

# MUSIC TO DIE FOR!

*A Concert Celebrating Joe Ridenour's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 5:00 pm  
Speedway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Presented by the combined choirs of Speedway Christian Church,  
Indianapolis and Saint David's Episcopal Church, Bean Blossom  
under the direction of Marge Graham and Joe Ridenour

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*Welcome! We ask you to hold your applause until the end of the program.*

## PRELUDE

**Come, Sweet Death** J. S. Bach, arr. Virgil Fox  
*Juan Mesa, Organ*

**A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes**  
*The Reverend Doug Kriz, Reader*

## LIFE IS BIGGER THAN FLESH

**For All the Saints** Chalice Hymnal #637  
*Please stand. All are invited to sing verses 1, 2, 4 and 5. Verse 3, choir only.*  
*Richey Barker, Trumpet*

**A Reading from Testament by Wendell Berry**  
*Eliot R. Smith, Reader*

**Just Over In the Gloryland**  
from *The Glad Harmonies*, arr. J. Ridenour  
*Sung by the Ridenour Family Singers*

**Wondrous Love** Traditional, arr. J. Ridenour  
*Jennifer Lawrence, Piano*

**How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling-Place** Johannes Brahms  
*Jennifer Lawrence, Piano*

### *Text*

How lovely is thy dwelling-place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord:  
my soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God.  
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:  
they will always be praising thee.

*Psalm 84*

## THAT TIME OF YEAR

**In the Bulb There Is A Flower** Chalice Hymnal #638  
*Please stand. All are invited to sing.*

**Sonnet XXVII by William Shakespeare**  
*Marilyn Shank, Reader*

**Precious Lord**

Thomas A. Dorsey, arr. Joe Ridenour  
*Pat Devlin, Singer*  
*Joe Ridenour, Piano*

**Never Weather-Beaten Sail**

Thomas Campion

*Pamela Grenfell Smith, Singer*  
*Thomas Grenfell Smith, Guitar*

*Text*

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.  
 Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,  
 Now my wearied spirit longs to fly out of my troubled breast:  
 O come quickly, dearest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever living are the flowers of Heaven's high Paradise.  
 Old age dulls not there our ears nor vapor dims our eyes:  
 Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:  
 O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and raise my spright to thee!

*Thomas Campion, 1619*

**November Psalm**

Joe Ridenour

*Jennifer Lawrence, Piano*

*Text*

Mark now another journey around the sun  
 in this time of autumn's loosening -- leaf from twig,  
 persimmon from stem, wild goose from nesting-place.

Gray dawn invades the morning. Twilight claims  
 the end of day, and mists arise at noon.  
 All edges are softening, including ours.

The bugs are dead, the spiders are asleep.  
 Turtles and frogs sink peacefully into mud  
 at the pond's bottom. Only warm-blooded creatures

Still scurry through our brief years of outwitting the cold.  
 Heavy-pelted and thrifty, we prepare  
 for winter, grateful, grateful, grateful, O Lord,

for companions and blessings given by your hand.  
 Maker of peoples and worlds, you do not forget  
 a smudge of purple asters to color the wind.

*Pamela Grenfell Smith, 2000*

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

Thomas Tallis

*Jennifer Lawrence, Deborah Hutchison, Thomas Grenfell Smith*  
*and Jonathan Hutchison, Singers*

*Text*

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
 Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast."  
 I came to Jesus as I was, weary, worn and sad;  
 I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
 the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink, and live."  
 I came to Jesus and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
 My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
 Look unto me, thy morn shall rise and all thy day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

*Horatius Bonar, 1846*

## BIDDING GOODNIGHT

### **Shall We Gather at the River?**

Chalice Hymnal #701

*Please stand. All are invited to sing verses 1, 2, and 4. Verse 3, Choir only.*

### ***They Sit Together On the Porch* by Wendell Berry**

*Edward Fleming, Reader*

### **Cantata 106, Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit** J. S. Bach

*Instrumental*

Sonatina

*Choir*

Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste (God's time is the best time.)

Life is sweet; why then must we die?

Now we live, move, and have our being in Christ  
as long as we breathe.

We are children of our Abba God,  
beloved children of our Abba God.

*Tenor solo*

Ah, Lord, help me that I may accept that someday I will die.

*Tenors and basses*

Be thankful for life!

That good and holy gift of God passes quickly.

*Choir*

All things must pass away; all that has breath must die,  
and we too must die.

*Soprano solo*

Ja komm, Herr Jesu, komm (Yes, come, Lord Jesus.)

*Alto solo*

Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me.  
Lord, you are the God of truth.

*Baritone solo*

Today you will be with me in Paradise.

*Sopranos and altos*

Farewell sweet music of my life, and sweeter blessings,  
home, creatures, friends, choirs, family, wife.

My death is calling.

In peace I'll go when I must,  
to God whom I trust, singing.

*Choir*

Lift every voice in joyful praise  
to the one God, Ancient of Days,  
Who was, is now, and ever will be,  
the Spirit's breath, the well of peace,  
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*English text by Pamela Grenfell Smith, 2009*

## EVEN AT THE GRAVE

### God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Please stand. All are invited to sing.*

God be with you 'til we meet a - gain,

lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you,  
un - seen wings pro - tect - ing, hide you,  
when life's per - ils thick con - found you,  
keep love's ban - ner float - ing o'er you,

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you:  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:  
smite death's threat - 'ning wave be - fore you:

God be with you 'til we meet a - gain.

*Jeremiah S. Rankin (1828-1904)*

*Tune: Randolph by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) (C) Oxford University Press.*

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### Pié Jesu

Gabriel Fauré

*LaVerne Deckard, Soprano*

*Text*

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem, requiem sempiternam.  
(Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest, rest everlasting.)

### All Will Be Well

Deborah Hutchison

*Deborah and Jonathan Hutchison*

### A Reading from the Book of Common Prayer

*The Reverend Jonathan Hutchison, Reader*

### Alleluia

Randall Thompson

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## PROGRAM NOTES

Joe Ridenour always wanted to conduct Bach's Cantata 106, so for his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday his wife Sandy cooked up a scheme to have him do it. Tonight's program grew from that birthday gift.

Every church musician knows this experience – a worshiper comes after the service to say, “That hymn was beautiful! Can we sing it again at my funeral?” Joe has conceived of this concert as a time to experience some of those songs and anthems together, celebrating life, looking at death with honesty and trust. All tonight's music was suggested by members of the Choirs as music they wanted at their funerals. We regret that we couldn't use all the suggestions because of time limitations.

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## NOTES ON CANTATA 106

***About the music:*** Most scholars believe Cantata 106 is one of Bach's earliest cantatas (sixth of over two hundred). The number “106” was assigned by one of the first publishers of Bach's music, perhaps one hundred years after his death. The cantata was scored for choir, two viola da gamba (early stringed instruments not in common use today), two recorders (precursor of the modern flute), cello, and continuo (either harpsichord or organ improvising the harmony from the cello part.)

In my understanding of this cantata, Bach's music portrays death as a natural part of life. The tones and colors of the music are calm, peaceful, and serene. Most of the melodic phrases were developed on a well known chorale of Bach's time. In his early cantatas it was typical of Bach to write music expressing the meaning of key words. Examples include the words live, move: fast moving notes; long: long sustained notes; into your hands: ascending scales implying the spirit's ascending. Near the end of the cantata the music simply fades out gradually, ending with only one sustained note of a single instrument implying a peaceful, quiet, gentle death. After that one sustained note Bach adds a measure of rest with a fermata giving an incredible touch of silence which to me is truly a sense of a holy reverence for life. Then follows the last section of the cantata, a doxology expressing thanks for life followed by a chorus of repeated, grateful, yet calm Amens. – *Joe Ridenour*

***About the text:*** The original text of Cantata 106 comes from four sources: the Bible, German church liturgy, and two 17<sup>th</sup> century German texts, a hymn and a book of personal devotions.

Tonight's Cantata text reflects what I've heard Joe say about death in the years I've had the privilege of singing in his choir at Saint David's. When Joe began this project he invited me to prepare a new English translation of the Cantata. As I worked with the text I realized that translation alone could not capture Joe's own concerns, reflections, wonderments and beliefs about

death. I decided – on this special occasion – to honor Joe’s ideas and let Bach sit in the back seat. – *Pamela Grenfell Smith*

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**THE CHOIR OF SPEEDWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Doug Alkire, Kenna Allison, Richey Barker, Charlene Carmichael, Bill Carter, Linda Carter, Chris Cross, Pat Devlin, Diana Dickey, Jared Forbes, Cathy Genung, Sara Golay, Jeff Hammer, Chris Hawkins, Ed Hawkins, Sally Henzie, Fred Hoerger, Sandy Hostrawser, Suzanne Hough, Mary Houldson, Donna Hoss, Joan Hubele, Reta Kaiser, Helen Kellam, Meredith Kriz, Alice McColgin, Judy McKinney, Chuck McKnight, Michelle Merrill, Lisa Oeth, Don Pirtle, Mims Pirtle, Pat Realey, Jeff Ridenour, Shirley Shoup, Pauline Vermillion, Sally Weiss, Marge Graham (Director of Music)

**THE CHOIR OF SAINT DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Mike Day, Cheryl Fleming, Sandy Fittz, Steve Fittz, Charles Hill, Jim Huber, Judy Huber, Deborah Hutchison, Jonathan Hutchison, Judy Laffin, Jennifer Rekers, Sandy Ridenour, David Savage, Phyllis Sindlinger, Verne Sindlinger, Eliot Smith, Pamela Smith, Marge Steiner, Joe Ridenour (Director of Music), Ray Laffin and Jennifer Lawrence (Assistant Directors)

**RIDENOUR FAMILY SINGERS**

Eli Dehner, Julie Dehner, Jeff Dehner, Riley Dehner, Dan Ridenour, Denise Ridenour, Fiona Ridenour, Jeff Ridenour, Joe Ridenour, Sandy Ridenour, Debbie Sandgren, Kris Sandgren, Dan Scott, Madeline Scott, Michelle Scott, Joshua Ridenour, Nathan Scott

**OTHER SINGERS**

Thomas Smith (Bloomington Unitarian Universalist Church), Dottie Graham (United Church of Christ, Peterborough, New Hampshire), LaVerne Deckard (Bean Blossom Mennonite Church)

**ACCOMPANISTS**

Jennifer Lawrence (Saint David’s Episcopal Church), Piano  
Juan Mesa (Speedway Christian Church), Piano and Organ

**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Sandra Rideour, Flute  
Lisa Oeth, Flute  
Rachel Gries, Viola  
Suzane Um, Viola  
Paul Young, Cello  
Richey Barker, Trumpet

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*Joe and Sandy Ridenour offer their warmest thanks to Speedway Christian Church and Saint David’s Episcopal Church for their help with this concert.*