



50th Anniversary Die Meistersinger Men's Chorus Concert
October 26, 2024 | 4 p.m.
Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists



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Piano Prelude Jenine Fryling Marin, '83

Still, Still with Thee Harriet Beecher Stowe; Felix Mendelssohn
Conductor: Marvin Robertson

For All The Saints | Congregational Hymn William Walsham How;
Arrangement: Judy Glass
Conductor: Marvin Robertson; Organist: Judy Glass
Soprano soloists: Julie Penner and Cynthia (Patterson) Coston, '83

Welcome and Opening Prayer Peter Cooper, School of Music Dean

No Man Is an Island John Donne; George Mead
Conductor: Marvin Robertson; Accompanist: Karen (Larsen) Godfrey, '88

The Greatest Want of the World Ellen G. White; Wayne Hooper
Conductor: Gerald Peel, '90; Accompanist: Cynthia Coston

Jesus Paid It All Alvina M. Hall; Ovid Young
Conductor: Gerald Peel; Accompanist: Traci (Hagele) Oms, '00

Nearer, Still Nearer C. H. Morris; Ovid Young
Conductor: Gerald Peel; Accompanist: Debbie (Hilderbrandt) Begley, '88

Close to Thee Fanny Crosby; Ovid Young
Conductor: Gerald Peel; Accompanist: Alicia (Williams) Patterson, attended

Honoring the Legacy Bruce Coston, '83

It Is Well with My Soul | Offertory Horatio Spafford;
Arrangement: Steve Martin, '82
Steve Martin, guitar

The Last Words of David Randall Thompson
Conductor: Marvin Robertson; Accompanist: Jenine Fryling Marin

Poor Man Lazarus

Lester Hairston

Conductor: Gerald Peel

We Shall Walk Through the Valley In Peace

William Appling

Conductor: Gerald Peel

In That Great Gettin' Up Morning

Fenno Heath.

Conductor: Gerald Peel; Soloist: Bruce Coston

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Julia Ward Howe; Peter J. Wihousky

Conductor: Marvin Robertson; Accompanist: George Whetmore, '81

Soloists: Julie Penner and Cynthia Coston

Closing Remarks and Benediction

Marvin Robertson

A Parting Blessing

J. Jerome Williams

Conductor: Marvin Robertson

***Thank you for joining us for this
special reunion concert!***

*Special thanks to Bruce Coston, '83, for his leadership role in organizing
the Die Meistersinger 50th Anniversary Reunion and Concert.*

Marvin “Doc” Robertson: Doc received his master’s in music education from the University of Northern Colorado and his PhD in music education with emphasis in church music and choral conducting from Florida State University. He came to Southern Missionary College to head the Music Department in 1966 and quickly became an influential presence on campus and in the community. As music minister at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists he was well-known for his enthusiastic and engaging hymn conducting during church services.

At Spalding Elementary School, Doc founded Caroliers, a select children’s choir that was featured prominently at the church and at community events including with the Chattanooga Symphony. Fifty years ago, he founded Die Meistersinger Men’s Chorus as a central focus of his choral pedagogy. Doc was a sought-after clinician for elementary and secondary music conferences across the North American Division and a respected colleague among and mentor for Adventist music educators. Through all these endeavors, he influenced thousands of young people musically and spiritually to reach their highest potential. Since retiring from Southern in 1999, Doc has directed a Die Meistersinger reunion group every five years. This year celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Die Meistersinger and the incredible legacy of a towering educator and musician. All who have sung under his direction are proud to have done so.

Gerald Peel, ’90: Gerald graduated from Southern Adventist University in 1990 with a music performance degree with a vocal emphasis. He earned a master’s degree in choral conducting from the University of Tennessee. Gerald has directed music in several churches and is currently the director of music at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga. He is also the director of inSpirit Men’s Chorus and The King’s Quire, a Renaissance choir in Chattanooga. Gerald and his wife, Susan, have two children.

Judy Glass: Judy received her BMus and MMus from the University of Texas. She studied for three years under Anton Heiller at the Vienna Academy of Music, in Holland in the International Organ Course, and at the North German Organ Academy. She has been a dearly loved organ professor at Southern Adventist University and the organist for the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists for 50 years. She collaborated extensively with Doc in that time on university and church music. Judy received recognition as an honorary alum of Southern in 2022.

Julie Penner: Julie holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Idaho, a Master of Music from Eastman School of Music and a Doctor of Arts in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Northern Colorado. She is the director of vocal studies at Southern Adventist University and has performed nationally and internationally as soprano soloist.

Steve Martin, ’82: Steve toured Russia and Romania with Die Meistersinger as a guitar, banjo, mandolin, and trumpet soloist in 1982.

He is in his 42nd year serving as music and physical education teacher at North Shore Adventist Academy near Chicago, Illinois. He and his wife, Mary, have two daughters.

George Whetmore, '81: George was the accompanist for Die Meistersinger from 1976 to 1979. George is a pediatrician by day and a musician by night. He has arranged and recorded music and played in ensembles. He and his wife, Deb, have two children and three grandchildren and reside in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Jenine Fryling Marin, '83: Jenine played piano for Die Meistersinger from 1979 to 1982. She teaches violin, is the musical director and dean of musicians for two local schools, and is the minister of music and director of the girl's choir at her local church. She lives in Medellin, Colombia. Jenine has a daughter and two sons.

Cynthia (Patterson) Coston, '83: Cynthia was a soprano soloist and accompanist for Die Meistersinger in the 1982-1983 academic year. She has worked as a harpist, a corporate communications specialist, and the business manager of Seven Bends Veterinary Hospital. She directed the Shenandoah Valley Academy Handbell Ensemble and has been a handbell clinician for music festivals. She and her husband, Bruce, have two sons.

Alicia (Williams) Patterson, attended: Alicia was the pianist for Die Meistersinger from 1983 to 1985. She has taught piano, directed a children's choir, been an assistant professor of religion, and is currently a grief coach. She and her husband, Geoff, have four children and two grandchildren and live in Boulder, Colorado.

Debbie (Hilderbrandt) Begley, '88: Debbie played for Die Meistersinger in the 1985-1986 academic year. She has been an elementary school teacher, directed church choirs, led children's' musicals and accompanies the praise team in her church. She works in the Education Department of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. She and her husband, Scott, have two adult sons.

Karen (Larsen) Godfrey, '88: Karen accompanied Die Meistersinger from 1986 to 1988. She has played piano and organ for her home church in Sacramento, California and served as music director for local churches. She works for Maranatha Volunteers International serving around the world. She and her husband, Robert, have two sons.

Traci Hagele Oms: Traci accompanied Die Meistersinger in the 1996-1997 academic year. She recalls that Doc often told audiences that the men sometimes treated her like a little sister and sometimes like a lady. She worked as a field sales representative for a publishing company and as a stay-at-home mom. She teaches music at her church school and is the worship coordinator and accompanies the praise team at her church. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

Program Notes

Prepared by Bruce Coston, '83

Still, Still with Thee

This lovely hymn was the traditional Die Meistersinger introit at Collegedale worship services. It was performed then, as it is today, with the men encircling the sanctuary, enveloping the worshipers with its intricately woven harmonies and moving them with the profound impact of Harriet Beecher Stowe's beautiful words.

For All the Saints (Congregational Hymn)

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
In praise of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Of the many roles Doc played in the life of the Collegedale church over the years, few are more fondly remembered as his rousing and animated leading of congregational hymns. Worshipers felt like singers in his choir and invariably the participation was enthusiastic and the praises raised to the Redeemer were fervent. Alleluia, Alleluia!

No Man Is an Island

Oh, the power of such words! In a world so totally fractured and disparate, how important is this message; how desperately needed. You and I depend upon each other for meaning and significance. When we are united corporately we are individually strong. May each of us seek not to divide, but to unite with the kinship that is mankind!

The Greatest Want of the World

This piece exemplified what we learned from Doc. Not only did he expect the precise musicianship which Wayne Hooper's arrangement demanded, but he also challenged us to be the men described in this wonderful Ellen White quote.

Ovid Young was a preeminent composer/arranger of sacred music with harmonies perfectly attuned to the male chorus repertoire. His music wonderfully enhanced the eloquent words of many a faithful hymn. This and the two additional Ovid Young arrangements in this afternoon's performance were Die Meistersinger standards over the years.

The Last Words of David

This is another example of a composition powerful in word, deed, and expectation. The men of Die Meistersinger were carefully selected as much to embody such ideals as to musically bring them to full voice. Doc's expectations of us then motivate us still.

Spirituals comprised a significant number of Die Meistersinger pieces – both because they lend themselves to the richness of male voices and because of their historical significance. When Die Meistersinger toured behind the Iron Curtain in 1982, we were prohibited from performing sacred music, though spirituals were permitted because the Soviet government categorized them as folk music with a recognized place in American history. The next three pieces in this afternoon's performance are representative of such pieces.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

This rousing rendition of the American civil war anthem rings with clarity and beauty. It brought many people trapped behind the Iron Curtain to tears by challenging notions of individual and national freedom. The rich harmonies heard in its ethereal calm sections are offset by the trumpeted calls to freedom of the full-throated chorus – Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! Truth will indeed march on!

A Parting Blessing

This simple tune whispers a blessing over listeners like the flowing of a gentle stream, gliding peacefully over rocks and carrying along colorful fall leaves. This piece ended every concert, burning its blessing forever onto the hearts of every Die Meistersinger. May it leave its mark equally on you too, settling on your heart its melody and meaning. Until we meet again, indeed! Perhaps not in this life. But with shining hope we look forward to meeting again where the rain will fall soft and the sun will shine warm. Until then, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

The Marvin Robertson Endowed Concert Series

The men of Die Meistersinger, along with some generous benefactors have raised funds to create The Marvin Robertson Endowed Concert Series in recognition of the contributions Marvin “Doc” Robertson made to them personally and musically. This endowment will provide funding to support a concert series to enhance the musical experiences and education of Southern students and the local community, with preference for vocal music. It will be administered by the School of Music with active student involvement. This will be a permanent homage to the values that Doc embodied: worship, excellence, precision, and beauty. We could envision no higher honor for him than by bringing beautiful music into the community in his name. It is what he did for decades. The offering today will be added to this endowment. If Doc impacted you as profoundly as he has the men of Die Meistersinger, please give generously.

