



## Program Order

### **What the World Needs Now is Love**

**Bev Fulgham, piano; Jeff Fulgham, trumpet**

This popular song, written by Hal David and Burt Bacharach during the height of the Vietnam War in 1965, addresses the controversy and disagreements among Americans at that time. Over a half century later, this message still rings true today: "What the world needs now is love, sweet love, It's the only thing that there's just too little of ... no, not just for some but for everyone." What the world needs now, more than ever, is outgoing love for others. Outgoing love shows compassion and concern for others more than self. Outgoing love is what God the Father emphasized.

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### **Reflections: Pastor John Willingham**

### **Musical selections, background information, and piano: Bev Fulgham**

#### **My Funny Valentine**

Recorded over 1,600 times by more than 600 artists, My Funny Valentine was written in 1937 by Rodgers and Hart. Rather than praising the virtues of the sweetheart in typical fashion, the words address the shortcomings of the object of affection, while leaving no doubt the Valentine is loved in spite of these flaws – "Your looks are laughable, unphotographable, yet you're my favorite work of art." And later, "Is your figure less than Greek? Is your mouth a little weak?" And finally, "Don't change a hair for me, not if you care for me." Isn't that what God's Love is all about - looking past our flaws and differences and loving us anyway?

#### **Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 2 in E flat major**

A piano virtuoso of the Romantic era who composed mostly for solo piano, Frédéric Chopin produced some of the instrument's most intimate, memorable works before his death at the age of 39. This is one of his most romantic pieces, perfect for Valentine's Day.

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## **Human Love**

### **I've Got A Crush On You**

Do you remember your first "crush"? Webster's defines this as: "Having a romantic infatuation with someone, especially unbeknownst to that person." The lyrics from "I've Got a Crush on You", composed by George & Ira Gershwin, which could be the theme for a Hallmark Movie today, remind us of our human love, our *crush*: "I'm your big and brave and handsome Romeo, how I won you I shall never, never know. It's not that I'm attractive but, oh, my heart grew active when you came into view. I've got a crush on you, sweetie pie. All the day and nighttime hear me sigh. I never had the least notion that I could fall with so much emotion ... The world will pardon my mush 'cause I have got a crush on you.

### **Love Is Here To Stay**

Human love takes many forms. Among the Gershwin brothers' hundreds of hit songs from the great jazz age, "Love Is Here to Stay" is perhaps the most poignant as it was George's last composition. After completing the music, George died prematurely at the age of 38, and Ira completed the lyrics alone. Using his beloved brother's last score, he wrote a love song expressing his grief at the loss of his brother, his partner and his friend, creating the cherished song that we know today. Reflecting Ira's feelings at the time, the simplicity of both the piano melody and the lyrics are endearing and subtle. And though the song's lyrics address the passage of time and the destruction of natural wonders, the tragedy of this loss remains wonderfully overshadowed by the simple truth that Ira's love for his brother will never fade away:

*It's very clear; our love is here to stay. Not for a year but ever and a day. The radio and the telephone and the movies that we know may just be passing fancies, and in time may go! But, oh my dear, our love is here to stay. Together we're going a long, long way. In time the Rockies may crumble, Gibraltar may tumble, there're only made of clay, but our love is here to stay.*

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## **Love of God**

### **Jesus Loves Me**

"Jesus Loves Me", the best-loved children's hymn of all time, was written by Anna Bartlett Warner, and reassures us in simple terms of God's love. The lyrics first appeared as a poem in the context of an 1860 novel called *Say and Seal*, written by her older sister Susan Warner in which the words were spoken as a comforting poem to a dying child. William Batchelder Bradbury added the tune and chorus in 1862. He also wrote many other beloved hymns such as "*He Leadeth Me*", "*Just As I Am*" and "*Sweet Hour of Prayer*". Neither sister married, but held regular Bible Studies for West Point cadets where their uncle was the Academy Chaplain. When they were on military duty, the cadets would sing, "*Jesus loves me.*" The popularity of the song was so great, that both sisters were buried with military honors because of their contribution they made to the spiritual well being of the soldiers. They are the only civilians buried in the West Point Cemetery.

### **Wondrous Love**

Arr. Marilyn Ham

"What Wondrous Love Is This" (often just referred to as "Wondrous Love") is a Christian folk hymn, sometimes described as a "white spiritual", from the American South. Its text was first published in 1811, during the Second Great Awakening, and its melody

derived from a popular English ballad. The song's lyrics express awe at the love of God and are reminiscent of the text of John 3:16.

What wondrous love is this!  
That caused the Lord of bliss!  
To send this precious peace,  
To my soul, to my soul!

### **Meditation from the Opera Thais**

Méditation is a symphonic *intermezzo* from the opera *Thaïs* by French composer **Jules Massenet**. The piece, written for solo violin and orchestra, is performed between the scenes of Act II in the opera. In the first scene of Act II, Athanaël, a **Cenobite** monk, confronts Thaïs, a beautiful and hedonistic courtesan, and attempts to persuade her to leave her life of luxury and pleasure and find salvation through God. It is during a time of reflection following the encounter that the *Méditation* is played by the orchestra. In the second scene of Act II, following the *Méditation*, Thaïs tells Athanaël that she will follow him to the desert. It is through God's love that we are able to balance the pull of the material world with His desire to lead us to salvation.

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## **Love as a Body of Faith**

### **Clair De Lune**

French composer Claude Debussy's best-loved piano piece, Clair de Lune, has become a familiar part of popular culture thanks to its regular performances. Its origins are complex and fascinating, combining influences from poetry, the music of the Baroque period (from around 1600 to 1750), and Impressionism, a style in music following on from that in visual arts. The piece's title, which means, "moonlight" in French, was added shortly before its publication in 1905 as the third movement of a four-part work called Suite Bergamasque. The title comes from a poem of the same name, which speaks of "au calme clair de lune triste et beau" (the still moonlight sad and lovely). We often associate this music with peace and harmony, fundamental components of our body of faith.

### **Ode to Joy**

Ludwig van Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" was composed in 1824, in the final movement of his last, and most famous, symphony, Symphony No. 9. The text that Beethoven employed, and slightly modified, was written by the German poet, Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller. It was a celebratory poem addressing the unity of all mankind. Schiller's meanings in "Ode to Joy" are simple: Joy is needed for life and motivation, it is heavenly in origin and is available to mankind through a loving God. The proof of His love is found not only in nature's motivation to create perpetually, but also in nature's good things, such as the fruit of the vine. This is the evidence that should give all men hope, and allow them joy in that hope.

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**We are truly grateful for the effort put forth by Bev Fulgham to help create this program and bring it to life through her musical gifts. We offer a special thank you to everyone who tuned in and to those who shared photos with us, which helped make this event so special.**