

Grateful, Thankful, Blessed

Bella Lumina Fall Concert 2022

Heaven is here, unfolding, unfolding... Where sky and earth collide... In the vast expanses of the universe...



**Michelle Gehrz,
Artistic Director**

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

In harmony and hope...in the joy of fellowship...In the burnished golden light of autumn...deep is heaven...here on earth

And in the smallest interstitial spaces, of cell and atom...In soaring songs of light...

FRIDAY, NOV. 11 | 7:30 pm

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ
2129 Commonwealth Avenue, St Paul

SATURDAY, NOV. 12 | 7:30 pm

Minnetonka United Methodist Church
17611 Lake Street Extension, Minnetonka



**Bella
Lumina**

spreading light, hope & joy
through song

**Bella Lumina
Concert Roster**

Cheri Almquist
Helen Arneson
Grace Barry
Ruth Campbell
Angie Carpenter
Charlotte Currier
Liz Farmer
Gay Gonnerman
Kathleen Grindeland
Monica Healy
Julianne Heil
Kate Johnston
Ellen Junko Sandoval
Paige Kamin
Barbara Kern-Pieh
Tanya Kirschenman
Jan Lillemo
Julie Lindstrom
Emma Lohman
Doreen Lorentz
Mindy Mennicke
Joan Nelson
Kay Netland
Jean Olson
Sandy Olson
Nancy Pearson
Larissa Penny
Tricia Porter
Kim Ries
Cynthia Scherer
Jamie Schmidt
Cara Schoenberg
Chris Starr
Cindy Stauffer
Julie Stauffer
Judy Sunderland
Shari Tivy
Nancy Verba
Heidi Vickerman
Beth VonEschen

Michelle Gehrz
Artistic Director

Jeffrey Patry and
Chris Starr
piano

Barb Savereide
violin

Meghan McGuire
cello

Mike Ries
guitar

Monica Healy
djembe

— PROGRAM —

Grateful for community, nature, and life

In Meeting We Are Blessed

Music by Troy Robertson /Text by R.Gatsnahos & John Donne
Soloist: Kate Johnston

We Gather Together

Traditional Hymn tune: KREMSER/arr. Aaron Humble

A Little Song of Life

Music by Reginald Unterseher /Text by Lizette Woodworth Reese

Be Grateful, My Soul

Music by Elizabeth Alexander/Poem by Norbert Čapek

Heaven Unfolding

Music by Andrea Ramsey/Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Thankful for grace and gifts

For the Beauty

Music by Philip Stopford/Text by Folliott S. Pierpoint (adapted)

I Thank You God

Music by Gwyneth Walker /Text by e.e. cummings

Simple Gifts

18th c. Shaker tune/arr. Russell Robinson

The Road Home

Southern Harmony tune: PROSPECT adapted by Stephen Paulus/Text by Michael Dennis Browne
Soloist: Ellen Junko Sandoval

Blessed by family, friends, and a place to call home

Fly Away Home

Music and Text by Pinkzebra

Thanksgiving Song

Music and Text by Mary Chapin Carpenter/arr. John Purifoy

Alleluia, Amen (from The Place of the Blest)

Music by Randall Thompson

The Blessing

Music and Text by Brendan Graham & David Downes/arr. John Purifoy
Recorded by CELTIC WOMAN
Soloist: Nancy Pearson

In Meeting We Are Blessed

We are met together and in meeting
we are blessed.
Peace in coming and in going,
Peace in labor and in rest.
Hold on, dear brother, hold on dear sister,
hold on to me.
We are met together and in meeting
we are blessed.
Peace in coming and in going,
Peace in labor and in rest.
You're not alone and you never more will be.
I will be with you and I will carry you with me.
Friendship endures and surely we will prove
It's not ourselves but our bodies that will move.
We are met together and in meeting
we are blessed.
Peace in coming and in going,
Peace in labor and in rest.
Hold on, dear brother, hold on dear sister,
hold on to me.

We Gather Together

We gather together in harvest, in labor,
Embracing each other in friendship and love.
Our sorrows and sadness make way
for life's gladness,
creator of us all, endow us with your love.
We all do extol thee, great spirit, creator.
Our voices together we lift in a song.
The earth with its richness, a bounty it gives us,
thy name be ever praised, eternity beyond.
We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.
Creator of us all, endow us with your love.

A Little Song of Life

Glad that I live, am I;
That the sky is blue;
Glad for the country lanes,
And the fall of the dew.
After the sun the rain,
After the rain the sun;
This is the way of life,
Till the work be done.
All that we need to do,
Be we low or high,
Is to see that we grow
Nearer the sky.

Be Grateful, My Soul

Even though a thousand times disappointed
Or fallen in the fight,
Even though faced with a world that now seems
worthless,
I have lived amidst eternity.
Be grateful, my soul,
I have lived amidst eternity.

Heaven Unfolding

Heaven is here unfolding,
Where starlight and wonder mingle,
Where sky and earth collide
In the vast expanses of the universe
And in the smallest interstitial spaces of cell
and atom.
In quiet moments, in soaring songs of light,
In unexpected beauty, in a smile,
In laughter and in love, in harmony (and hope),
In the depths of solitude
As in the joy of fellowship;
In the burnished golden light of Autumn,
In Death, and in sweet partings;
Just as in the quickening fire of newfound love;
Is Heaven here unfolding.
Drink deeply!
For widely flows the fountain,
And deep is Heaven here on earth.

For the Beauty

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice hymn of praise, of praise
For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above;
Pleasures pure and undefiled:
For each perfect gift of Thine,
To our race so freely giv'n;
Graces human and divine,
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise, of praise.
For Thy church which evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Off'ring upon ev'ry shore
Her pure sacrifice of love:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise, of praise.

I Thank You, God

I thank You God for most this amazing day
For the leaping greenly spirits of trees
And a blue true dream of sky
And for everything which is natural, which is
infinite, which is yes
I who have died am alive again today
And this is the sun's birthday
This is the birth day of life and of love and wings
And of the gay great happening illimitably earth
How should tasting, touching, hearing, seeing,
breathing any
Lifted from the no of all nothing

Human merely being doubt unimaginable You?
Now the ears of my ears awake
And now the eyes of my eyes are opened

Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we will not be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

The Road Home

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own
That I left, that I lost
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home
After wind, after rain
When the dark is done
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day
Through the air there's a calling
From far away
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home
Rise up, follow me
Come away, is the call
With the love in your heart
As the only song
There is no such beauty
As where you belong
Rise up, follow me
I will lead you home

Fly Away Home

I'll ride with the horses. I'll swim through the sea.
I'll climb to the mountain tops. Won't you come
follow me?
I'll take time to notice all that I see
And after I've come so far you'll know where I'll be.
I'll fly away, fly away, fly away home.
Well, life is a vision, that's how it should be.
The world is a canvas and the choices are free.
At the end of the journey when all is complete
They'll wonder where I've gone, but you know
where I'll be.
I'll fly away, fly away, fly away home.
Our dreams last forever, for all that we know.
The roads come together and that's where
we'll go.
We'll fly away, fly away, fly away home.



Thanksgiving Song

Grateful for each hand we hold
Gathered 'round this table
From far and near we travel home
Blessed that we are able
Grateful for this sheltered place
With light in every window
Saying, "Welcome, welcome, share this feast
Come in away from sorrow"
Father, mother, daughter, son
Neighbor, friend and friendless
All together everyone
In the gift of loving kindness
Grateful for what's understood
And all that is forgiven
We try so hard to be good
To lead a life worth living
Father, mother, daughter, son
Neighbor, friend and friendless
All together everyone
Let grateful days be endless
Grateful for each hand we hold
Gathered 'round this table

Alleluia, Amen (from The Place of the Blest)

Alleluia, Amen.

The Blessing

In the morning when you rise,
I bless the sun,
I bless the skies,
I bless your lips, I bless your eyes,
my blessing goes with you.
In the nighttime when you sleep,
oh I bless you while a watch I keep,
As you lie in slumber deep
my blessing goes with you.
This is my prayer for you, there for you, ever true.
Each ev'ry day for you, in ev'ry thing you do,
And when you come to me and hold me close to you,
I bless you, and you bless me too.
When your weary heart is tired,
if the world should leave you uninspired,
When nothing more of love's desired,
my blessing goes with you.
When the storms of life are strong,
when you're wounded, when you don't belong,
When you no longer hear my song
my blessing goes with you.
This is my prayer for you, there for you, ever true.
Each ev'ry day for you, in ev'ry thing you do,
And when you come to me
and hold me close to you,
I bless you, and you bless me too.
I bless you, and you bless me too.



Special appreciation to the Minnesota Family Law Firm of
Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O'Connell PLLC
as a sustaining sponsor for this season.

Thank you to...

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins:

for sharing their church space with us for weekly practices and more!

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ and Minnetonka United Methodist Church:

for allowing us to share our music in their beautiful sanctuaries.

Rick Prescott: for instrumental score editing – LHPMusic.com

Jason Anderson: for sound and recording at Minnetonka United Methodist Church

Julie Lindstrom: for Illustration, graphic design, social media – julielindstromdesign@me.com

To all those who supported our fall fundraisers! We are grateful, thankful, blessed.

MISSION

*Bella Lumina spreads light, hope, and joy through the power of song.
We present repertoire of high artistic quality that delivers a powerful message
through illuminating texts and inspirational arrangements
showcasing the extraordinary beauty of treble voices.*

Please join us!



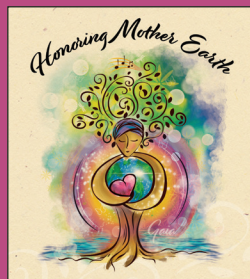
Upcoming Concerts

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023 – **Where is Love?**

4 & 7 pm | Minnetonka United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall | A cozy concert of songs about Love!

Dessert for the audience to enjoy, small singing groups
and "baskets of love" available for purchase to help
support Bella Lumina.



May 20-21, 2023 – **Honoring Mother Earth**
with Angelica Cantanti "Cantabile" Choir

Sat., May 20 | 7 pm

Venue information coming

Sun., May 21 | 3 pm

Community of the Cross Lutheran Church, Bloomington



Giving options at **BELLALUMINACHOIR.ORG**
or scan the QR CODE, then scroll to bottom of page!

All donations are greatly appreciated.