



A SWEET SLICE OF GRATITUDE / Program

??? ..... Adam & Matt Podd (and Pachelbel)  
You can learn much from this very meaningful and direct song.

**Wherever We May Be** ..... Mary Donnelly & George Strid  
We sing this simple sounding, yet meaningful song to remind us of the beauty around us; the beauty of creation and humankind.

**Autumn Vespers** .....poem by Emily Bronte, arr. by Jacob Narverud  
Autumn Vespers is taken from a poem by Emily Bronte (1818-1848). Emily and her sisters wrote poems using pen names (their initials) to make it appear they were men as women were expected to sew, cook and clean, not write poems.

**Asante Mungu (Thank You, God)** ..... Jennifer Klein & Karen Cran  
This song is sung in Swahili and English. Swahili is a language native to east Africa.

*Asante Ee! Asante Mungu, Asante Bwana. Asante Yesu kwa maisha yangu.  
(Thank You, yes! Thank You God. Thank You Lord. Thank You, Jesus, for my life.)*

*Asante Mungu, Asante Bwana, Asante Yesu, Amina.  
(Thank You, God. Thank you, Lord, Thank You, Jesus. Amen.)*

**Appalachian Grace** ..... arr. by Diane Hannibal & Joel Raney  
Lyrics from familiar songs, *For the Beauty of the Earth* and *Amazing Grace* to the tune of *Land of Rest*, give this song a fresh twist on gratitude.

**The Earth Song** ..... Frank Ticheli  
A cry for peace in a world torn by war. Music/Singing can be our refuge in these dark times. The extreme dynamic phrasing represents our cries, "Sing, Be, Live, See"

**Come with Thanksgiving** ..... arr. by Lloyd Larson  
Fire up the organ and prepare your voices to join us on this anthem using *Brahms' Symphony No. 1* to celebrate the many blessings we receive from God!

Please join us on stanzas 1 & 3

Stanza 1: Come with thanksgiving; rejoice for the gift of love.  
Lift ev'ry heart and give thanks to the Lord above.  
Now may we care enough to share our sorrow and joy as one,  
That unified we glorify the love God has given through His Son.

Stanza 3: Live with thanksgiving; rejoice for the gift of life.  
With every breath give your thanks to the Lord on high.  
Now may we be more faithfully committed in our resolve  
That we may give the lives we live completely in answer to God's call.

## Intermission

**Rhythm of Life** ..... arr. Richard Barnes  
From the Broadway Musical, *Sweet Charity*, this song gives us many words and notes to squeeze into this energetic and powerful beat.

**Turkey in the Straw** ..... arr. by Mac Huff  
Enjoy this knee slapping, hand clapping, lively country swing song!

**Pie Carols** ..... Daniel E. Gawthrop  
Yes, these are songs about pies. Yes, the kind of pies we eat. What's your favorite: Pumpkin, Cherry, Apple, Lemon Meringue, Pecan, or maybe Rhubarb?! Try to not be offended as we chew our way through the familiar carols with altered lyrics.

**How Can I Keep from Singing?** ..... Robert Lowry, arr. by Bradley Ellingboe  
We dedicate this sincere and fitting song to our dear friend and WCS member, Pastor Naomi Mahler. Before her passing, Naomi asked us to sing this song at her memorial service November 3, 2023. We all extend our continued prayers to Naomi's family and friends.

**Why We Sing** ..... Greg Gilpin  
The lyrics say it all. "A sound of hope, a sound of peace, a sound that celebrates and speaks what we believe. A sound of love, a sound so strong. It's amazing what is given when we share a song. This is why we sing....."



West Central Singers would like to thank and acknowledge the following people, businesses, and organizations that are a positive voice in support of the arts in our community and the surrounding area, and that directly support us through significant donations that make our concerts possible.

If you would like to support these efforts, please mail your tax deductible contribution to: West Central Singers, c/o Donna Brau, Board President, 5183 – 109 Ave NE, Spicer, MN 56288

**SOLO LEVEL** – Cheri Buzzeo; Larry & Kathi Gunter; Tony & Bonnie Ogdahl; Jean Rittenour

**DUET LEVEL** – William and Carol Benson; Don's Flooring/Benson; Factory Home Center/Bryan and Traci Mara; Anne Fenstra; Neal & Julene Haugen; Fancy Coats Pet Grooming and Inn/Marie Lingl; Late Bloomers Floral & Gift; Jim & Laura Molenaar; Bill & Bridget Neumann; Brian and Sherry Pearson; Peterson Brothers Funeral Home and Cremation Services

**TRIO LEVEL** – John & Jill Benson; Terry and Donna Brau in memory of Robert J Brau; Jacquelyn Cunningham; Duane Carrow; Charles & Heather Carver; Morrie & Daphne Evenson; Fischer Laser Eye Center; Arvin & Corrine Grove; JoAnn Halverson; Hanson Fonkert Dental; Home State Bank; Dale and Judi Lauer; Moody, Schmidt, Kleinhuizen and Zumwalt P.A.; Kris Swanson; Randall and Mary Jo Patton; Tim & Mary Pieh; Mike and Roxy Steffi; Marvelle and Gayne Stone; West Central Sanitation; and a donation with the request to remain anonymous

## WEST CENTRAL SINGERS

### **DIRECTOR** – Naomi Powers Baker

Naomi began directing WCS the fall of 2018. She enjoys the excitement and passion of this group. After thirty-two years of teaching music, 30 in the New London-Spicer School District, Naomi is currently the Director of Music Ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar, MN. Besides her love of music, Naomi enjoys having fun hanging out with family, friends and dogs.

### **SOPRANO I**

Jean Urban, New London  
Sarah Moulton, Morris  
Eileen Twedt, Willmar  
Nanette Serbus, Renville \*  
Jeanie Rittenour, Glenwood  
Kali Stiles, Morris

### **SOPRANO II**

Jill Benson, Willmar  
Elaine Boyd, Willmar  
Cheri Buzzeo, Spicer  
Rachel Clark, Kandiyohi  
JoAnn Halverson, Willmar  
Ramona Hjulberg, Corcoran  
Cheryl Schmidt, Willmar  
Kris Swanson, Willmar \*  
Diane Thompson, Pennock

### **TENOR**

Donny Albers, Willmar  
Lucas Ford, Willmar \*  
David Frey, Willmar  
Roger Kingstrom, Willmar  
Brad Schmidt, Willmar  
Andrew Stadem, Willmar

\* Denotes Board Member

### **ALTO I**

Cynthia Koll Tengwall, Spicer  
Diane Johnson, Willmar  
Peggy Lister, Corcoran  
Lisa McBrian, Willmar  
Bridget Neumann, Raymond  
Hailey Wolf, Willmar

### **ALTO II**

Heather Carver, Spicer  
Diana Gertken, Litchfield  
Char Kingstrom, Willmar  
Carol Sanders, Brooten  
Lylas Peterson, Kerkhoven  
Kristen Pierce, Pennock

### **CONTRALTO**

Donna Brau, Spicer \*

### **BARITONE/BASS**

John Benson, Willmar \*  
Dale Lauer, Spicer \*  
Mark Peterson, Kerkhoven  
Peter Stadem, Willmar  
Jeff Tengwall, Blomkest

### **ACCOMPANIST**

Kari Stadem, Willmar

### **FLAUTIST**

Kris Gulbrandsen, Willmar

Thanks for joining us today.  
Thank you to Nordland Lutheran Church, Paynesville  
and Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar  
for your hospitality.