

“Rich in Song”

Dr. Charlette Moe, Guest Conductor

Giving voice to area composers and arrangers with ties to our region.

Fargo Moorhead Chamber Chorale (FMCC)

O Be Joyful in the Lord - Edwin Fissinger
Take My Life, That I May Be - J. Aaron McDermid
Simple Gifts - Arr. René Clausen
Sigh No More Ladies - René Clausen

RED RIVER BOY CHOIR (RRBC)
Charlotte Morey - Conductor

Now I Walk in Beauty - Navajo prayer
Silver the River - Stephen Paulus
Al Shlosha D'Varim – Allan E. Naplan

FMCC

Eternal Light- Leo Sowerby
The Last Invocation- Daniel Lee Pederson
Die Engel- Tom Porter

*With weary mouths from ever singing and shining souls devoid of seam,
Their very essence seems to linger between reality and dream.*

The angel.

So alike, yet everyone unique, one from another.

*In Eden's garden silently, the infinite,
interval of majesty, might and melody.*

*And when their wings are full extended are they the wakers of the winds,
As if the book of all the ages, the secret book of all the ages,
By artist hands, had turned the pages to begin again.*

The angels.

COMBINED FMCC AND RED RIVER BOY CHOIR

Red River Valley - arr. Carol Barnett
Skip to My Lou - arr. Edwin Fissinger

Accompanist: Sue Nagel - FMCC
Harpist: Nikki Lemire - FMCC
Flutist: Jenny Poehls - FMCC
Accompanist: Donna Atherton - RRBC

Dr. Edwin R. Fissinger (1920-1990), a charter member of the American Choral Director's Association, had an active career as a conductor and composer. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in composition from the American Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of the eminent composer Leo Sowerby. His doctorate in choral conducting and literature was from the University of Illinois. Fissinger's teaching career included the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago (1947-1954), University of Illinois (1955-1957), University of Illinois, Chicago Circle (1957-1967), and North Dakota State University (1967-1985).

Aaron McDermid is Director of Choral Activities at Jamestown College. Prior to coming to Jamestown, McDermid was the Conductor of the Tucson Masterworks Chorale, Assistant Conductor of the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club, and Director of Choral Activities at Northfield High School in Minnesota. In 1999 McDermid was named Outstanding Young Choral Conductor by the American Choral Director's Association of Minnesota. McDermid is also the Artistic Director and a member of Chanson, a professional a cappella male vocal ensemble. He has received degrees in Music Education and Choral Conducting from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota and the University of Michigan, and is currently finishing his doctorate in Choral Conducting at the University of Arizona.

Dr. René Clausen (born 1953) is an American composer, conductor of The Concordia Choir at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and founder of the René Clausen Choral School. Clausen is a frequent guest conductor and guest composer/lecturer, both nationally and internationally. Prior to his appointment as conductor of The Concordia Choir, Clausen was director of choral activities at West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas, and assistant professor of choral music at Wichita State University. He also served as senior editor of Mark Foster Music Company and as interim conductor of the National Lutheran Choir of Minneapolis.

Leo Sowerby (1895-1968), American composer and teacher. Sowerby was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. From 1921 to 1924 he held the first Rome Prize Fellowship in Musical Composition from the American Academy in Rome. In 1925 he became professor of composition at the American Conservatory in Chicago, a position he held until 1962. Sowerby was the founder and director from 1925 to 1968 of the College of Church Musicians in Washington, D.C. He was organist and choirmaster of Chicago's Saint James's Episcopal Church from 1927 to 1962. Sowerby was a prolific composer whose works have been widely performed. His compositions include four symphonies, a symphonic poem (Prairie; 1929), a symphony for organ alone, concertos, chamber music, piano and organ pieces, and choral works. He won the Pulitzer Prize for music in 1946 for his Canticle of the Sun.

Daniel Pederson is a Canadian import—and U.S. citizen! Daniel has a BA in Music Theory and Composition from North Dakota State University and did graduate work in Choral Conducting at the University of North Dakota. As a composer, he's had works commissioned and performed by groups at all levels. In the spring of 2006, his "Farvel" was premiered at the North Central ACDA Convention; and in the spring of 2007, his "Night on the Prairies" was performed at the National ACDA Convention in Miami. His choral works are published by Augsburg Fortress and Pavane/Hal Leonard.

Tom Porter is a native of North Dakota and is a Professor of Music at the University of Mary where he teaches and directs the choirs. In addition, he directs the Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus, the Dakota Chamber Chorale, and the Cathedral Children's Choir. He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame, DePaul University and the University of Mary. Since 1986, GIA has published Tom's music, including octavos, psalms, hymnals, "Assembly Mass," and the recording, "By My Side." Tom is currently a composer in residence for two churches in Saint Cloud, Minnesota, through the Faith Partners program of the American Composers Forum.