

In Luther's Words



Thursday, October 29, 2020 + 7:00 PM

Martina Bingham, soprano

Sarah Lambert Connelly, mezzo-soprano

Scott Fikse, bass-baritone

Maika'i Nash, piano & organ

Tomás Ramos, tenor



The Lutheran Church of Honolulu

Founded in 1900 by German immigrants, the Lutheran Church of Honolulu (LCH) has evolved into a diverse, progressive congregation. We strive to live out the inclusive love of God at home, in the local community, and across the globe. Our worship blends the beauty and mystery of traditional Christian liturgy with music, drama, and the visual arts to communicate God's liberating, unselfish love.



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF HONOLULU

Our service ministries reach far beyond the church walls. Through social and pastoral care ministries, we care for our church family and serve the homeless, the home bound, and those living with HIV/AIDS. As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we work with organizations like Lutheran World Relief and Bread for the World to meet the needs of the poor in the USA and other countries.



With Thanks

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations that helped make this concert possible: For financial support from our donors within the congregation; The Arthur and Mae Orvis Foundation for their generous support; Pastor Jeff Lilley, Vicar Bree Lloyd, Mark Wong, Anne Sing, and Marcus Fikse for their invaluable support and expertise; Bill Potter, Renee Boeck, Dan Dennison, Jeanne Lilley, and the many volunteers of the LCH community.

Program Notes



As the name of our program suggests, all of the choral selections this evening are set to texts written by the famous renewer of the church, Martin Luther (1483–1548). He was

not only a theologian and a reformer but also a musician and a composer. His own hymn texts and compositions (he composed about thirty chorales) have inspired composers for generations, and their works are now inescapably connected to our rich Lutheran heritage.

His philosophy on music in liturgy informs the Lutheran community even today, as he gave community singing a renewed role. His influence played a significant part in the development of music in German speaking countries.

Two of the composers on this evening's program are very well known; Johann Sebastian Bach and Felix Mendelssohn. Bach (1685–1750) of course used Lutheran themes in his cantatas and oratorios, but the connection between these two giants of history goes much deeper. Bach's connection and admiration of Luther stems from his early childhood, when he spent three years at the very same Latin school that Luther had attended two centuries earlier. He was known to own several of Luther's theological volumes

and a copy of the Luther Bible.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) was also an admirer of Luther and paid great attention to several of his hymns, including *Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir* (performed this evening) and *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, which is featured prominently in the Reformation Symphony composed in 1830 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession.

The final composer of the evening is Johann Walter (1496–1570), who was a composer and poet during the Reformation period. His career as a musician began at the age of 21 in the chapel of Frederick the Wise, where he served as a composer and bass cantor. A pioneer of Lutheran church music, Walter edited the first Protestant hymnal for choir in Wittenberg in 1524, with a foreword by Martin Luther himself.

In 1525, Luther enlisted the help of Walter to prepare music for his German Mass. Walter said of Luther "... one sees, hears, and understands at once how the Holy Spirit has been active not only in the authors who composed the Latin hymns and set them to music, but in Herr Luther himself, who now has invented most of the poetry and melody of the German chants."

Program notes compiled by Scott Fikse, 2020

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Martin Luther and others *Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist*

*Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist
um den rechten Glauben allermeist,
daß er uns behüte an unserm Ende,
wenn wir heimfahrn aus diesem Elende.
Kyrieleis.*

*Du wertest Licht, gib uns deinen Schein
Lehr uns Jesum Christ kennen allein
Daß wir an ihm bleiben, dem treuen Heiland
Der uns bracht hat zum rechten Vaterland.
Kyrieleis.*

*Du süße Lieb, schenk uns deine Gunst
Laß uns empfinden der Liebe Brunst
Daß wir uns von Herzen einander lieben
Und im Friede auf einem Sinn blieben.
Kyrieleis.*

*Du höchster Tröster in aller Not Hilf,
daß wir nicht fürchten Schand noch Tod
Daß in uns die Sinnen nicht verzagen
Wenn der Feind wird das Leben verklagen.
Kyrieleis.*

*We now beg the holy spirit
for true belief above all
so that he may watch over us at our end
when we travel home from this miserable world.
Lord, have mercy.*

*You precious light, give us your brightness,
teach us to know Jesus Christ alone
so that we may remain with him, the true saviour
who has brought us to our true fatherland.
Lord, have mercy.*

*You sweet love, grant us your flavour
let us feel your burning love
so that we may love each other from the heart
and in peace remain of one mind.
Lord, have mercy.*

*You who are the greatest consolation in all distress,
help us so that we fear neither disgrace nor death,
so that is just the mind may not despair
when the enemy brings accusations against our life.
Lord, have mercy.*

Johann Sebastian Bach *Partita for Violin No. 3 in E major, BWV 1006*
(1685–1750) arr. Rachmaninov

Felix Mendelssohn *Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir, Op. 23*
(1809–1847)

I. Choral

*Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir,
Herr Gott, erhoer' mein Rufen,
Dein gnädig' Ohren kehr zu mir,
Und meiner Bitt' sie öffnen!
Denn so du willst das sehen an,
Was Sünd' und Unrecht ist getan,
Wer kann, Herr, vor dir bleiben?*

II. Fuga (same text)

I.

*From deep affliction I cry out to you,
Lord God, hear my call;
incline your merciful ear here to me
and be open to my prayer!
For if you want to look at this,
what sin and injustice is done,
who can, Lord, remain before you?*

II.

iii. Aria & Choral

*Bei dir gilt nichts denn Gnad' und Gunst
Die Sünde zu vergeben;
Es ist doch unser Tun umsonst,
Auch in dem besten Leben.
Vor dir Niemand sich rühmen kann,
Des muß dich fürchten jedermann
Und deiner Gnade leben.*

*Darum auf Gott will hoffen ich,
Auf mein Verdienst nicht bauen;
Auf ihn mein Herz soll lassen sich,
Und seiner Güte trauen,
Die mir zusagt sein wert'es Wort,
Das ist mein Trost und treuer Hort,
Des will ich allzeit harren.*

iv. Choral

*Und ob es währt bis in die Nacht
Und wieder an den Morgen,
Doch soll mein Herz an Gottes Macht
Verzweifeln nicht noch sorgen,
So thu' Israel rechter Art,
Der aus dem Geist erzeuge't ward,
Und seines Gott's erharre.*

v. Choral

*Ob bei uns ist der Sünden viel,
Bei Gott ist viel mehr Gnade;
Sein' Hand zu helfen hat kein Ziel,
Wie groß auch sei der Schade.
Er ist allein der gute Hirt,
Der Israel erlösen wird
Aus seinen Sünden allen.*

With you nothing but your grace and favour counts
in the forgiveness of sins;
our deeds are therefore useless,
even in the best life.
Before you nobody can boast,
but everyone must fear you
and live by your grace.

Therefore I shall hope in God,
not build on my own merit;
on him my heart will rely
and trust in his goodness,
which his precious word promised me,
this is my consolation and faithful refuge,
for this I shall always wait.

And even if it delays through the night
and again in the morning,
yet in God's might my heart will
not doubt nor be anxious,
act in this way, true race of Israel,
that is produced from the spirit
and wait on God.

Although there is much sin among us,
with God there is much more mercy;
his helping hand has no limit
however great the harm may be.
He is alone the good shepherd
who can free Israel
from all his sins.

Bach Organ Sonata No. 4, BWV 528, II. Andante
transc. Stradal



Johann Walter
(1496–1570)

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

*Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,
ein gute Wehr und Waffen.
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,
die uns jetzt hat betroffen.
Der alt böse Feind
mit Ernst er's jetzt meint,
groß Macht und viel List
sein grausam Rüstung ist,
auf Erd ist nicht seinsgleichen.*

*Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan,
wir sind gar bald verloren;
es streit' für uns der rechte Mann,
"den Gott hat selbst erkoren.
Fragst du, wer der ist?
Er heißt Jesus Christ,
der Herr Zebaoth,
und ist kein andrer Gott,
das Feld muss er behalten.*

*Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär
und wollt uns gar verschlingen,
so fürchten wir uns nicht so sehr,
es soll uns doch gelingen.
Der Fürst dieser Welt,
wie sau'r er sich stellt,
tut er uns doch nicht;
das macht, er ist gericht':
ein Wörtlein kann ihn fällen.*

*Das Wort sie sollen lassen stahn
und kein' Dank' dazu haben;
er ist bei uns wohl auf dem Plan
mit seinem Geist und Gaben.
Nehmen sie den Leib,
Gut, Ehr, Kind und Weib:
lass fahren dahin,
sie haben's kein' Gewinn,
das Reich muss uns doch bleiben.*

A sure stronghold our God is He,
A trusty shield and weapon;
Our help He'll be and set us free
From every ill can happen.
That old malicious foe
Means us deadly woe;
Armed with might from hell
And deepest craft as well,
On earth is not his fellow.

Through our own force we nothing can,
Straight were we lost for ever;
But for us fights the proper Man,
By God sent to deliver.
Ask ye Who this may be?
Jesus Christ is He,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
Sole God to be adored—
'Tis He must win the battle.

And were the world with devils filled,
All eager to devour us,
Our souls to fear should little yield,
They cannot overpower us.
Their dreaded Prince no more
Harms us as of yore;
Look grim as he may,
Doomed is his ancient sway,
A word can overthrow him.

Still shall they leave that Word His might,
And yet no thanks shall merit;
Still is He with us in the fight,
By His good gifts and Spirit.
E'en should they take our life,
Wealth, name, child, or wife—
Though all these be gone,
Yet nothing have they won,
God's kingdom ours abideth.

Upcoming events at Lutheran Church of Honolulu

Live streaming at www.facebook.com/lchwelcome

All Saints Compline

With the LCH Women's Schola

Sunday, November 1 • 7:30 PM

A cappella singing and chanting to commemorate the day's end.

"The experience of Compline is one rooted in mysticism. It's one rooted in space...the space created in darkness and silence, and the space opened up by transcendent music. And it's in this psychological space that so many people find peace and tranquility in an otherwise loud, noisy, rambunctious world."

—Jason Anderson

Taevamuusika

A celestial four-hands piano journey

Monday, November 2 • 7:00 PM

In honor of our newly acquired Estonia grand piano, Taevamuusika (Estonian for "music of the heavens") will feature pianists Maika'i Nash and Mark Wong as they share a concert of works for two pianos. Exploring themes of the cosmos, tune in for this livestream concert, featuring selections from Holst's suite *The Planets*, as well as a virtuosic 4-hands *Star Wars* fantasy.

Livestreaming at www.facebook.com/LCHwelcome

Free Concert, Donations gratefully accepted

Featured Performers



SCOTT FIKSE is a sought-after performer, composer, and director with expertise in multiple genres. Following studies in musical arts at Pacific Lutheran University, Scott served as music director for a variety of Seattle area theater companies, choral ensembles, and churches. He has participated in conducting and vocal masterclasses through University of Washington, University of Oregon, and the Barbershop Harmony Society and competed within BHS at the national and international levels. Today, in addition to directing the music program at Lutheran Church of Honolulu, Scott serves as music director for the Honolulu Chorale, and as co-artistic director of Early Music Hawai'i.



MARTINA BINGHAM is a soprano and lecturer in voice at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has recent and upcoming engagements with Hawai'i Opera Theatre, the Maui Chamber Orchestra, the Alliance Française, and recital and featured solo work at the University of Hawai'i. She holds a DMA in voice pedagogy from Shenandoah University, an MM in voice pedagogy and performance from Westminster Choir College, and a BA in voice with a musical theatre emphasis from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Martina is currently the President of the Hawai'i Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS).



SARAH LAMBERT CONNELLY is a professionally trained pianist, opera singer, and yoga instructor. Her parents enrolled her in piano lessons at the age of two after she perched herself on the bench beside the organist at church. After receiving a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from the prestigious Eastman School of Music, she lived in New York City for nine years pursuing an operatic career. Along the way, she was exposed to yoga, and thus began a new passion. In 2009, she completed her 200-hour yoga teacher training through YogaWorks. Shortly thereafter, she met her husband in yoga class and wound up in Hawai'i through his military career. She is a Resident Artist in the Mae Z. Orvis Studio Program at Hawai'i Opera Theatre, and recently opened their season singing Julia Child in 'Bon Appetit.'



TOMÁS RAMOS is from Austin, TX, and Lebanon, PA, and has lived in Honolulu for 2 years. He is an Orvis Choral Scholar at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, sings with Early Music Hawai'i, and is a clarinetist in the U.S. Navy, Pacific Fleet Band. Tomás holds a BM in Music Education and an MM in Classical Instrumental Performance, both from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, where he was also the head teaching assistant of athletic bands and a cantor at the Church of St. Augustin. He loves body surfing, will gladly challenge anyone to a few rounds of Mario Kart, and currently misses playing ping pong during breaks at work.



MAIKA'I NASH returned home to Hawai'i in 2017 after living and working abroad, primarily in Montréal and Toronto. He studied at McGill University in Montréal, at the Schubert Institute of Lieder in Vienna, the Centre for Operatic Studies in Sulmona, Italy, and privately in Paris. While abroad, he worked for a number of Canadian opera companies, McGill University, the University of Toronto, Western University, the Glenn Gould School, and the Royal Conservatory of Music. Always a voracious adventurer, he also spent 2 years in Bogotá, Colombia, working as a vocal coach, répétiteur, and pianist throughout the Colombian capital, and in the

other major cities as well. Now firmly reestablished in Honolulu, Maika'i has launched the new performing arts, non-profit group, HI Arts Lab, a company creating experiential moments in music across multiple art forms.

Orvis Foundation

Much of tonight's program was made possible through the generous support of the Arthur and Mae Orvis Foundation. Mae Zenke, a gifted musician and singer of opera, married businessman Arthur Orvis. The two loved the arts very much and were great supporters of the arts in Hawai'i. Their legacy lives on through the Arthur and Mae Orvis Foundation, which provides funding for our choral scholar and other music programs.

Your Support

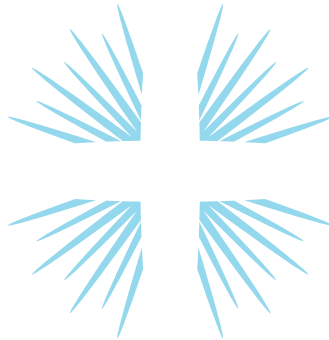
Please consider making a donation to support the music ministry at Lutheran Church of Honolulu. We are able to continue offering concerts and special services during the pandemic thanks to the generosity of our congregation and audience members. Please visit www.lchwelcome.org/reform20 to access our paypal link, or mail a check made out to Lutheran Church of Honolulu, memo line "music," to the address below. Mahalo!

Join us every Sunday for livestreaming worship at 10:00 AM

Compline every 1st & 3rd Sunday at 7:30 PM

Broadcast at www.facebook.com/lchwelcome

*Welcoming to all
worshipping, growing, serving
Christ's community*



**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF HONOLULU**

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