

# Songs of Hope and Promise

A Description of Our Program  
by Marilyn Biery

"Hope is an echo, hope ties itself yonder, yonder." -Carl Sandburg

"'Hope' is the thing with feathers—  
That perches in the soul—  
And sings the tune without the words—  
And never stops—at all—" Emily Dickinson

As we sing our tunes, with words, we invite you to ponder this music, filled with confident assurance for our uncertain times, as we remember those who have been inspired to compose and write amidst their own uncertainty, and we look forward to a future that sings songs of hope and promise into the uncertainty of tomorrow.

"Hope is an echo," and we echo the hopes and longings of previous generations by singing the *Missa Brevis in C* by Mozart, based on the ancient and prescribed text of the Roman liturgy which, unchanged for centuries, speaks of penitence, celebrates the glory of God, reminds us of the continual song of the saints, and petitions for peace. Mozart's *Mass* sings to the soul and, indeed, perches in the soul. Other works we sing today draw from the words of the psalmists, whose ancient poems bid us "Praise the Lord! all you nations! . . . great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever" (Psalm 117 NRSV), as we echo, with hope, the psalmist: "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121 NRSV), and we are bold to "Praise him with trumpet sound . . . praise him with strings and pipes!" (Psalm 150 NRSV).

Even as we joyfully proclaim the love and promises of God, we also praise the love of God as shown in Jesus, the Christ. "Fairest Lord Jesus" compares Jesus to the meadows and woodlands robed in spring, and of which "Jesus is purer . . . and makes the woeful heart to sing." Our most recent text, written in 2011 and set to "The Heavenly Music," brings images of our ultimate hope and promise for eternity in the arms of the Divine, singing a tune of love that "never stops—at all—"

The program appears below . . .



Marilyn Perkins Biery, Conductor and Organist

# *Songs of Hope and Promise*

## **Program**

May 7, 2017 | 3:00 P.M

<b>Church Sonata for Strings and Organ</b>	<i>W.A. Mozart</i>
<b>Missa Brevis in C (Coronation Mass) K 317</b>	<i>W.A. Mozart</i>
<b>Pièce Héroïque</b>	<i>César Franck</i>
James Biery, Organ	
<b>Laudate Dominum</b>	<i>W.A. Mozart</i>
<b>Fairest Lord Jesus</b>	<i>Calvin Hampton; Arr. Marilyn Biery</i>
<b>My Help Cometh from the Lord</b>	<i>James Biery</i>
<b>The Heavenly Music</b>	<i>Marilyn and James Biery</i>
<b>Psalm 150</b>	<i>César Franck</i>