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# THE ASCENDING VOICE

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AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF SACRED A CAPPELLA MUSIC

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Malibu, California  
June 4-7, 2007

## GREETINGS AND WELCOME!

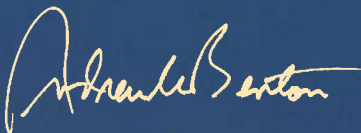
All believers yearn to express their devotion to God. The pure praise of hymns is both a feast for our souls and an earnest gift we offer to the Creator. The celebration of music this week, as we join voices and traditions from around the world, will be rich and deeply meaningful.

Pepperdine University seeks to be not just a fine university, but a Christian university dedicated to the development of faith, values, and culture. We nurture the liberal arts and broad learning, and we are especially proud of our tradition of a *cappella* music in worship, in performance, and through scholarly conferences. We are grateful for your participation this week.

The *Ascending Voice* symposium is a truly historic event—perhaps the first ever international gathering of scholars, theologians, musicologists and singers from many Christian communions to study, celebrate, and perform this 2,000-year tradition of worship. The program is quite diverse—Gregorian chant, classic hymns, contemporary gospel, shape-note harmony, and freshly composed hymns. You will find a rich tapestry of beautiful music offered in praise. In addition, the conference features some of the world's finest music teachers and splendid performances by choirs, both collegiate and professional.

Special thanks go to those who have helped organize and fund this effort. I am particularly grateful to provost Darryl Tippens and associate professor N. Lincoln Hanks for their leadership; and I wish to thank the Center for Faith and Learning and the Lilly Endowment for their financial assistance.

In this symposium we seek to build community among believers and among all those who love the music of faith. In all that will take place, praise be to God.



**ANDREW K. BENTON**

*President*

## MONDAY, JUNE 4

9:30 A.M. REGISTRATION (continuing through the day)

11:00 PANEL Stauffer Chapel

“Two Perspectives on Sacred Singing:  
From Antonio Rodríguez de Matta to Olivier Messiaen”  
Session Chair: Gary Cobb—*Pepperdine University*

“Singing the A Cappella Passion: An Historical Overview with Focus on the  
Responsorial Passion of Colonial México”  
Grey Brothers—*Westmont College*

“Divine Transcendence in the Life and Music of Olivier Messiaen”  
Jeff Goolsby—*Garland, Texas*

12:15 LUNCH

1:30 PLENARY ADDRESS Smothers Theatre

Chair: Darryl Tippens—*Pepperdine University*

“The Story of Your Departure”

Frederica Mathewes-Green—*Linthicum, Maryland*

2:45 BREAK

3:15 SPECIAL SESSION Smothers Theatre

“Singing with Alice Parker”

Alice Parker—*Hawley, Massachusetts*

4:15 PERFORMANCE Smothers Theatre

Spiritual Music Ensemble

5:30 DINNER Waves Café

7:30 CONCERT Smothers Theatre

“O Cathedral”

THE CONCORD ENSEMBLE

9:00 VESPERS Stauffer Chapel

Boston Byzantine Choir



### THE CONCORD ENSEMBLE

“O Cathedral”

7:30

Smothers Theatre

## TUESDAY, JUNE 5

7:00-8:15 **BREAKFAST** Waves Café

8:15-8:45 **MORNINGSONG** Stauffer Chapel

Ken Nafziger—*Eastern Mennonite University*

9:00 **WORKSHOP** Stauffer Chapel

“Byzantine Chant Improvisations”  
with Charles Marge and Rick Vanderhoef  
Session Chair: Valerie Yova—*President, PSALM*

**PANEL** Raitt Recital Hall

“Singing, Identity, Belonging: A Comparison of Singing Among  
Crow and Cheyenne Indian Christians of Montana and  
Euro-American Mennonites of Indiana”  
Session Chair: Paul W. Kilpatrick—*Geneva College*  
David Graber—*Little Big Horn College*  
Rebecca Slough—*Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary*

10:30 **BREAK**

11:00 **PLENARY ADDRESS** Smothers Theatre

Session Chair: Randall D. Chesnutt—*Pepperdine University*  
“Congregational Singing in the Early Church”  
Everett Ferguson—*Abilene Christian University*

**NOON** **LUNCH** Waves Café

1:30 **PERFORMANCE** Smothers Theatre

Boston Byzantine Choir  
Charles Marge—*Director, Boston Byzantine Choir*

3:00 **BREAK**

3:30 **PERFORMANCE** Smothers Theatre

The St. Andrews Academy Choir  
Brian Foss—*director*

5:00 **DINNER** Waves Café

6:00 **FILM** Elkins Auditorium

Awake My Soul: The Story of Sacred Harp  
Discussion with Matt Hinton—*director*

7:30 **CONCERT** Smothers Theatre

“Mt. Sinai: Frontier of Byzantium:  
Orthodox Chant from St. Catherine’s Monastery, Sinai, Egypt”  
**CAPPELLA ROMANA**

9:30 **VESPERS** Stauffer Chapel

Harding University and Lipscomb University Singers



### CAPPELLA ROMANA

“Mt. Sinai: Frontier of Byzantium”  
7:30  
Smothers Theatre

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

7:30-8:15 **BREAKFAST** Waves Café

8:15-8:45 **MORNINGSONG** Stauffer Chapel

Ken Nafziger—*Eastern Mennonite University*

9:00 **WORKSHOP** Stauffer Chapel

Robert Page—*Carnegie Mellon University*

**PANEL** Raitt Recital Hall

“Singing As Spiritual Formation”

Session Chair: Ron Highfield—*Pepperdine University*

“The Formative and Expressive Qualities of Music in Christian Worship,”

Edward Schaefer—*Gonzaga University*

“What Language Shall I Borrow? Personal Reflections on

How Hymns Shape Us,” D’Esta Love—*Pepperdine University*

“Finding Our Voice: Congregational Singing as Christ-Shaping

and Spiritually Formative,” Jack Reese—*Abilene Christian University*

**PANEL** Kresge Reading Room, Payson Library

“Contemporary Hymnody: Challenge and Opportunity”

Session Chair: Ken Adams—*Oklahoma Christian University*

“And the Band Played On...’: Recapturing the Sound of A Cappella Music,”

Gregory Straughn—*Abilene Christian University*

“An Exploration of A Cappella Music within the Convergence Worship Model,”

Isaac L. Gaff—*Lincoln Christian College*

“A Hymn of Praise, a Joyful Noise, or the Song of Fools? Evaluating

Contemporary Christian Hymns from a Musical Standpoint,”

Gary P. Wilson—*Lipscomb University*

10:30 **BREAK**

11:00 **PLENARY ADDRESS** Smothers Theatre

Session Chair: Richard Hughes—*Messiah College*

“A Cappella Hymns from the Worldwide Church”

Mary K. Oyer—*Goshen College*

NOON **LUNCH** Waves Café

1:00 **WORKSHOP** Stauffer Chapel

Sacred Harp Singing with FaSoLA

**WORKSHOP** Raitt Recital Hall

“Participatory Elements in the Traditional Structures of Orthodox Liturgy,”

with Vladimir Morosan—*President, Musica Russica, Inc.*

**SPECIAL SESSION** Kresge Reading Room, Payson Library

“A Cappella: Mennonite Hymns, Poetry, and Hymn Writers”

Session Chair: Ann Hostetler

Original works read by Jean Janzen, David Wright,

Sheri Hostetler, and Ann Hostetler

**2:30** **PLENARY ADDRESS** Stauffer Chapel

Session Chair: Henry Price—*Pepperdine University*

“The Singer as Preacher: The Choral Music of Domenico Bartolucci and the Schola Romana”

Aurelio Porfiri—*Choir Master, Church of Santa Susanna, Rome*

**3:15** **BREAK**

**3:30** **PERFORMANCE** Smothers Theatre

Lipscomb University A Cappella Singers

Gary Wilson—*Director*

Pepperdine Chamber Singers

Milton Pullen—*Director*

**5:30** **DINNER** Waves Café

**7:30** **CONCERT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF HYMN CONTEST WINNERS**

Smothers Theatre

ARCADIA CORO DE CÁMARA

Medellín, Colombia

Cecilia Espinosa—*Director*

Announcement of Hymn Contest Winners

Performance of Winning Hymns by Combined Choirs

**9:30** **VESPERS** Stauffer Chapel

Columba Kelly—*St. Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, Indiana*

**ARCADIA  
CORO DE CÁMARA**

**7:30**  
Smothers Theatre



**THURSDAY, JUNE 7**

7:30-8:15 **BREAKFAST** Waves Café

8:15-8:45 **MORNINGSONG** Stauffer Chapel

Ken Nafziger—*Eastern Mennonite University*

9:00 **SPECIAL SESSION** Stauffer Chapel

“A Musical Rosetta Stone: The Archangelica Trope”

Columba Kelly—*St. Meinrad Archabbey*

Session Chair: Melanie Emilio—*Pepperdine University*

**PANEL** Raitt Recital Hall

“Sacred Singing: Theological and Historical Perspectives

Session Chair: Linda King—*Brite Divinity School*

“The Role of Music in the Life of Israel and the Early Church”

Thomas H. Olbricht—*Professor Emeritus—Pepperdine University*

“Philo and the Fathers on Music”

Everett Ferguson—*Abilene Christian University*

10:30 **BREAK**

11:00 **PERFORMANCE** Smothers Theatre

Harding University Chamber Singers

Cliff Ganus—*Director*

**NOON** **LUNCH** Waves Café

1:00 **WORKSHOP** Stauffer Chapel

“Chant Simple” Workshop, with Robert McCann Fowells

**PANEL** Raitt Recital Hall

“A Cappella Singing in Churches of Christ: Then and Now”

Session Chair: John Wilson—*Pepperdine University*

“Where It All Started,”

Jack Boyd—*Professor Emeritus—Abilene Christian University*

“A Cappella Singing in the First and Twenty-First Centuries: Reexamining the Traditional View,” Cliff Ganus—*Harding University*

“Music: The Voice of the Heart,” John Poore—*The Cambridge School*

3:00 **PERFORMANCE** Stauffer Chapel

Gonzaga University Gregorian Schola

Edward Schaefer—*Director*

5:00 **DINNER** Waves Café

6:00 **DESSERT RECEPTION** Smothers Courtyard

7:30 **CONCERT** Smothers Theatre

ANONYMOUS 4

**ANONYMOUS 4**

7:30

Smothers Theatre



## SINGING AND WORSHIP

### **MorningSong with Kenneth Nafziger.**

Kenneth Nafziger, professor of music at Eastern Mennonite University, is also artistic director and conductor of the annual Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival (Harrisonburg, Virginia), and of the chamber choirs *Musica Viva* and *Voce*. He was music editor of *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (1992) and assistant to the editor of *Sing the Journey* (2005). He is active in the United States and Canada as a guest conductor, workshop leader, and clinician. In 2001 he coauthored *Singing, a Mennonite Voice*.

**8:15 a.m., Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday, Stauffer Chapel**

### **Vespers Service with the Boston Byzantine Choir**

**9 p.m., Monday, Stauffer Chapel**

### **Vespers Service with Harding University and Lipscomb University Singers**

**9 p.m., Tuesday, Stauffer Chapel**

### **Vespers Service with Columba Kelley, St. Meinrad Archabbey**

**9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Stauffer Chapel**

## EVENING CONCERTS

### THE CONCORD ENSEMBLE

*Program: "O Cathedral"*

The Concord Ensemble of Los Angeles presents an experiential program of a *cappella* mystical and sacred music by ancient and contemporary composers. Featuring the personal and penitential *Miserere mei Deus* by Josquin des Prez and Stephen Hartke's sublime *Cathedral in the Threshing Rain*, the all-male



vocal chamber music recreates the sacred spaces of vast transepts and intimate radiating chapels. The Concord Ensemble gained international recognition in 1998 when it won the Early Music America/Dorian Records Recording Competition. Since then it has recorded two CDs under the Dorian label, touring worldwide with performances of music of Medieval, Renaissance, and contemporary periods. It has collaborated in performing and recording projects with such premier early music groups as Piffaro and the Folger Consort, and most recently joined international pop sensation Sting and Bosnian lutenist Edin Karamazov on stage at Disney Hall in Los Angeles, performing music from Sting's new CD, *Songs from the Labyrinth*. For more information, visit [www.concordensemble.com](http://www.concordensemble.com).

**7:30 p.m., Monday, Smothers Theatre**



### CAPPELLA ROMANA

*Program: "Mt. Sinai, Frontier of Byzantium: Greek Orthodox Chant from St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, Egypt"*

Cappella Romana appears in this program as an all-male *cappella* ensemble directed by Dr. Alexander Lingas. The ensemble combines passion with scholarship in its exploration of the musical traditions of the Christian East and West, from the earliest notated medieval manuscripts to world premieres by living composers. Following last year's sold-out performances at the Smithsonian

Institution and the J. Paul Getty Museum, Cappella Romana presents virtuoso medieval Byzantine chants from St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, Egypt—music few have heard in over 500 years—including psalms, hymns, and mystical chants from the *Play of the Three Children in the Fiery Furnace*, Byzantium's only liturgical drama. This program

was described as “robust and intriguing” by the *Washington Post*. The ensemble, which has a flexible membership of both men and women, has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe and has recorded eight compact discs, including *Music of Byzantium*, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more information, visit [www.cappellaromana.org](http://www.cappellaromana.org). **7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Smothers Theatre**



## ARCADIA CORO DE CÁMARA

Cecilia Espinosa directs this award-winning choir from Medellín, Colombia. The 18-member chamber choir was established in 1999 to perform new musical compositions and Latin American choral music, in particular. The group has participated in several international choral

festivals and competitions, winning a Gold Medal at the Rodas (Greece) International Choir Competition in 2002. In 2005 Arcadia was one of four choirs selected to perform at the seventh Symposium of Choral Music in Kyoto, Japan. In July 2006 the choir participated in the prestigious 22<sup>nd</sup> Béla Bartók Competition in Debrecen, Hungary, winning Third Place among the chamber choirs. In the same contest, Ms. Espinosa won a special prize for her superior conducting and interpretation of the Latin American repertoire.

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Smothers Theatre**

## ANONYMOUS 4

*Anonymous 4*, a professional folk ensemble of four women, is world renowned for interweaving music, poetry, and narrative—their recordings on the Billboard Classic Top Ten have sold in the millions of copies. Their new CD *Gloryland*, a collaboration with folk star instrumentalists Darol Anger and Mike Marshall, is a pilgrimage to the roots of Anglo-American vocal music, featuring lyric folk songs and religious ballads, shape-note tunes (in spare three-part harmony from 19th-century hymn books), spirituals, and gospel hymns. Their version of religious ballads and folk songs replicates the performances of traditional singers from the Ozark and Appalachian Mountains.

**7:30 p.m., Thursday, Smothers Theatre**



## PLENARY ADDRESSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS



### FREDERICA MATHEWES-GREEN

*Plenary Address: "The Story of Your Departure."*

Frederica Mathewes-Green is a dynamic speaker, popular radio commentator on National Public Radio, and a prolific writer whose columns have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Christianity Today* and *The Wall Street Journal*. An author with wide-ranging interests, Ms. Mathewes-Green has written on a variety of topics ranging from early Christian spirituality to the life of Mary. She serves as "Khouria" of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Linthicum, Maryland, which she cofounded with her husband. Her books include *The Lost Gospel of Mary: The Theotokos in Three Ancient Texts*; *First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty Day Journey Through the Canon of St. Andrew*; *Facing East: A Pilgrim's Journey into the Mysteries of Orthodoxy*; *The Illumined Heart: The Ancient Christian Path of Transformation*; and *At the Corner of East and Now*.

**1:30 p.m., Monday, Smothers Theatre**



### ALICE PARKER

*"Singing with Alice Parker"*

Composer, conductor, and teacher, Alice Parker has devoted her life to choral and vocal music. She is known for her arrangements with Robert Shaw of folk songs, hymns, and spirituals, sung by choruses around the world. Ms. Parker is the author of *Melodious Accord: Good Singing in Church* and *The Anatomy of Melody*. She serves on the board of Chorus America.

**3:15 p.m., Monday, Smothers Theatre**



### EVERETT FERGUSON

*Plenary Address: "Congregational Singing in the Early Church"*

Dr. Ferguson, Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Abilene Christian University, is one of the foremost historians of ancient Christianity. He has served as president of the North American Patristics Society and coeditor of the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*. Dr. Ferguson is the author of *Early Christians Speak*, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, coauthor of *Gregory of Nyssa: Life of Moses*, and editor of *The Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*.

**11 a.m., Tuesday, Smothers Theatre**



### ROBERT PAGE

*"A Workshop with Robert Page."*

The first Paul Mellon Professor of Music at Carnegie Mellon University, Robert Page has been declared a "national treasure" by the *American Record Guide*. He is one of the most distinguished choral conductors in the U.S., serving as director of special projects and choral activities for the Pittsburgh Symphony and as music director and conductor of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, which came to international prominence under his guidance. Mr. Page's work is available on more than forty discs, several of which are Grammy Award winners. Active in the national choral scene, Mr. Page is a founding member of Chorus America and a catalyst in the commissioning of major works of the 20th century including "The Lovers" by Samuel Barber and "An American Oratorio" by Ned Rorem.

**9 a.m., Wednesday, Stauffer Chapel**



### MARY K. OYER

*Plenary Address: "A Cappella Hymns from the Worldwide Church."*

Professor Emerita at Goshen College, Dr. Oyer is recognized internationally as a scholar, educator, hymnologist, and church musician. A guiding force behind two different Mennonite hymnals, Dr. Oyer is a frequent clinician and song leader for hymn festivals across the U.S. and Canada. Through her knowledge of and passion for African music, she has influenced North American churches to include African hymns in their worship. She has also introduced cultural and artistic values from Kenya and Taiwan into her classrooms at four different academic institutions. Dr. Oyer will discuss the ways in which congregational singing unites those who worship together. A videodisc honoring the work of Dr. Oyer, *Nurturing Spirit Through Song: The Life of Mary K. Oyer*, was released in 2006. **11 a.m., Wednesday, Smothers Theatre**



### AURELIO PORFIRI

*"The Singer as Preacher: The Choral Music of Domenico Bartolucci."*

Choir Master, Church of Santa Susanna in Rome, Mr. Profiri conducts both the choir of Santa Susanna and the Santa Susanna Singers. He has served as director of the women's choir Regina Pacis whose repertoire includes music from Gregorian chant to modern compositions. His works, some commissioned by the Vatican and broadcast by Vatican Radio, include oratorios, masses, motets, and hymns in Italian and English.

**2:30 p.m., Wednesday, Stauffer Chapel**

## PERFORMING GROUPS AND FILM

**Spiritual Music Ensemble.** Composer Konstantin Zhigulin of St. Petersburg, Russia, brings his original music compositions, based upon the Psalms and other texts of Scripture, to the U.S. Various Russian symphonies, including the Novosibirsk Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestra, have performed Zhigulin's original pieces.

**4:15 p.m., Monday, Smothers Theatre**

**Boston Byzantine Choir.** Charles Marge, director. Since its inception in 1993 the Boston Byzantine Choir has endeavored to make Byzantine chant and the Orthodox faith accessible to the English-speaking world. It is best known for producing a number of best-selling recordings, including *First Fruits*, *Mystical Supper*, and *Thy Passion*. Today's performance will be the basis for a new Paschal recording available spring 2008.

**1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Smothers Theatre**

**The St. Andrew's Academy Choir.** This choir, directed by Fr. Brian Foos, is one of the very few liturgical choirs in the Anglican tradition in America that actually sings the daily offices every school day during the year. This, along with the composition of the choir (kindergarten through 12th grade and faculty), makes the choir unique in the primary and secondary school arena. When the choir travels long distances, only middle and high school students make the trip with faculty to sing "hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving" from the great Anglican Choral tradition. The choir is a member of the Royal School of Church Music and has recorded its first CD, *Heart Rejoicing: Evensong with St. Andrew's Academy*. **Tuesday 3:30 p.m., Smothers Theatre**

**Awake My Soul: The Story of Sacred Harp (Film).** This documentary—a seven-year effort by Matt and Erica Hinton of Atlanta, Georgia—tells the story of Sacred Harp singing, a shape-note tradition with deep roots in the American South and Colonial America. Matt Hinton will introduce the film and discuss the project of documenting this beloved American musical tradition. **Tuesday 6 p.m., Elkins Auditorium**

**FaSoLA: Sacred Harp Workshop.** Rick and Laura Russell are amateur singers who have been encouraging the practice of Sacred Harp singing in the Los Angeles area since 1992. Rick is a retired professor of psychology at Santa Monica College, and Laura is a student at College of Court Reporting in Hobart, Indiana. Since 1999 they have led a Sacred Harp "Learners Group" which seeks to promote this participatory expression of uniquely American music, to help singers learn its practical method of sight-singing, and to appreciate its rich traditions. **1 p.m., Wednesday, Stauffer Chapel**

**Lipscomb University A Cappella Singers.** Gary Wilson, director. For more than 40 years the A Cappella Singers have been an important part of Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tennessee. The ensemble has traveled and performed in 39 states, 11 foreign countries, and has given an estimated 700 performances in such venues as the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris; the City Hall of Brisbane, Australia; the University of Toulouse, France; the Cathedral of San Antonio, Texas; and many churches in the rural South. The singers have performed for the Southern Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association and the State Conference of the Tennessee Music Educators Association. **3:30p.m., Wednesday, Smothers Theatre**

**Pepperdine University Chamber Singers.** Milton Pullen, director. The Chamber Singers of Pepperdine University are an elite group of student singers and staff members from the undergraduate campus of Seaver College. Although the ensemble is mainly composed of music majors and music faculty, students from other disciplines within Seaver College also participate. All members of Chamber Singers participate in the larger University Concert Choir. Professor Milt Pullen directed award-winning high school programs for 24 years before joining Pepperdine University in 1995. The concert choir recorded the compact disc *Sacred Songs from the Chapel* in 2004.

**3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Smothers Theatre**

**Harding University Chamber Singers.** Cliff Ganus, Director. The Chamber Singers of Harding University (Searcy, Arkansas) is a select group. Most of the dozen members are music majors who also sing in Harding's Chorus or Concert Choir. The group, established in the fall of 2005, prepares three or four concerts each year, exploring a repertoire particularly suitable for a vocal chamber ensemble. They also participate in annual Christmas dinners and concerts. **11 a.m., Thursday, Smothers Theatre**

**The Gonzaga University Gregorian Schola.** Dr. Edward Schaefer, director. The Gregorian Schola is a select ensemble whose members sing chant and Renaissance polyphony at the university's weekly Gregorian Chant masses. The Schola has sung throughout the United States in conferences devoted to chant and at a regional and national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference and the American Choral Directors Association. Dr. Edward Schaefer has a special interest in chant, with several publications on the subject. His latest text, *The Music of the Catholic Church: The Search for an Acceptable Offering*, will be published this summer.

**3 p.m., Thursday, Stauffer Chapel**



# NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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*Professor of Church History Emeritus  
Graduate School of Theology  
Abilene Christian University*

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*Distinguished Professor and Senior Boyer Fellow  
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## **Father Columba Kelly, OSB**

*Director, St. Meinrad Gregorian Chant Schola  
Saint Meinrad Archabbey*

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*President of PSALM  
Music Director  
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La Jolla, California*

# *A*PPRECIATION

We wish to express our deep gratitude to those individuals and organizations which helped fund the Ascending Voice Symposium, including President Andrew K. Benton, Pepperdine University's Center for Faith and Learning, and the Lilly Endowment, Inc.



COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD;

LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION!

LET US COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING;

LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO HIM

WITH SONGS OF PRAISE!

PSALM 95: 1-2

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY