

VALPARAISO  UNIVERSITY

Christmas at Valpo: *A Vespers Concert*

How Great Our Joy!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024 | 5 P.M.



How Great Our Joy

Among the hymns we'll sing at Christmas at Valpo for the Lutheran Centennial Year is one Martin Luther wrote for his children, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." It's a song that begins in the voice of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, as recorded in Luke. The first five stanzas lay out the angels' Christmas announcement, concluding with a description of the signs of the swaddling clothes and the manger that will confirm for the shepherds the identity of the Christ-child who is astonishingly described as the infant "by whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

Luther wasn't easing into the Christmas story. This fact can't be missed. The infant Jesus is, as the Gospel of John describes, the power behind creation. The one who spun the planets into their orbit and teased out the fathomless paths of quarks is offered to self-absorbed humanity in this destitute infant. It's an unimaginable assertion that would seem to welcome disbelief.

Let's concede that what we experience as real was made and didn't just happen. Why would the maker of such a cosmos be interested in singling out our one planet among all the others for a personal visit? And by what odd impulse would such a creating power appear among us in such vulnerability? Given the circumstances of the child's mother – under the strain of poverty, travel, and homelessness – it's a wonder the child survived at all. Some estimates place the child mortality rate in first-century Palestine at 30 percent.

And yet, if true, the appearance of this child, himself, the creator of the universe, upends everything that we know about how the world works. The way the world seems to work is that strength and might overpower weakness. Life is only achievable at another's expense. We dream of enduring realities, but nothing lasts. We look for meaning but frequently find our meaning-making to be briefly beautiful, like a house of cards. If things are to last, they must be buttressed and protected against attack. It's a dangerous world for the people and things we love.

And then an infant is born with the agenda of reworking it all in your favor. He will do this by offering his own life into the death that is our undoing. This will not be a change of divine plans; rather, it will be the working out of the divine will. Most English translations end stanza five identifying the Christ-child as the one "By whom the heavens and earth were made." Yet, the original

German "Das alle Welt erhält und trägt" isn't just talking about God's past actions but God's continuing commitment to creation. This child is the one who "sustains and supports the whole world."

The sixth stanza of Luther's hymn begins the children's (as the shepherds) response to the angels' joyful message. The first line starts "Des laßt uns alle frölich sein" and is translated as "Then let us all joyful be." Joy is imperative in the face of one whose presence is our sustaining life. Luther biographer Roland Bainton offered another, more circumspect translation, which seems to lean into the wonder of it all. Bainton has us responding to the angels with, "How glad we'll be if it is so!"

"If it is so..." That speaks our truth. We are, at the same time, hopeful and incredulous. Messengers from another reality have broken into history with news that the power to create and sustain all that is being made available to us through the life of a homeless infant who is promised to undo all that threatens to destroy our lives and rob them of meaning by dying himself. What they are proposing is both ridiculous and beautiful. If it's true, it is beyond human imagining.

But it is true. That's the message of the angels and Luke's shepherds find it so. The happy shepherds go, and Luther's children encourage us to join them if only to see if it is so for ourselves. Notably, the blessed ones in the salvation story only react to God's actions. They never implement their own plans; they are always just along for the divine ride like us.

How Great Our Joy!

Organ Prelude: In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 | by J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Jihye Choi, Organ

As we join together in this reflective, worshipful time, please silence devices and reserve applause until the end.

Trinity Canticles, II. Messiah, Prince of Peace | by Daniel Kallman (b. 1956)

Symphony Orchestra

Lost in the Night | by Kyle Haugen (b. 1973)

Chorale; Szu-Ping Chang Wong, piano

Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
Longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish.
Will not day come soon?
Will not day come soon?

Sorrowing wand'ers, in darkness yet dwelling,
Dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,
Death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling.
Christ is coming soon,
Christ is coming soon!

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,
Giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?
Will you help us soon?
Will you help us soon?

Finnish Song, translated by Olav Lee

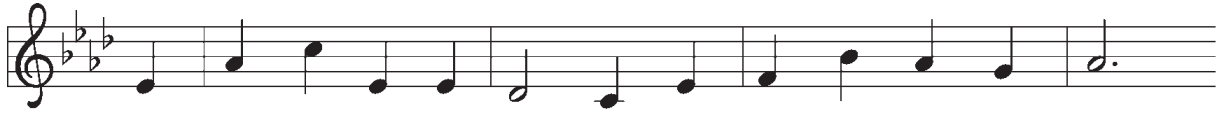


Scripture Matthew 25: 1-13

Processional Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers | setting by John Ferguson (b. 1941)

Congregation, Choirs, Chamber Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra

All stand as able



All Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
Low Voices The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
High Voices The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
All Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

The assembly sits

Hymn: From Heaven Above | setting by Ronald A. Nelson (1927–2014)

Congregation, Choirs, Organ

1 Justine Olson, soprano:

"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bring good news to ev'ryone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To all the world, and gladly sing.

2 Choir:

To you this night is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This newborn child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 Choir:

This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
And from all sin will set you free."



All 4 "The bless - ing which the Fa - ther planned the Son holds in his in - fant hand,
All 5 "These are the signs that you will see to let you know that it is he;



that in his king - dom, bright and fair, you may with us his glo - ry share."
in man - ger - bed, in swad - dling clothes the child who all the earth up - holds."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: attr. Martin Luther, V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539
Text © *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress
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Psalm 100 | by René Clausen (b. 1953)

Choral treble voices; Szu-Ping Chang Wong, piano; Katie Buttitta, flute; Adelyn Carney, oboe; Kayla Pleasant, bassoon;
Miranda Schabes, bass; Michael Petersen, marimba; Elijah Pappas, drums

Make a joyful noise unto God,
Sing and dance, be merry
Celebrate the birth of our savior.
Alleluia.

Jesus, the Lord, is born
And he died to save us.
Alleluia, to set us free.

We are the sheep needing God as our shepherd,
Alleluia, Alleluia, and we are free.

Enter then its gates with thanksgiving
Singing songs of praise,
Give thanks to God and praise God's holy name.
Alleluia.

For our God is good,
God's mercy endures forever,
And God's faithfulness endures,
From generation to generation,
From age to age.

Make a joyful noise unto God
Sing and dance, be merry,
Celebrate the birth of our Savior,
Alleluia.
Amen.

May We Rise | by Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979), setting for band by Preston Hazzard (1952–2020)

Chamber Concert Band

How Far is it To Bethlehem | arr. John Ferguson

Kantorei; Grace Roberts, piano; Marlo Evans, soprano

Candles are lit

How far is it to Bethlehem?
Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child,
Is he within?
If we lift the wooden latch
May we go in?

Great kings have precious gifts
And we have naught.
Little smiles and little tears are all we brought.
For all weary children Mary must weep.
Here, on his bed of straw
Sleep, children, sleep.

Frances Chesterton

May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass, or sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch his tiny hand will he awake?
Will he know we've come so far
Just for his sake?

Scripture Luke 2:1-20

Hymn: From Heaven Above | setting by Diego Piedra (b. 1980)

Congregation, Choirs, Chamber Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra



All How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shep-herds let us go
Low voices Look, look, dear friends, look o - ver there! What lies with - in that man - ger bare?
All Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, through whom this sin - ful world is blest!



To see what God for us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.
Who is that love - ly lit - tle one? The ba - by Je - sus, God's dear Son.
You turned not from our needs a - way; how can our thanks such love re - pay?

Hymn: *Silent Night* | setting by Sandra Peter

Congregation, Choirs, Symphony Orchestra; Szu-Ping Chang Wong, piano



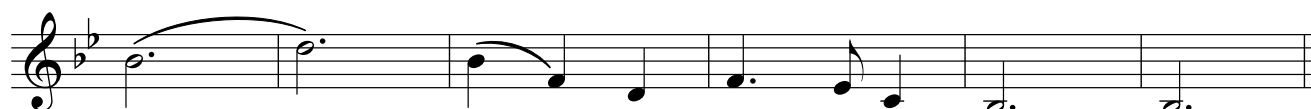
High voices Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
Choir *Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake*
All Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, _____ sleep in heav - en - ly peace. _____
born! _____ Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! _____
birth, _____ Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. _____

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

Extinguish candles

Eit barn er født i Bethlehem | arr. Ørjan Matre (b. 1979)

Chorale; Chris DeGard, soprano

Eit barn er født i Bethlehem *A child is born in Bethlehem*
No frydar seg Jerusalem. *Exult for joy, Jerusalem!*
Halleluja, halleluja. *Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

There in a lowly manger lies, a manger lies.
Who reigns above the skies.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

The ox and ass in neighb'ring stall, in neighb'ring stall,
See in that Child the Lord of all.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

And kingly pilgrims, long foretold, kings long foretold,
From East bring incense, myrrh, and gold.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

And enter with their offerings, their offerings.
To hail the newborn King of Kings.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Come then, and on this natal day, this natal day.
Rejoice before the Lord and pray!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Fourteenth-century carol, translated by Hamilton Montgomerie MacGill, 1876.

Hymn: I am so Glad Each Christmas Eve | setting by Robert V. Scholz (1939–2021)

Congregation, Choirs, Chamber Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra



Choir *Jeg er så glad — hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født; —*
All I am so glad — each Christ - mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth! —
All The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king — in - deed! —
All I am so glad — each Christ - mas Eve! His prais - es then — I sing; —



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt. —
Then like the sun — the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth. —
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need. —
He o - pens now — for ev' ry child The pal - ace of — the king. —

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959

Music: Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863

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A King is Born | by Sy Gorieb and Tim Hosman, arr. Tim Sarsany (b. 1966)

Choral tenors and basses; Joshua Klabunde, tenor; Szu-Ping Chang Wong, piano; Conner Daehler, shaker; El Nelson, marimba; Elijah Pappas, congas; Dain Ellman, bass

A king is born this day in Bethlehem, hallelujah,
No crown is worn, but angels worship him, hallelujah!
Almighty God, so meek, so mild, salvation comes thru this holy child,

A King is born, He is in the manger now;
A King is born, humbly come and humbly bow;
The tiny Lord, reaching out a tiny hand.
A King is born this day in Bethlehem.

His palace is lowly, His throne is made of hay. Hallelujah!
The shepherds bow down to see His holy face, hallelujah.
Heaven is singing of peace on earth, filled with the wonder of this birth.

Come humbly and humbly bow; He's in the manger now.
A King is born this day in Bethlehem.

Jesus bleibet meine Freude | by J.S. Bach

Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben, BWV 147, no. 10
Choirs, Symphony Orchestra

Jesus bleibet meine Freude,	<i>Jesus remains my joy,</i>
Meines Herzens Trost und Saft,	<i>my heart's comfort and life</i>
Jesus wehret allem Leide,	<i>Jesus defends me against all suffering,</i>
Er ist meines Lebens Kraft,	<i>he is my life's strength,</i>
Meiner Augen Lust und Sonne,	<i>my eye's delight and sun</i>
Meiner Seele Schatz und Wonne;	<i>my soul's treasure and delight;</i>
Darum lass ich Jesum nicht	<i>therefore I shall not let Jesus go</i>
Aus dem Herzen und Gesicht.	<i>from my heart and sight.</i>

From Heaven Above | Chorale prelude by J.S. Bach, arr. Don Malin (1943-2023)

Chamber Concert Band

O Lord, you have created all!	Were earth a thousand times as fair
How did you come to be so small,	And set with gold and jewels rare,
To sweetly sleep in manger-bed	Still such a cradle would not do
Where lowing cattle lately fed?	To rock a prince so great as you.

Christmas Day | by Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Choirs, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Concert Band; Becca Schatte, soprano; Matthew Byerly, bass; Victoria Tiller, soprano; Aidan Andrade, tenor; Andrew DeMik, baritone; Cody Wilson, bass

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from woe and sin,
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Jewry,
This blessed Babe was born,
And laid within a manger,
Upon that holy morn;
To which His Mother, Mary,
Did nothing take in scorn.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath oped the heav'nly door,
And we are blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly,
Let your songs of gladness ring;
In a stable lies the Holy,

In a manger rests the King:
See, in Mary's arms reposing,
Christ by highest heav'n adored:
Come, your circle round Him closing,
Pious hearts that love the Lord,

Come, ye poor, no pomp of station
Robes the Child your hearts adore:
He, the Lord of all salvation,
Shares your want, is weak and poor:
Oxen, round about behold them;
Rafters naked, cold and bare,
See the shepherds, God has told them
That the Prince of Life lies there.

Come, ye children, blithe and merry,
This one Child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry,
All be prized for His dear sake;
Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender,
Come, ye spirits, keen and bold;
All in all your homage render,
Weak and mighty, young and old.

High above a star is shining,
And the Wise Men haste from far:
Come, glad hearts, and spirits pining:
For you all has ris'n the star.
Let us bring our poor oblations,
Thanks and love and faith and praise:
Come, ye people, come, ye nations,
All in all draw nigh to gaze.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!

Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath oped the heav'nly door,
And we are blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one, and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Prayer

How Great Our Joy | Traditional German Carol, arr. Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Choirs, Symphony Orchestra; Szu-Ping Chang Wong, piano

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.
How great our joy.

There shall be born, so did he say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.
How great our joy.

There shall a Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
How great our joy.

Hymn: Joy to the World | Traditional

Congregation, Choirs, Organ

All stand as able

Unison Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 Harmony Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 Harmony No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 Unison He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

The assembly sits

Choose Joy | by Randall Standridge (b. 1976)
Chamber Concert Band

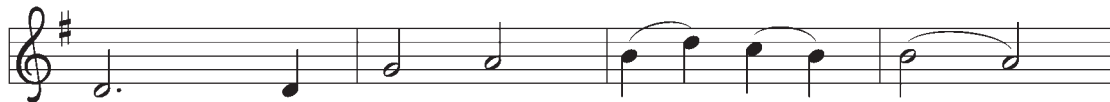
Scripture Matthew 24:29-31

Hymn: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending | setting by Noah Durlam (b. 2002)
Congregation, Choirs, Chamber Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, Organ

All stand as able



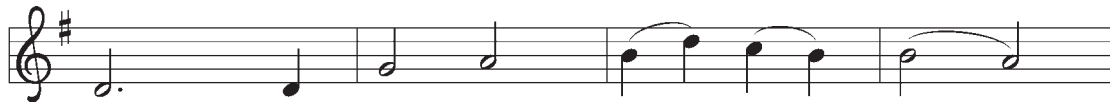
All Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
Choir Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
All Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.



All Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!


Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

The assembly sits

Prayer

Hymn: From Heaven Above

Congregation, Choirs, Organ



High Voices Ah, dear - est Je - sus ho - ly child, pre - pare a bed, soft, un - de - filed,
All My heart for ve - ry joy - now leaps; my voice no long - er si - lence keeps;
All "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to us the Son has giv'n."
a qui - et cham - ber in my heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
I too must sing with joy - ful tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
With an - gels sing in pi - ous mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

All stand as able

Blessing



Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful | setting by John Rutter (b. 1945)

Congregation, Choirs, Chamber Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, Organ




Unison O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 Harmony The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 Unison Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 Unison Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



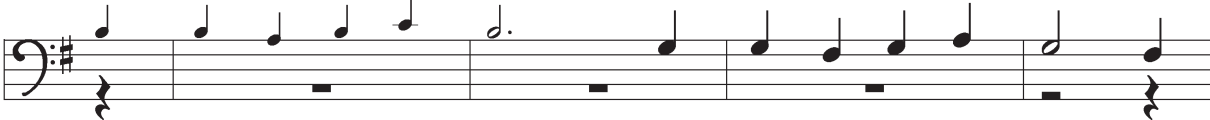

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,




ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

If you do not wish to keep your program, please return it so it can be reused.

The Valparaiso University Chamber Concert Band

JEFFREY SCOTT DOEBLER '87 M.M., PH.D., CONDUCTOR

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Amanda Alvia | Rolling Meadows, IL | physician assistant
Kelsey Grimme | Palatine, IL | meteorology
+ Jonah Hackbart-Morlock | Emmetsburg, IA | music
River Przygoda | Chesterton, IN | psychology
Chloe Wong | Cupertino, CA | physician assistant

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Katelyn Jaster | Denver, CO | music, biology

CLARINET

Emma Bollech | Port Washington, WI | biochemistry
+ Skylar Peffers | Chesterton, IN | music education
Connor Ross | Valparaiso, IN | mechanical engineering
Isaac VanDeBerg | Lake Geneva, WI | mechanical engineering

BASS CLARINET

Layla Stokes | Valparaiso, IN | biology, chemistry

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Kayla Bass | Bourbonnais, IL | physics
Alyssa Combs | Crown Point, IN | music education
Justin Nabors | Rensselaer, IN | nursing
+Ethan Preston | Valparaiso, IN | music, computer science

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Joseph D'Acquisto | Port Washington, WI | global studies
Benjamin Poulsen | Valparaiso, IN | meteorology

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

AJ Tarena | Cedar Lake, IN | mathematics

CORNET/TRUMPET

Luke Anderson | Grayslake, IL | meteorology
Emilio Cantu | Munster, IN | music education
Tobias Demonte | Wilmette, IL | mechanical engineering, music
Noah Durlam | Germantown, WI | chemistry
+ Mary Beth Mihevc | McHenry, IL | music, psychology, Spanish
Andrew Webb | Naperville, IL | civil engineering

HORN

+ Timothy Benz | Batavia, IL | biology
Eli Conklin | Pittsburg, PA | meteorology

TROMBONE

Nathan Brown | Wauconda, IL | computer engineering
Noah Doely | Plymouth, MN | computer engineering
+ Dominick Hoffman | Sharpsburg, GA | economics

EUPHONIUM

Ella Hahn | Crown Point, IN | English

TUBA

David Ankerberg | Wheaton, IL | psychology

PERCUSSION

Conner Daehler | McHenry, IL | electrical engineering
+ Elizabeth Nelson | McHenry, IL | music therapy

PIANO

Tobias DeMonte | Wilmette, IL | mechanical engineering, music
Noah Durlam | Germantown, WI | chemistry

GUEST ANTIPHONAL TRUMPET

Karyn Breitzke | Valparaiso Community/University Concert Band
Ryan Rabe | Windiana Concert Band, Valparaiso Community/University Concert Band
David Tison | Michigan City Municipal Band

MANAGER

Beth Turner

LIBRARIAN

Skylar Peffers

+ Denotes principal

The Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra

DIEGO PIEDRA, DMA, CONDUCTOR

VIOLIN I

^ Kailey White | Manhattan, IL | computer engineering
Nora Fisher | Westchester, IL | economics
Maddie Harrison | Noblesville, IN | mechanical engineering
Felix Ortiz | Hobart, IN | music education

VIOLIN II

Ruth Cook | Westminster, CO | mechanical engineering
Olivia Sobel | Elburn IL | music education
Eleanor Sun | Willowbrook, IL | psychology
Taiya Girley | Racine, WI | art, education

VIOLA

+ Lucia Otten | Valparaiso, IN | international relations, Spanish
Niko Hambesis | Valparaiso, IN | electrical engineering

CELLO

+ Analiese Heissenbuettel | Ann Arbor, MI | English, psychology
Jonah DeMik | New Lenox, IL | mechanical engineering
Nadiya Reiningger | Belvidere, IL | meteorology
Jack Hull | Western Springs, IL | meteorology

BASS

+ Miranda Schabes | New Lenox, IL | biology, chemistry
Dain Ellman | Crown Point, IN | political science
Zachary Stewart | New Lenox, IL | environmental science

FLUTE

+ Katie Buttitta | Naperville, IL | health sciences
Jonah Hackbart-Morlock | Emmetsburg, IA | music
Sammy Knapp | Georgetown, KY | physics

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

+ Adelyn Carney | Appleton, WI | biochemistry

CLARINET

+ Ashley Velasquez | Sussux, WI | biomedical engineering
Skylar Peffers | Chesterton, IN | music education

BASS CLARINET

Skylar Peffers | Chesterton, IN | music education

BASSOON

* Eric Kuehner
** Kayla Pleasant

HORN

+ Ellen Linder | Auburn, CA | psychology

TRUMPET

Emilio Cantu | Munster, IN | music education
Mary Beth Mihevc | McHenry, IL | music, psychology, Spanish
+ Jesse Rayburn | Mount Prospect, IL | mechanical engineering

TROMBONE

Nathan Brown | Wauconda, IL | computer engineering
+ Dominick Hoffman | Sharpsburg, GA | economics
Beth Turner | Crawfordsville, IN | music education

TUBA

David Ankerberg | Wheaton, IL | psychology

TIMPANI AND PERCUSSION

Elijah Pappas | Crown Point, IN | finance
Michael Petersen | Elkhart, IN | mechanical engineering

CELESTA

Noah Durlam | Germantown, WI | chemistry

ORCHESTRA MANAGER

Olivia Sobel

+ Denotes principal

^ Denotes concertmaster

* Denotes faculty

** Denotes guest

Valparaiso University Chorale

MARIN JACOBSON, DMA, CONDUCTOR

SZU-PING CHANG WONG, PIANIST

SOPRANO

Nayelli Cuevas | Crown Point, IN | psychology
+ Chris DeGard | Knox, IN | music education
Isabel Gauss | Yorkville, IL | elementary education
Justine Olson | Crown Point, IN | psychology
Sarah Roeglin | Delafield, WI | nursing
Maggie Schepmann | Maineville, OH | biology
Victoria Tiller | Mishawaka, IN | music
Lynne Thissen | Evansville, IN | meteorology

ALTO

Anna Anderson | Naperville, IL | nursing
Laura Floyd | Valparaiso, IN | electrical engineering,
physics, education, German
Melody Pearson | Michigan City, IN | music education
Giselle Rivera | Munster, IN | psychology
+ Becca Schatte | Jefferson City, MO | music education
Gabby Unzicker | Valparaiso, IN | biology, environmental
science
Kayla Walker | Plainfield, IL | communications

TENOR

+ Aidan Andrade | Burbank, IL | music education
Robbie Garza | Valparaiso, IN | nursing
Joshua Klabunde | Logansport, IN | integrated business
and engineering
Ethan Mohr | Beecher, IL | music, computer science
Hayden Mohr | Beecher, IL | engineering

BASS

Francisco Cruz | East Chicago, IL | music education
Andrew DeMik | New Lenox, IL | mechanical engineering
Michael Petersen | Elkhart, IN | mechanical engineering
+ Isaac Steinke | Lake Elmo, MN | mechanical
engineering
Timothy Ueltzen | Chicago, IL | biology and chemistry

+ Denotes Chorale Section Leader

CHORALE STUDENT MANAGER

Chris DeGard

CHORALE LIBRARIANS

Maggie Schepmann
Robbie Garza

University Singers

MARIN JACOBSON, DMA, CONDUCTOR

Ruth Cook | Westminster, CO | mechanical engineering
Anthony Cosenza | Orland Park, IL | mechanical engineering
Matt Floyd | Valparaiso, IN | computer engineering
Savannah Frazier | Munster, IN | psychology
Isabella Garcia | LaPorte, IN | nursing
Gunther Havenith | Richton Park, IL | digital media
Samuel Rucker | Richton Park, IL | digital media
Trey Wilson | Plainfield, IL | mechanical engineering

Kantorei of the Chapel of the Resurrection

JIHYE CHOI, M.M., CONDUCTOR

SOPRANO

Zoe Barajaz | Darien, IL | meteorology
Jasmine Berndt-Spence | Michigan City, IN | political science
Autumn Davids | Cedar Lake, IN | music therapy
Marlo Evans | Roanoke, IN | music
Grace Roberts | Trenton, MI | social work
Jaymee Sevals | Rice Lake, WI | history
Savannah Vela | Highland, IN | elementary education

ALTO

Martha Bravo | Portage, IN | English, Spanish
Ruth Cook | Westminster, CO | mechanical engineering
Jasmine Collins | Pittstown, PA | music education
Cassie Gortner | Spokane, WA | German
Emily Leckie | Hobart, IN | nursing
Kayla Sleeper | Westmont, IL | theology

Bach Choir

MARIN JACOBSON, DMA, CONDUCTOR

SZU-PING CHANG WONG, PIANIST

SOPRANO

Leanne Blind
Lisa Jennings
Bethany Ziegler
Victoria Luster-Bartz '14
Rachael Lagunas '23

ALTO

Katie Garza
Danielle Orozco-Nunnelly '07
Beth McQueen
Ella Speckhard '20
Anna Speckhard '24

TENOR

Logan Albright '24
Trey Erny
John Lee
Jeffrey Helmers

BASS

Christopher Ebert
Bruce Foster
Adam Gibson-Even '00
Cody Wilson '19
David Buursma
Matthew Byerly
Tom Luekens '64
Paul Nord '91, '17 M.S.

About the Conductors

JIHYE CHOI, M.M., A native of South Korea, Jihye Choi is the Director of Chapel Music, and University Organist at Valparaiso University, Indiana.

Prior to Valpo, professor Choi has served at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis as organ scholar, and First Christian Church in Bloomington, IN as the organist, Assistant Music Director and handbell choir director. An active adjudicator and lecturer, she has judged in organ and piano competitions. Most recently, she was invited to Kwassui Women's University in Nagasaki, Japan as a guest lecturer and gave presentations on liturgy, organ performance practice and organ pedagogy at the church music program. She has won top prizes in numerous competitions around the world including First Prize in

Duo at the YoungSan Organ competition in South Korea, third prize at the Sydney Organ Competition in Australia. She has also appeared in the prestigious national competitions, such as Arthur Poister Organ Scholarship Competition (2nd prize), Fort Wayne National Organ Competition (1st prize), Sursa Organ Competition (2nd prize), and 2022 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP, finalist). She is an active concert organist and performs throughout South Korea, Japan, Australia, Europe, and the U.S.

Professor Choi holds degrees from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, University of Cincinnati (College-Conservatory of Music), and Seoul Theological University.

MARIN JACOBSON, DMA, serves the Valparaiso University community as the Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg Chair in Lutheran Music, Director of the Bach Institute, and Director of Choral and Vocal Activities. She previously served as Director of Choral Activities, Department Chair and Voice Area Coordinator at Malone University and as Music Department Chair, Director of Music Education, and Associate Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Concordia University Irvine. Choirs under her direction have toured throughout the United States and abroad. Dr. Jacobson brings a wealth of experience in collegiate, church, community, school, and studio settings.

Beyond the university, she is a frequent clinician and adjudicator and has led choral festivals for students of all ages. Her professional activities include scholarship, performance, and composition. Her composition *Two Benedictions* was recently published by MorningStar Music and her article "Text and Musical Gesture in the Choral Music of Rebecca Clarke" was featured in the ACDA Choral Journal. In spring 2024, her article "Through the Church the Song Goes On" was published in Luther Seminary's *Word and World*. Dr. Jacobson served as guest

conductor of the Summit Choral Society's Metropolitan Chorus (Ohio) in a performance of Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, KV 339 in 2023. Jacobson previously conducted the Ames Chamber Artists (Iowa) and was founding director of the Mankato Children's Chorus (Minnesota). While living in California, Jacobson sang with the Pacific Chorale and premiered several of her compositions with the Concordia University choirs.

Jacobson employs choral methods in rehearsal that engage all learners and foster musicianship and expressive communication. Her thematic choral programming inspires audiences with well-crafted historical and contemporary compositions by diverse composers.

Jacobson earned the DMA in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from The University of Iowa, a MM in Vocal Performance from the University of Minnesota, and a BA in Vocal Music Education from St. Olaf College. She is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

DIEGO PIEDRA, DMA, is the Orchestra Director at Valparaiso University. A strongly driven performer and educator, Dr. Piedra feels at home working on the podium with student and professional orchestras. He served as Music Director and Conductor of Spectrum Orchestra, visiting conductor at Luther College and the University of Toledo, and guest conductor with the Dexter Community Orchestra and Oakland Symphony Orchestra in Michigan, and the Municipal Orchestra of Cartago and the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica. Dr. Piedra was the orchestral conducting professor at the University of Costa Rica as well as a guest violin teacher and performer in Venezuela, Honduras and Guatemala. He founded the national youth orchestra Manuel María Gutiérrez at SINEM (the Costa Rican version of Venezuela's El Sistema), and was its Music Director and Conductor from 2009-2011. Since 2014, Dr. Piedra has been Music Director at the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra's Summer String Camp, working as a conductor, violinist, composer and arranger. As a professional violinist regularly plays with South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and he has been a member of the prestigious New World Symphony in Miami, Wisconsin Chamber

Orchestra, Oakland Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica and Concertmaster of the Orquesta de Cámara de Costa Rica. Dr. Piedra participated as violinist and assistant conductor in the tour and recording of Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence* and Experience with the University Symphony Orchestra at the University of Michigan (winner of four Grammy awards in 2006), which culminated with performances at Carnegie Hall, New York. At Michigan, Dr. Piedra was the Music Director of The Campus Symphony Orchestra and the Campus Philharmonia Orchestra, and he conducted two full opera productions and numerous symphonic concerts. In the summer of 2017 he was awarded an honorary mention at a conducting competition in London, England, and more recently, an honorable mention from the American Prize, College/University Orchestra Division 2022. Dr. Piedra holds a DMA in Orchestral Conducting and two Master's degrees from the University of Michigan. He studied violin with Guido Calvo, Dr. Bruce Berg and Yehonatan Berick, and conducting with Kenneth Kiesler and participated in master classes with Simon Rattle, Carl St. Clair, Giancarlo Guerrero and Miguel Harth-Bedoya.

About the Conductors

JEFFREY SCOTT DOEBLER '87 M.M., PH.D., has been the recipient of the Valparaiso University Excellence in Teaching Award, as well as the Valparaiso University Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award. In 2018, he was named a Distinguished Hoosier by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. Dr. Doebler has served as director of music education and bands at Valparaiso University since 1992, following ten years of teaching in the public schools of Emmetsburg, Iowa, and Shakopee, Minnesota. He earned degrees in music education from Luther College (B.A.), Valparaiso University (M.M.), and the University of Minnesota (Ph.D.). His 43-year career in music education has achieved a unique balance of conducting, teacher preparation, leadership, and working with musicians from the beginning through professional levels, but all aspects of his vocation have had an ultimate focus on teaching. He has been recognized for teaching excellence by peers, colleagues, and students, including awards from the Indiana Music Education Association (IMEA), Valparaiso University, Luther College, Sigma Alpha Iota, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and the Confucius Institute. Dr. Doebler was a quarter-finalist for the Grammy Music Educator Award in 2014. In a typical year, Dr. Doebler works with over 3000 students. He has appeared professionally in 30 states, Canada, Malta, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, and China. Professor Doebler

is a former president and state editor of the IMEA. He designed the IMEA All-State Future Music Educators Colloquium, a program that has been replicated in many other states. Dr. Doebler is a former president of the Indiana Bandmasters Association (IBA). For the IBA, he regularly conducts the All-Region and All-District Honor Bands, he conducted the All-State Band in 2011, and the Junior All-State Band in 2014. He is the first person to conduct at all four levels of IBA honor bands. Dr. Doebler is founder of a professional-level concert band, Windiana, which has toured China ten times, and has also toured Italy, Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii. Windiana performed for the national convention of the Association of Concert Bands in 2011, the National Chinese Language Conference in 2009, and a headline concert at Carnegie Hall on December 29, 2022. Dr. Doebler serves as concert band conductor for Lutheran Summer Music, the national Lutheran high school music camp. He is conductor of the 156-year-old Michigan City Municipal Band. Professor Doebler conducts the handbell choirs at Valparaiso University and Trinity Lutheran Church. He is a former Indiana Chair for the Handbell Musicians of America. In 2018, Dr. Doebler conducted the Indiana All-State Handbell Choir. It is believed that this was the first all-state handbell choir in the nation.

Organist

Jihye Choi, M.M., Visiting Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Chapel Music

Scripture Readers and Prayer Leaders

Katherine Museus, M.Div., University Pastor

James A. Wetzstein, M.Div., University Pastor

Technical Staff

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Gaulo Amezcua-Luna

SOUND DESIGN AND AUDIO ENGINEERING

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OUR MAJORS:

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Bachelor of Music Education
Bachelor of Music Therapy

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2024-2025
AUDITION DATES

November 16

January 25

February 15

February 17

March 29



Department of Music Faculty

Anne Marie Bice
Voice

Joseph Bognar
Piano, music theory;
Chair, Department of
Music;
Frederick A. and Mazie N.
Reddel Professor of Music;
Associate University
Organist

Jeffrey Brown
Percussion

Jihye Choi
Organ; University Organist;
Director of Chapel Music

Maura Janton Cock
Voice

Jeffrey Scott Doebler
Music education, band,
conducting

Salena Elish
Dance

Jonah Elrod
Music theory, composition

Heaven Fan
Harp

Cynthia Fudala
Flute

Andrew Gutshall
Technical Director, theatre

Stephanie Harris
Music therapy

Marin Jacobson
Choir, conducting, voice;
Phyllis and Richard
Duesenberg Chair in
Lutheran Music;
Director of Choral and
Vocal Activities; Director
of the Bach Institute

Denise Chigas Kirkland
Clarinet

Eric Kuehner
Bassoon

Robert Lark
Jazz bands

Nicole Lee
Piano, accompanying

David Machavariani
Cello

Stacy Maugans
Saxophone, musicianship
Stephen John Miller
Guitar

Jordy Novak
Music therapy

Diego Piedra
Orchestra, music theory,
conducting, violin

Corey Sansolo
Trombone

Phillip Serna
Bass

Sherri Seward
Horn

Kjell Sleipness
Viola

Charles Steck
Trumpet

Barbara Timmerman
Oboe

Amanda Tuohy
Dance

Richard Watson
Euphonium, tuba

Valpo's Lutheran Centennial

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY'S LUTHERAN CENTENNIAL (1925-2025) continues with music, worship, lectures, and celebrations. Visit Valparaiso University's Lutheran Centennial website to learn about upcoming events.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



2024 - Lutheran Centennial
"Valpo's Lutheran Centennial: Enduring Faith, Eternal Joy" recognizes the founding of this Lutheran University in 1925. Giving thanks for the "great cloud of witnesses" who have sustained Valpo, we look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith," who leads us into the future. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Purchase an ornament in the Narthex or pay online and pick it up in the Narthex.





VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

VALPO.EDU/CHAPEL | VALPO.EDU/MUSIC

The Chapel of the Resurrection is built on the traditional homelands of several indigenous peoples, most notably the Potawatomi (Bodéwadmik) Nation. The land was ceded by Potawatomi leaders to the U.S. federal authorities on October 26, 1832, as part of the Treaty of Tippecanoe. We meet in this place indebted to this forced generosity.

Some of the indigenous population successfully resisted removal. Members of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi (Pokégnek Bodéwadmik) established a sovereign government in Dowagiac, Michigan, and continue to live, work, and worship as our neighbors.