

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
WIND SYMPHONY

presents

Amazing Grace
A Sacred Concert for Wind Band

Sunday, March 7, 2021

3:00 pm

Chapel of the Christ and Livestream

Symphony of Prayer (2007)

J. Eric Schmidt (b. 1955)

- I. Adoration
- II. Confession
- III. Thanksgiving
- IV. Supplication

Adoration: To adore God is to worship him and to fulfill the commandment to love him with all of our heart, mind, and soul (Matthew 22:37). As we spend time in adoration, we praise God for who He is—our Creator, our Sustainer, and our Redeemer.

Confession: Confession allows us to clear away the things in the relationship between God and ourselves that are displeasing to him. All of us have sinned. St. John writes in his epistle, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8,9).

Thanksgiving: From childhood we are brought up to say “Thank you” when someone does something for us or gives us a gift. Each moment of our day is a blessing in which we can express our thanks to God, recalling the wonderful things he has done for us and the gifts he has given us. And so, we need to be constantly thanking God for his blessings. In writing to Timothy, Paul makes it clear that we also need to be giving thanks for everyday, worldly things: “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1).

Supplication: Finally, we come to ask God for our needs and the needs of others. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. . . . If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:7,11)

A brief intermission will be taken at this time in preparation for the second half of the program.

Were You There? (1999)

arr. Fred J. Allen (b. 1953)

Were You There? is an African American spiritual song from the 19th century. The text of the song, through several verses, asks the listener to witness the events surrounding the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Fervent Is My Longing, Chorale Prelude BWV 727 (ca. 1710)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
arr. Lucien Cailliet

The melody used in this chorale prelude is of unknown ancient origin, but it was used at least as early as the 16th century by Hans Leo Hassler, who arranged it in choral settings. The best-known examples that survive today are found in the music of J.S. Bach, who included this melody in various chorales and in the St. Matthew Passion to the text “O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden” (O Sacred Head Now Wounded), a well-loved Christian hymn sung during the season of Lent.

*O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown!
O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.*

Crown of Thorns (1998)

Julie Giroux (b. 1961)

Crown of Thorns is a programmatic tone poem that describes in musical terms Jesus Christ’s journey from the Last Supper through the betrayal of Judas Iscariot, the abduction by the Roman soldiers, the judgment under Pontius Pilate, the crown of thorns, and the procession to the cross, culminating in the Ascension into heaven. The piece attempts to remain true to the musical sounds that might have been heard in biblical times. The music accurately portrays the emotional journey of the friends and family of Jesus: fear, anguish, despair, and then finally, joy!

Amazing Grace (2019)

arr. Matt Riley

It is through the undeserved love from God that we have received the full benefit of Christ’s work on the cross. Our hearts, unburdened from the eternal sting of death, are free to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and to share the good news to all! This arrangement features violinist Lydia Gohl, a sophomore majoring in communication arts and literature at MLC.

Lydia Gohl, violin

*'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

Martin Luther College Wind Symphony

Miles Wurster, Conductor

Flute

Carolyn Bauer
Megan Buth*
Hannah Esmay
Sarah Kramer
Maddie Neyhart
Meg Stangl
Elena Thoma
Maria Werre

Oboe

Ryan Kluba

Bassoon

Jared Dobberstein

Clarinet

Hannah Broring
Hannah Mayer
Aimee Olsen*
Bill Wang
Natalie Zirbel

Bass Clarinet

Sydney Peterson

Alto Saxophone

Emma Dorn
Ashlee Olsen*

Tenor Saxophone

Josh Zander

Baritone Saxophone

Christopher Robbert

Trumpet

Joey Behm*
Sam Eickhoff
Joseph Grambsch
Ethan Mallow
Alicia Mengel
Josiah Winkel

Horn 1

Josie Bieberitz
Katelyn McGurk
Kara Peter
Evan Vant Hul*

Trombone

Josh Bannick
Carl Boeder*
Noah Cook
Leah Kuchenbecker
Bethany Valteau
Gus Wenz

Bass Trombone

Ben Hillmer

Euphonium

Brooke Flunker
Aaron Jobs*
Matthew Springer

Tuba

Andrew Kramer*
Noah Ungemach

Percussion

Zach Cole
Will DeMarce
Chloe Grunewald
Mikayla Kiedrowski
Jordan Massiah+
Robert Reinke
Jacob Schwark+

*Principal

+Co-principal