'm old, so very old?
Shall I now bear a son at ninety-one?
It makes me smile that the LORD would send a child
When I thought my days were done.
My time has come: mother of one.

Abraham:

When the tree brings forth fruit, And the grapes grow on the vine, When the harvest takes root, And the water turns to wine,

Abraham and Sarah: Then I rejoice in God my Savior. Still I rejoice.

9 Laughter for Me

Sarah and chorus: God has made laughter for me, everyone who hears will laugh over me. Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children?

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

10 Give Them the Promised Land

Sarah: O, my lord! For his child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition.

Give him no kingdom, crown or throne Unless that kingdom is Your own; Give him Your Spirit's pow'r instead, Power to crush the serpent's head. Give him the Promised Land, Give him the Promised Land.

Hagar: O, my lord! For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition.

Give him a mighty, tireless arm, Give him a shield from foe and harm, Give him a bow of burnished yew, Give him a thousand arrows true. Give him the Promised Land, Give him the Promised Land.

Abraham:

Lord, for my sons I humbly pray: Teach them to love and to obey; Make them courageous, strong and wise, Lift up a light before their eyes. Give them the Promised Land, Give them the Promised Land.

Chorus:

He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend, I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to Heav'n ascend. I shall behold His face; I shall His pow'r adore, And sing the wonders of His grace forevermore.

(Thomas Olivers, 1770)

Amen.

INTERMISSION

11 Hagar Exiled

Sarah: Cast out the slave girl with her son, for Ishmael, the son of this slave, shall not be heir with Isaac my son.

Hagar:

Why do You hide in times of trouble? Where is Your steadfast love of old? I am gone like a shadow at evening. O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger; I'm traveling through this world of woe, Yet there's no sickness, toil or danger In that bright land to which I go. I'm going there to see my father, I'm going there no more to roam; I'm just a-going over Jordan, I'm just a-going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather round me, I know my way is rough and steep; Yet golden fields lie just before me Where God's redeemed shall ever sleep. I'm going there to see my father—He said he'd meet me when I come—I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

(Anonymous spiritual)

12 My Son, My Only Son

God: Abraham.

Abraham: Here I am.

God: Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and there, on one of the mountains, offer him as a burnt offering.

Chorus (spoken):

God has renounced the covenant.

He has no understanding.

The Lord has become like an enemy.

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!

Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice?

Let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.

He has cast off and rejected you.

He is full of wrath against his anointed.

There is no God.

Abraham (spoken):

Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may. Why should I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in my hand? Is there injustice on God's part?

The wicked live, reach old age, and grow mighty in power. Their children are established in their presence, and their offspring before their eyes. They send forth their little boys like a flock, and their children dance. They sing to the timbrel and harp and rejoice to the sound of the flute. In peace they go down to Sheol.

Shall the tree be cut down?
Shall the promise be undone?
Shall I yield up the crown
And let darkness hide the sun?

Chorus: Still I rejoice in God my Savior.

Abraham: My only son.

There is hope for a tree, when it is cut down, that it will bud again, and put out branches like a young plant. I tell you: God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

13 If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

Chorus:

If thou but suffer God to guide thee, And hope in Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee, And bear thee through the evil days; Who trusts in God's unchanging love Builds on the rock that naught can move.

Abraham: Give me your son.

Sarah: What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son! The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning.

Chorus

God knows full well when times of gladness Shall be the needful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with sadness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to thee all unaware And makes thee own His loving care.

(Georg Neumark, 1641)

Lift up your eyes.

14 Lift Up Your Eyes

Isaac: Father!

Abraham: Here I am, my son.

Isaac: Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

Abraham: God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.

Chorus:

Pilgrim thro' this barren land, hold me with Thy powerful hand To Canaan's side, my fears subside, Thro' blood applied God will provide.

God: Abraham, Abraham! Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.

Abraham: My only son.

Isaac: My hour has not yet come.

God: Lift up your eyes.

Chorus: Lift up your eyes.

Abraham: My son, my only son.

God: Your son, your only son, my only Son.

15 God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Chorus

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev'ry hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace; Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break with joy upon your head.

(William Cowper, 1774)

The God of Abram praise, at whose supreme command From earth I rise, and seek the joys at His right hand. I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and pow'r; And Him my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.

(Thomas Olivers, 1770)

16 One New Man

Sarah: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of His great mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

Isaac: After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.

Abraham: O Lord God! God will provide for Himself the Lamb.

Isaac and chorus: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Melchizedek: And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. Son of Abram and Son of God!

Chorus: Son of Abram and Son of God!

Hagar and Sarah: For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility—

All soloists: —that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross.

Chorus:

The God of Abraham praise, whose all sufficient grace Shall guide me all my happy days, in all my ways. He calls a worm His friend, He calls Himself my God! And He shall save me to the end, thro' Jesus' blood.

(Thomas Olivers, 1770)

17 Give Us the Promised Land

Chorus:

When the tree bears no fruit,
When no harvest takes root,
Still we rejoice and say:
Give us no kingdom but Your own,
Give us no king but You alone;
Give us the eyes to see Your face,
Give us the hearts to heed Your grace.
Give us the Promised Land,
Give us the Promised Land.

SOLOIST BIOGRAPHIES



Narrator

Dr. Greg Stiekes is an associate professor of New Testament at Bob Jones University seminary and the pastor of Gateway Baptist Church in Travelers Rest, South Carolina. He holds a master's degree in speech performance as

well as advanced degrees from three seminaries, including Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Rena, have two children in college, three married daughters, and two grandchildren.

"The story of Abraham has always gripped me, not only because of Abraham's great act of faith, but more profoundly because of God's untiring faithfulness to his covenant promise. Through keeping his covenant with Abraham, God is redeeming the humanity through Abraham's greatest descendant, Jesus Christ. It's an honor to be a part of Josh's moving presentation of this story that causes us to reflect on God's love for his own and for the nations of the world."



Abraham

Dan Johnson is a graduate of Pillsbury Baptist Bible College and holds an MA in Bible from Maranatha Baptist University as well as the MDiv from Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Dan is currently the pastor of worship and

administration at Fourth Baptist Church in Plymouth, MN. He has been involved with musical groups since junior high and has always been involved in music during his 17 years of pastoral ministry.

"My passion is to disciple the church through worship that opens our eyes to who God is and the supernatural wonders He is doing in and among us. The gift that God has given us in music is a tremendous gift to shape our moral imaginations and theology. Our praise of God is truly His gracious choice for us!"



the Voice of God

Richard Joseph, tenor, is an artist in the Twin Cities, having sung with the Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Chorale, Metropolitan Symphony, and the Lyra Baroque Orchestra. He is a D.M.A. candidate at the University of Minnesota where he studied with Adriana Zabala. He holds a M.M. in Voice Performance from Florida State University and a B.A. in Music from Clearwater Christian College.

In the last few years, Richard debuted with Vocal Essence in the role of Johnny Inkslinger in their revival production of Paul Bunyan. He sang Beethoven's 9th Symphony in his debut with the Minnesota Chorale and Metropolitan Symphony, St. Kate's Choral society,

and Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony. Richard sang with Mill City Summer Opera as a studio artist for two years and performed the role of Spoletta in Puccini's Tosca during his third season with the company. He also sang the role of Fenton in the University Opera Theater's production of Falstaff, and has sung several comprimario roles for Minnesota Opera.

In addition to performing, Richard is an assistant professor of music at University of Northwestern St. Paul, teaching voice lessons, opera workshop, vocal diction and sight singing and ear training.

"One of the things that I love about Deo Cantamus is getting to sing and worship my Savior with other like-minded believers!"

SOLOIST BIOGRAPHIES, CONTINUED



Sarah

Iowa native Leah Barnett has received accolades as both a cellist and a singer, and has won numerous state, regional, and national competitions. She has appeared onstage in China and Italy in concert and in operatic roles; she has also appeared onstage with renowned bass-baritone Simon Estes in his Roots & Wings concerts. Operatic roles include Governess (Turn of the Screw), Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), Queen of the Night (Die Zauberflöte), among others. Barnett received a bachelor's degree in voice and cello from Drake University (Des Moines), and a master's degree in Vocal Performance from University of Missouri-Kansas City. Barnett is currently in her second year of teaching private voice at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, IA. Barnett also maintains an

active studio at her home in Kansas City, where she resides with her husband, Dave, and two young daughters.

"Singing Deo Cantamus provides a unique opportunity to perform challenging music with other skilled singers, who are also believers in Jesus Christ. Twice a year we gather together as brothers and sisters to share in this incredible gift of choral music. What a sweet blessing this has been in my life!"



Hagar

Kathy Tschida, mezzosoprano, graduated from Northwestern College (now the University of Northwestern – St. Paul) with a bachelor's degree in music education, and she holds a master's degree in Teacher Leadership from

Grand Canyon University. Kathy taught elementary and junior high music as well as voice lessons for thirteen years and is still an accompanist, keyboardist, and singer. Throughout her life she has performed with a variety of choirs both as a choir member and as a soloist. Currently, Kathy is a singer-songwriter, blogger, and children's book author.

"In every season music has helped me connect with my Lord and Savior on a deeper level, and I am grateful for the opportunity to use my gift of music to give Jesus all the worship He deserves."



Isaac

Ian Trosen began studying music at Crown College in 2014, and after two years he was offered a full scholarship to attend Bemidji State University. Since graduating in 2019 he has been working in the community, has become

involved with a church choir, and is currently planning an independent recital. He began singing with the Deo Cantamus chorale in the fall of 2021 and appreciates how the experience has allowed him to improve his singing skills.

Ever since dedicating his life to God's glory at a very young age, every musical endeavor Ian has made has been to give God all the credit and glory He so righteously deserves. While the roads of our lives are paved with struggle, God is the only one who can truly sustain us. With the Lord's blessing, every musical event that he has a hand in putting on will be ordained by the Lord, and be a blessing to all who share in it.

"... Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken..."

PARTICIPANTS

Chorale

Alto I	Tenor I	Bass I
Jody Blauw	Matthew Bruffey	Kimball Cummings
Annelies Harmon	Shawn Cowell	Raymond Graybar
Tamara Howsden	Michael Fowler	Elijah Hager
Debbie Isaacs	Richard Joseph	Dan Johnson
Sarah Jacobs	Will Nething	Peter Magnuson
Brenda Johnson	Jerry Schwenke	Tom Oberg
Ingrid Johnson	Brad Smith	Eric Patenaude
Tabitha Magnuson	Ian Trosen	Jeff Raehl
Kathy Tschida	Gary Whiteford	Caleb Siefkes
	Jody Blauw Annelies Harmon Tamara Howsden Debbie Isaacs Sarah Jacobs Brenda Johnson Ingrid Johnson Tabitha Magnuson	Jody Blauw Matthew Bruffey Annelies Harmon Shawn Cowell Tamara Howsden Michael Fowler Debbie Isaacs Richard Joseph Sarah Jacobs Will Nething Brenda Johnson Jerry Schwenke Ingrid Johnson Brad Smith Tabitha Magnuson Ian Trosen

Orchestra

<u>Violin I</u>	<u>Violin II</u>	<u>Viola</u>	<u>Cello</u>	<u>Bass</u>
Sarah Wright	David Kozamchak	Charles Gray	Lindsay Schlemmer	Mark Kausch
Heidi Sawyer	Mikki Johnston	Marissa Frye	Joel Albright	
Lynn Stonehocker	Madeleine Harrington			
<u>Oboe</u>	<u>Flute</u>	<u>Trumpet</u>	<u>Horn</u>	<u>Tuba</u>
Caroline Schmitter	Karen Baumgartner	Phil Norris	Teresa Herbert	Trygve Skaar
		Neil Baumgartner	Laura Kozamchak	
<u>Organ</u>	<u>Percussion</u>	<u>Piano</u>		
Cindy Reents	Joel Alexander	Kay Hawkins		
	John Povolny			
	Zach Miller			

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Danny Wenzel
Evie Young

Acknowledgments

Al Hawkins	
Kay Hawkins	Accompanist
Amanda Mielke (cue the design)	Program & Poster Design
Nystrom Publishing	
Fourth Baptist Church	Facility



We encourage students to apply and audition as early as possible.

Application fee waived until November 1, 2022

CHORAL & VOICE FACULTY

Carol EikumCoordinator, Vocal Studies

Richard Joseph Tenor, Opera

Samantha Laumann Soprano, Musical Theatre **Doreen Hutchings** *Mezzo-soprano*

Melody Johnson Soprano

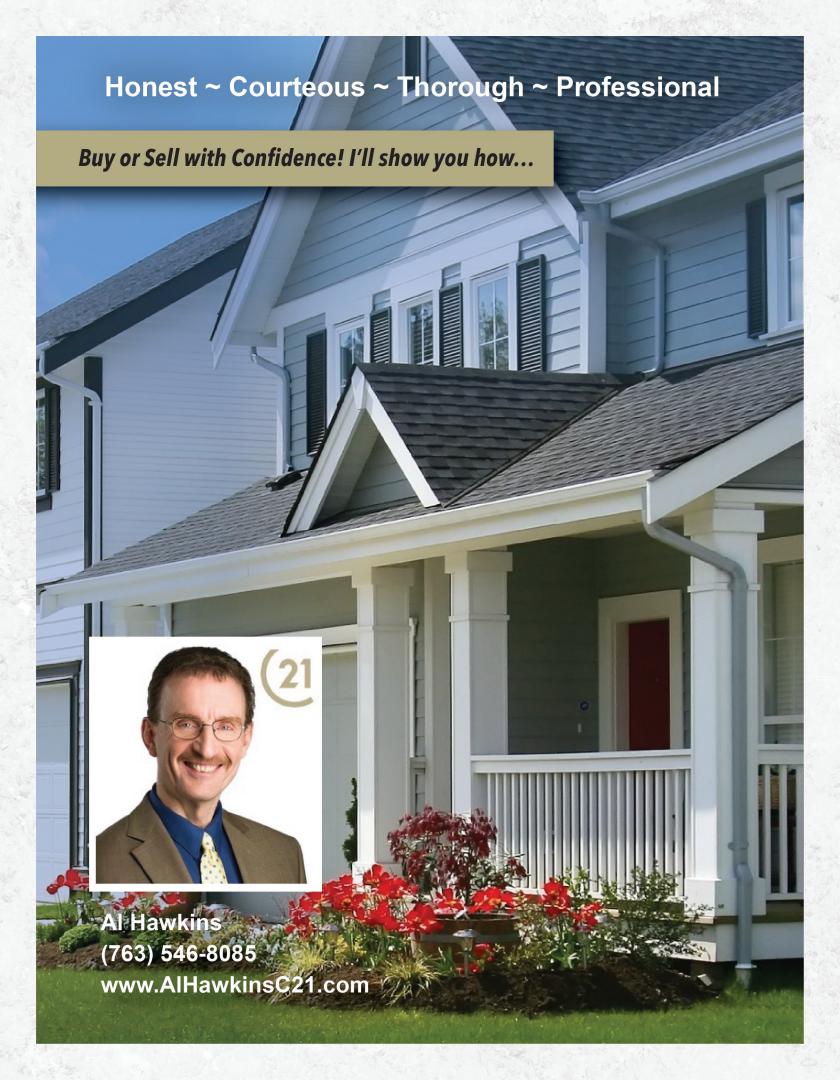
Natalie Conrad
Worship Music, Songwriting

Timothy Sawyer

Director, Choral Activities Northwestern Choir Con Brio Men's Chorus

Stephanie TrumpAmata Women's Chorale









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"...When I think of Deo Cantamus, I think of truth. So much of what we hear today is based off a false hope and world view. However, we sing for God! Our Rock and our salvation!..."

~ Shawn

"...Time and time again you've programmed my music, prepared it carefully, and interpreted it faithfully. Additionally, many of the most important career opportunities I've had can be traced directly back to my involvement with this organization. I'm so grateful and I hope when I'm older I can help influence and establish young artists as selflessly as you have me."

~ Josh

"...What an inspiration it is to add my voice to the Deo Cantamus choir. Each concert I have been a part of offers a glimpse of the eternal gift of music and the joy of joining with others to offer that gift back to our Creator..."

~ Ingrid

"...What a great joy to sing with other believers for the faith that we commonly share! Thinking back on *Abraham*, *Remember*, and *Jubilate Deo*, every single piece has helped me to deepen my faith with my Savior..."

~ Ben

"...Annika & I went to see Hannah, we know that her days on this earth are quickly coming to a close. She asked Annika to sing to her and she (Annika) said "can I sing 'Goin' Up Yonder?" which she learned with "Let the Children Praise." It was an incredibly precious moment as Hannah held Annika's hand and said "oh yes, thank you, thank you!!" I sat there stunned by the beauty in this moment. As we were driving home Annika said "Mom, singing that for Hannah was even better than singing it for the entire crowd at the concert!"

~ Doreen

...partner with us.



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Joundantly wrough! Grateful for His gift

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Scan to preorder CDs

The "Abundantly Wrought" recording project was wonderfully successful and for that we are thankful. The editing process has begun and the recordings of Songs for the Unborn and Tyndale: a Reformation Oratorio will be made available at Agape on March 25, 2023.



WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

Please share your thoughts about today's concert. Your feedback is very valuable to us and will help us in planning future concerts.

Please scan the code to submit feedback



Deo Cantamus of Minnesota