HOMECOMING
CHORAL CONCERT 2017

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 4 P.M.
CHAPEL OF THE RESURRECTION
Welcome to the Homecoming Choral Concert 2017. This year, we remember the momentous and historic act of Martin Luther in 1517, when he nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. I encourage you to read other portions of the program, which will tell you more about how the Valparaiso University Chorale is at the center of these commemorations in Germany. I am excited to embark on this journey with the students of the Chorale.

Today, we don't offer a celebration as much as we hope to remember one of the most important moments in western history with music that reminds of who and whose we are. Luther, the Augustinian monk, sought to start a dialogue within his church to address concerns that he felt about allowing all people direct access to their faith and their God. He was almost certainly surprised at the power of the movement that was born that day, and he would almost certainly be surprised to know “Luther”ans would inhabit the world over, including the new world. The most important historic work related to the Reformation is certainly the epic cantata by J.S. Bach, “Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott.” Bach, charged with creating musical offerings that instructed the congregation of the St. Thomas Church, certainly composed a cantata that echoed Luther’s idea of a struggle between good and evil. It is filled with imagery of the struggle against earthly foes and the devil, and reminds the believer that the ultimate refuge and source of strength comes only from God.

It was my goal in this year to also offer a new musical work, which, in our modern context, honored the tradition of Bach, but would call us to a new sense of reform. Jake Runestad, a composer I have admired for several years, has given us just such a piece in his thoughtful and heartfelt new composition, “Into the Light.” Beginning with a clarion call — “Come out into the universe of light” — his work powerfully asks us to re-form our world with compassion and love. Drawing on wise reformers from many backgrounds and traditions, this piece, thoughtfully and with great emotive power, calls us to reflection on how each of us can create beauty and love. It has been an honor to work with the students on this new composition to prepare it for the world premiere today, and in anticipation of performances we will give in Germany in the coming weeks.

Music and text has the power to bring us into a new world — a world that can be reshaped and reformed by its power and expression. As you listen today to the Women's Choir, Men's Ensemble, Bach Choir and Orchestra, alumni soloists and the Chorale, I invite you to share this journey. A journey in which we share compassion and love with those around us, living together as Luther stated, “we are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it.”

Thank you for joining us today and especially for sharing this part of the pilgrimage together.

—Christopher M. Cock
The Reformation was a pivotal event in the history of Western culture and created waves of change across Europe that spread to the rest of the world — the impact of which is still being felt (and studied) today.

Commemorating a historical event with a work of art, especially 500 years later, is no small feat — there are centuries of complexities to unpack and the event itself cannot be summed-up in a 15-minute musical work. Rather than create a museum piece for the Reformation, I asked myself what reforming means in our world today: What are the major issues plaguing our world and what are their causes? Who has addressed these issues through their work and their words (in the vein of Martin Luther)? How can I address these issues in a meaningful way that might give us direction for the future?

To find texts that speak to these questions, I scoured through hundreds of writings by individuals who I consider reformers — those who have worked to improve their community, their country, and/or the world. I also discovered the book “The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear” by Michael Kinnamon. Kinnamon addresses fear and how it has infiltrated our culture and caused many of the issues we face, including institutional racism, xenophobia, cultural divisions and fear of “the other.”

To represent our beautifully diverse world, I endeavored to include reformers from around the globe. The texts for this work were written or inspired by the following individuals: Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, Helen Keller, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King Jr., John the Evangelist, Mechthild von Magdeburg, Peter the Apostle, Rabindranath Tagore and Martin Luther.

Though the work is separated into five movements, it is performed without pause. Recurring musical motives and harmonies are used to provide context as the work moves through a narrative structure. The Chorale, a staple of the Lutheran movement, is a central element of this work and appears throughout in both the voices and the instruments.

I am honored to have received this commission from Valparaiso University and am so inspired by Valpo's dedication to improving our world through education. It is my hope that this new work, “Into the Light,” allows us to be immersed in the wisdom of some of the most important and influential reformers in history and challenges us to consider how we can be part of a modern-day reformation — moving beyond fear and onto a path of love, compassion, and kindness.

—Jake Runestad

ABOUT JAKE RUNESTAD

Considered “highly imaginative...with big ideas” (Baltimore Sun) and “stirring and uplifting” (Miami Herald), award-winning composer Jake Runestad (b. 1986) has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations such as Washington National Opera, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble, Seraphic Fire, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Virginia Arts Festival, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare. Dubbed a “choral rockstar” by American Public Media, Runestad is one of the most frequently performed composers in the U.S.A. Runestad holds a Master's degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. Find out more at: JakeRunestad.com.
I.
Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, BWV 80
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Mari Scott, soprano
Angela Young Smucker, mezzo-soprano
Chorale
Bach Choir and Orchestra
(Brief Pause)

II.
Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)
Chris Tomlin (b. 1972)
Louie Giglio (b. 1958)
arr. Joel Raney
Men's Ensemble
Andrew Flasch, piano
Be Thou My Vision
Traditional Irish Hymn
arranged by Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
Women's Choir
Joshua Sievert, piano
Psalm 121
Walter L. Pelz (1926-1997)
Omnia Sol (Let Your Heart Be Staid)
Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

III.
Jubilate Deo
Frank Ferko (b. 1950)
Alleluia
Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
Plenty Good Room
Kirby Shaw (b. 1942)
Lay me Low
arr. Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)
Praise to the Lord
arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)
Chorale
(Brief Pause)

IV.
Into the Light
Jake Runestad (b. 1986)
WORLD PREMIERE
Combined Choirs
Orchestra
1. Chor
Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,
Ein gute Wehr und Waffen;
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,
Die uns itzt hat betroffen.
Der alte böse Feind,
Mit Ernst er's jetzt meint,
Groß Macht und viel List
Sein grausam Rüstung ist,
Auf Erd ist nicht seinsgleichen.
(“Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,” verse 1)

2. Arie B und Choral S
Alles, was von Gott geboren,
Ist zum Siegen auserkoren.
Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan,
Wir sind gar bald verloren.
Es streit' vor uns der rechte Mann,
Den Gott selbst hat erkoren.
Wer bei Christi Blutpanier
In der Taufe Treu geschworen,
Sieg im Geiste für und für.
Fragst du, wer er ist?
Er heißt Jesus Christ,
Der Herre Zebaoth,
Und ist kein ander Gott,
Das Feld muß er behalten.
Alles, was von Gott geboren,
Ist zum Siegen auserkoren.
(“Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,” verse 2)

3. Rezitativ B
Erwäge doch, Kind Gottes, die so große Liebe,
Da Jesus sich
Mit seinem Blute dir verschriebe,
Wormit er dich
Zum Kriege wider Satans Heer und
wider Welt, und Sünde
Geworben hat!
Gib nicht in deiner Seele
Dem Satan und den Lastern statt!
Laß nicht dein Herz,
Den Himmel Gottes auf der Erden,
Zur Wüste werden!
Bereue deine Schuld mit Schmerz,
Daß Christi Geist mit dir sich fest verbinde!

4. Arie S
Komm in mein Herzenshaus,
Herr Jesu, mein Verlangen!
Treib Welt und Satan aus
Und laß dein Bild in mir erneuert prangen!
Weg, schnöder Sündengraus!

1. Chorus
Our God is a secure fortress,
a good shield and weapon;
He helps us willingly out of all troubles,
that now have encountered us.
The old, evil enemy
is earnestly bent on it,
great strength and much deceit
are his horrid armaments,
there is nothing like him on earth.

2. Aria B and Chorale S
Everything that is born of God
is destined for victory.
Nothing can be done through our strength,
we are soon already lost.
The righteous Man battles for us,
that God himself has elected.
Whoever, with the bloody banner of Christ
is sworn into the fealty of baptism,
conquers in the spirit again and again.
You ask, who is He?
He is called Jesus Christ,
the Lord of Sabaoth,
and there is no other God,
He must control the battlefield.
Everything that is born of God
is destined for victory.

3. Recitative B
Only consider, child of God, that such great love,
which Jesus Himself
with His blood signed over to you,
through which He,
in the war against Satan's host and
against the world and sin,
has won you!
Do not make a place in your soul
for Satan and depravity!
Do not let your heart,
God's heaven on earth,
become a wasteland!
Repent your guilt with pain,
so that Christ's spirit may firmly bind itself to you!

4. Aria S
Come into my heart’s house,
Lord Jesus, my desire!
Drive the world and Satan out
and let your image, shine forth renewed in me!
Away, contemptible horror of sin!
5. Choral
Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär
Und wollten uns verschlingen,
So fürchten wir uns nicht so sehr,
Es soll uns doch gelingen.
Der Fürst dieser Welt,
Wie saur er sich stellt,
Tut er uns doch nicht,
Das macht, er ist gericht',
Ein Wörtlein kann ihn fällen.
(“Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,” verse 3)

6. Recitative T
So stehe dann bei Christi blutgefärbten Fahne,
O Seele, fest
Und glaube, daß dein Haupt dich nicht verläßt,
Ja, daß sein Sieg
Auch dir den Weg zu deiner Krone bahne!
Tritt freudig an den Krieg!
Wirst du nur Gottes Wort
So hören als bewahren,
So wird der Feind gezwungen auszufahren,
Dein Heiland bleibt dein Hort!

7. Aria (Duet) A T
Wie selig sind doch die, die Gott im Munde tragen,
Doch selger ist das Herz, das ihn im Glauben trägt!
Es bleibt unbesiegt und kann die Feinde schlagen
Und wird zuletzt gekrönt, wenn es den Tod erlegt.

8. Choral
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 uns den Leib,
Gut, Ehr, Kind und Weib,
Laß fahren dahin,
Sie habens kein' Gewinn;
Das Reich muß uns doch bleiben.
(“Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,” verse 4)
I. THE UNIVERSE OF LIGHT

Come out into the universe of light.
Everything in the universe is yours,
stretch out your arms and embrace it with love.
   (Swami Vivekananda)

You are a product of your thoughts.
What you think, you become.
   (Mahatma Gandhi)

II. THE LIGHTLESS DARK

The only lightless dark is the night of ignorance.
We differ from one another, not in our senses,
but in the use we make of them.
   (Helen Keller)

III. THE WARM FOGS OF FEAR

The ice under us is very thin, and is made weak by the warm fogs of fear.
   (Frederick Douglass)

We are driven by love or by fear.
I fear you, for I do not know you.
   (After Martin Luther King Jr.)

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear.
   (John the Evangelist)

IV. FLOWER INTO KINDNESS

The soul is made of love and must ever return to love.
There is nothing so wise,
nor so beautiful,
nor so strong as love.
   (Mechthild von Magdeburg)

Above all, love.
   (Peter the Apostle)

I shed my words on the earth
as the tree sheds its leaves.
Let my thoughts unspoken
flower into kindness.
   (Rabindranath Tagore)

V. INTO THE LIGHT

We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it.
   (Martin Luther)

Come out into the universe of light.
Everything in the universe is yours,
stretch out your arms and embrace it with love.
   (Swami Vivekananda)

—Texts collected and adapted by the composer
Maura Janton Cock, is Lecturer in Music at Valparaiso University, where she teaches voice and conducts the Women's Choir. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Arizona (Tucson) and her Master of Arts degree at Minnesota State University-Moorhead. She previously taught on the music faculty at Concordia College (Moorhead). She has appeared as soloist with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, the Tucson Symphony, the Southwest Michigan Symphony, and the Northwest Indiana Symphony. Ms. Cock worked extensively with Robert Shaw and the Robert Shaw Festival Singers as both soloist and chorus member, and Helmuth Rilling of the Oregon Bach Festival.

A regular performer with the Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra, she has been soprano soloist in such works as Beethoven's Symphony no. 9, Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation*, Bach's St. John Passion, St. Matthew Passion, and Mass in B Minor (the latter two works under the direction of Maestro Rilling on Valpo's campus). She was a soloist and chorister with the Chicago ensemble His Majesties' Clerkes during the 2000 season. Recent engagements include performances with the Michigan Bach Collegium, Bach Chamber Choir and Orchestra of Rockford (Ill.), Miami Bach Society, Dayton (Ohio) Bach Society and the Cuesta Master Chorale and Orchestra (Calif.).

**ABOUT THE WOMEN’S CHOIR CONDUCTOR**

Soprano I
Lesley Barajas
Grace Biemann
Jessica Burns
Rayne Deardorff
Teshurah Lee
Kyley Pittman
Grace Sherman
Cindy Smith
Hui Zhu

Soprano II
Ceairra Brodrick
Paola Flores
Kristine Hayden
Kaitlyn Matthews
Jeanette O'Brien
Gemma Pizarek
Alyssa Townsend
Cassidy Wright

Alto I
Savannah Jorgensen
Laura Muther
Courtney Onder
Rachel Sims
Dana Winkle

Alto II
Jamaica Booker
Bridget King
Sophia Sagrestano
Michal Scherer-Berry
Emily Thomason
Mengyu Wu

**THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S CHOIR**
ABOUT THE CHORALE AND MEN’S ENSEMBLE CONDUCTOR

Christopher M. Cock, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Valparaiso University, holds the Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg Chair in Lutheran Music and is Director of the Bach Institute.

Through his activities as a choral music educator and as a distinguished solo artist, Dr. Cock has forged a unique career path combining the roles of conductor and performer. He frequently brings his focus on outstanding repertoire, vocal technique and polished musicality to high school ensembles throughout the country. For six years, he served as director of choirs for Lutheran Summer Music, the national Lutheran high school music camp. In 2006, he led the International Choral Invitational in Hong Kong, and was conductor of the Spivey Hall High School Honor Choir, a festival begun by Robert Shaw. He has also conducted All-State Choirs in Minnesota, Georgia and Ohio and the Collegiate Honor Choir in Pennsylvania. He has also appeared at Carnegie Hall as guest conductor of the New England Symphonic Ensemble – he has now made appearances as both conductor and soloist at this legendary venue.

At Valparaiso, Dr. Cock founded the Bach Institute in 2004. The Institute performs the major works of Bach triennially and in the years since its formation has devoted scholarship and performances to studying Bach’s professional years prior to his appointment in Leipzig (1723). His experience leading the works of J.S. Bach includes many performances of the Christmas Oratorio, the Mass in B minor, and both passions — on several occasions he has led passions as conductor/evangelist, including the St. John Passion with the Leipzig Baroque Orchestra in the Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany. These performances marked the beginning of a successful partnership with the Leipzig Baroque Orchestra that has continued for the past decade.

Dr. Cock has established important professional relationships with the Thomanerchor, the Bach Archive, Leipzig and the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Through his leadership, Valparaiso University has established a strong relationship with the St. Thomas Church, a relationship now formalized with an agreement of future collaboration, the only such agreement with an American university. In October 2017 he will lead the Valparaiso University Chorale as the only international choir to be invited to the 500th anniversary celebration of the Reformation in Wittenberg, Germany, including appearances on October 31, 2017 at the St. Thomas Church and the Castle Church. In recognition of his work creating and sustaining these musical relationships in Germany, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany awarded him (in 2017) the Cross of the Order of Merit for “extraordinary service” rendered to German-American relations in the field of music.

As a solo artist, Dr. Cock’s extensive range and communicative performances have established him as a premier lyric tenor. Appearances as a Bach Evangelist have taken him to concert venues throughout the United States. He appeared as Evangelist in the St. Matthew Passion with The Los Angeles Philharmonic. The LA Times praised his performance for its “illuminating freshness.” For numerous seasons, he appeared as a guest artist with the Oregon Bach Festival, led by German conductor, Helmuth Rilling. Other organizations with whom he has sung include the Florida Orchestra, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Miami Bach Society, the American Sinfonietta, the Grand Rapids Symphony, the Seattle Chamber Singers (with Orchestra Seattle) and the Northwest Sinfonietta. He frequently appeared as a soloist with Maestro Robert Shaw and the Robert Shaw Festival Singers. His performances with the Festival Singers can be heard on recordings released by Telarc International. He has sung the role of the Evangelist in both Bach Passions with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and is tenor soloist on their recording of American hymns.

Dr. Cock studied at the University of Southern California and completed his undergraduate study at Pacific Lutheran University. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Arizona (Tucson), where he was a student of Maurice Skones.
The Valparaiso University Chorale continues to earn acclaim as one of the top Lutheran collegiate choirs in the United States, upholding the highest standard of choral art through performance of the greatest choral literature of all eras and preserving the University’s rich choral tradition, which dates back to the early 20th century. The 48-mixed voice ensemble performs an eclectic repertoire that spans from traditional to significant contemporary works to selections that express multicultural perspectives, all in their original languages. Under the direction of Dr. Christopher M. Cock, who has led the University’s Chorale program for over two decades, the ensemble maintains an active annual schedule of touring, performing and recording, including appearances at the American Choral Directors Association Central Division Conference in 2005, 2008 and 2015.

The Chorale has served five residencies at the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany – the only collegiate American choir to enjoy such a strong relationship with the church of Johann Sebastian Bach. In June 2012, the Chorale was invited by the Bach Archive in Leipzig to perform at the Bach Festival that celebrated the 800th anniversary of the St. Thomas Church and its famous choir, the Thomanerchor.

In addition to the Chorale’s national and international appearances, the ensemble boasts in their repertoire a number of recordings which include: *Traditions: Hymns, Motets, and Folk Songs* (1998); *The Lutheran Chorale with Paul Manz* (2000); *Christ Child: Songs of the Nativity* (2001); *In Paradisum* (2003); *As it is in Heaven* (2006); *amazing day* (2008); *O My Soul* (2010); and *Star Still Guiding* (2011).

The Valparaiso University Chorale has received significant critical acclaim. The Thuringer Allegemine reviewed the Chorale’s concert in 2007: “a first class ensemble…such a high degree of tonal unity, such sure intonation in the most complex and dissonant groups of chords, and such a precise feeling of dynamic shading…” In 2010, the Schwarzwälder Bote exclaimed, “Their heavenly and virtuosic performance enthused the audience,” and the Schwabischs Tagblatt hailed their performance as “masterful.”
THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY CHORALE

Soprano
Anna Bratton
Jenna Cartwright
Sarah Crowe
Claire Ehr
Elizabeth Hackbarth
Gwyneth Hoeksema
Natalie Janke
Anastasia Karnezis
Akira Kennedy
Alexandria Kirch
* *Hannah Koby
*Meghan LaCroix
Corinne Witt

Alto
Isabel Coffey
*Anneliese Depenthal
Cassandra Haas
Elizabeth Heisler
Caroline Hyde
*Kelly Langevin
Kallie Lyon
Ariana Moore
Erica Poduch
Rebecca Richmond
Eleanor Riordan
Hannah Schwab
Alyssa Serviss
Sydney Stokes

Tenor
Joshua Backhus
§ David Bremer
Matthew Bremer
Landon Henry
Zachary Krampien
*Jeffrey Langevin
David Mackey
Luke McGinnis
Charlie Presar
Casey Terry

Bass
Fritz Depenthal
Eric J. Dubinsky
† *Andrew Flasch
James Kilcullen
Nicholas Kwiecinski
*Samuel Macy
Connor Russell
James Ryan
Joshua Sievert
Micah Spruth-Janssen
Cody Wilson

† President
§ Student Manager
• Librarian
* Section Leaders

THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY MEN’S ENSEMBLE

Ellis Archuleta
Josh Backhus
Matt Bremer
Justin Buiter
Keegan Carrasco
Fritz Depenthal
Josh Ferguson
Lawrence Gaines
Ryan Guerrero
Burns Halverson
Max Kircher
Nicholas Kwiecinski
David Mackey
Sam Macy
Luke McGinnis*
Jacob Modjeski
Tim Osborne
Connor Russell
James Ryan

*Student Conductor
The Valparaiso University Bach Choir is an auditioned ensemble serving the Bach Institute at Valparaiso University. The choir includes Valpo students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the wider Chicagoland community.


In July 2006, the Bach Choir performed at the opening worship of the American Guild of Organists' national convention, for which they performed motets by J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, and two world premieres. In March of 2012, the Bach Choir performed Bach's Cantata 106 for the American Choral Directors Association Central Division's convention in Fort Wayne, Ind.

ABOUT THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY BACH CHOIR

Soprano
Lisa Jennings
Elena Lutze
Hannah Newman-Jacobs
Brittney Urban

Alto
Becky Klein
Beth McQueen
Bethany Powell
Randi Simons

Tenor
Stephen Dean
Kevin Goebbert
Jeff Hellmers
Alex Luke
Michael Schrage

Bass
David Buursma
Adam Gibson-Even
Aaron Riegle

Rehearsal Accompanist
Nicole Lee

ABOUT THE SOLO QUARTET

Our solo quartet for today's performance is made up of graduates of Valparaiso University, all of whom were members of the Chorale as students.

Mari (Bjoraker) Scott ('06) sings professionally with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers in Minneapolis and teaches elementary music at Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion School. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in music education at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN.

Angela Young Smucker ('02) is a DMA candidate in Vocal Pedagogy at Northwestern University. She has served on the voice faculty at Valparaiso University and is a much sought after soloist in Chicago and throughout the U.S.

Jonathan Busarow ('08) is artistic director of the Ft. Wayne Children's Choir and active as a guest clinician and vocal soloist.

Daniel Eifert ('98) has been a member of many professional Chicago area choral ensembles and has become an acclaimed soloist performing a wide variety of repertoire, including the works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Haydn.
THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY BACH ORCHESTRA

Violin
Kevin Case, concertmaster
Bernardo Arias
Brandy Berry Benson
Madeline Capistran
Angela Choi*
Emily Ernstrom*
Helen Kim
David Myford
Gabriel Neuman
Jayde Plaza*
Victoria Pankow*
Michael Shelton

Oboe
Jennet Ingle+
Naomi Bensdorf Frisch
Dan Glynn

Horn
Ericka Grodrian+
Janelle Wigal*

Percussion
Courtney Hale
Nicholas Dehenes

Cello
Eric Lenz
Andrew Brokaw*
Julie Howe*

Piano/Organ
Nicole Lee+

Organ
Sunghee Kim+

Viola
Ben Wedge
Becca Wilcox
Jennifer Damron*

+Bach Institute
Valparaiso University Music Faculty
*Member of Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra,
Dennis Friesen-Carper, conductor
or Valparaiso University Chamber Concert Band,
Jeffrey Scott Doebler, conductor

The continuo organ used by the Bach Institute was designed by the firm of Gerrit and Henk Klop of the Netherlands. It was a gift to the Bach Institute by Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg.

Phyllis Buehner ’54 and Richard Duesenberg ’51, ’53 J.D. have distinguished themselves by their remarkable generosity to Valparaiso University. They have made an enduring impact through the establishment of endowed chairs; significant capital projects, including the Duesenberg Welcome Center; and the establishment of the Bach Institute in 2004.

As co-founders of the Bach Institute at Valparaiso University, their support ensures that world-class performances, meaningful symposia and integral programming will keep the music of J.S. Bach at the center of the life of Valparaiso University.
These are the words cast into a church bell in 1717, dedicated at the 200th anniversary of the Reformation in the small village of Seyda, a few miles from Wittenberg. This village of approximately 1,000 has experienced a great deal in their long history, including a visit from Martin Luther in 1528. It was following this visit that Luther wrote the “Small Catechism,” an instructional guide to congregations.

This year at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation a new bell will be cast to join this historic proclaimer of Christian joy, and this new bell will have Valparaiso University Chorale cast into it.

This remarkable story for the Chorale began in 2010 with a humble request through an email message received during the preparation for the 2010 concert tour in Germany. Pastor Thomas Meinhof, who serves nine communities in rural Wittenberg, invited the Chorale to participate in a Richtfest, a ceremony to mark the end of reaching the highest elevation of a new building. This building was a chapel in the farming community of Mark Zwuschen.

This new chapel was the first to be dedicated in the former East Germany after a 50 year halt in the construction of new worship facilities. The celebration on this day in 2010 was moving and emotional. It has often been identified as one of the most memorable days during the Germany tours. In addition to this ceremony, the Chorale participated in worship services celebrating the confirmation of youth, an event common to churches throughout the world, but highly discouraged during the time of the communist state in East Germany.

This invitation from Pastor Meinhof placed the Chorale in a position to witness the rebuilding of the Christian church in “Luthertum.” Pastor Meinhof called the Chorale “angels sent from heaven.” From this amazing start a relationship blossomed, in which the Chorale has supported the various ministries of the Lutheran churches in Middle Germany. As recognition of the continued support of their ministries and the international reach of the Lutheran church, Pastor Meinhof included the Valparaiso University Chorale in the inscription of the new bell.

The bell will be officially dedicated on Nov. 1, 2017. The Chorale will participate in the ceremony and the parade through the village of Seyda. The “Joy of Lutheranism” is present and active today, as it was 300 years ago when the old bell was dedicated. The Chorale is honored to be spreading this joy through music and will continue this ministry for generations to follow.
Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the doors of the Schlosskirche (Castle Church) in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. This event is considered the beginning of the Reformation, and a global movement grew from his action, impacting not only religion and theology but also music, art, the economy of the social order, language and law. Luther and friends celebrated the Reformation in 1527, and the posting of the theses has been festively commemorated ever since. The 500th anniversary of the posting will occur on October 31, 2017, centered in Wittenberg and shared worldwide.

The Castle Church in Wittenberg invited the Valparaiso University Chorale to be the only international choir present on this historic occasion. We are honored to accept this prestigious invitation to join the international community in recognition of this movement that changed the modern world. The international observance on October 31, 2017, seeks to be defined by openness, freedom and the ecumenical spirit. The Chorale will present a concert, lead a hymn festival and participate in the official services and ceremonies related to the 500th anniversary.

In addition to the appearance in Wittenberg, the Chorale will return to the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig and join the famous Thomanerchor for Reformation Day and their weekend services. We are honored to accept this invitation as it reflects our longstanding relationship with the historic church of Johann Sebastian Bach. This will be the first opportunity for the Chorale to perform with the Thomanerchor.
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Oct. 28, 2017</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Stadthalle Reutlingen</td>
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<td>Oct. 30, 2017</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Schlosskirche Wittenberg</td>
<td>English Worship Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31, 2017</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Thomaskirche Leipzig</td>
<td>Festival Worship Service with the Thomanerchor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31, 2017</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Schlosskirche Wittenberg</td>
<td>Reformation Hymn Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1, 2017</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Evangelische Kirche Seyda</td>
<td>Bell Dedication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3, 2017</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Thomaskirche Leipzig</td>
<td>Motet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4, 2017</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Thomaskirche Leipzig</td>
<td>Motet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5, 2017</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Thomaskirche Leipzig</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5, 2017</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Schlosskirche Wittenberg</td>
<td>Reformation Festival Concert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All times listed as Germany local time*