



## **Moravian Music Sunday** *in celebration of 25 Moravian Music Festivals!*

Today, we thank God for the gift of music, a heart-felt expression of the faith, love, and hope that we share as brothers and sisters in Christ. Music joins our hearts in Christian unity and calls us to charity.

For Moravians, music enlivens words, and words provide true meaning and purpose to the beauty and energy of music. This year, we celebrate 25 Moravian Music Festivals, from the first held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1950 through the 25<sup>th</sup>, to be held this July in Winston-Salem, NC.

At Moravian Music Festivals, participants can sing in a large choir or play in a concert band. They can also play handbells, play instrumental chamber music, play in trombone choir, or sing through newly-published Moravian music. They may go to a variety of workshops on music and worship topics. There are worship opportunities every day, some special tours and activities, and plenty of time to share fellowship and trade everything from stories to helpful hints and tips!

Moravian Music Festivals are sponsored by the Moravian Music Foundation, an inter-provincial agency whose mission is to preserve, celebrate, and cultivate the musical life of the Moravians. The Foundation takes care of the archival music collections of the Moravian settlers of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century America, as well as auxiliary collections of music and instruments; it publishes music, old and newly written; it helps people learn about the Moravian musical heritage; and provides resources for worship.

The Foundation honors the music of our ancestors, and cultivates the composition of new music and words to express our praise and adoration. Moravian composers are male and female, young and old, clergy and lay people, professionally trained and musical amateurs. Moravian music, no matter when or by whom it was created, is an expression of the faith we share, the relationship we have with our Lord Jesus Christ and with one another, in his service.

We are grateful that God gave us the gift of music, an audible form of comfort, celebration, and worship which connects us to our past, and binds us to one another, and to our God. Let us all praise the Savior with music, and proclaim, “Lamb of God, you shall remain forever of our songs the only theme!”  
*(Moravian Book of Worship, hymn 346)*

On this day, set aside to acknowledge our Moravian musical heritage, we lift our hearts and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. We express our thanks to the musicians among us who create and arrange, who organize and direct, who nurture and teach, and who play and sing. And, especially, we give thanks to God for the cherished gift of music, which enriches our lives and informs our experience, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.