



THE GENEVANS
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NEWS RELEASE

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THE GENEVANS TOUR WITH

“MELODIES OF THE HEART” CONCERTS

BEAVER FALLS, Pa. – The Genevans, student choir of Geneva College, celebrates their 88th concert season with a program entitled “Melodies of the Heart,” inspired by Ephesians 5:19 “...making melody in your heart to the Lord” in presenting best-loved music of the choir, and songs that declare God’s love and express adoration of Christ, the Savior.

Under the baton of conductor David Kenneth Smith, the choir will begin their concert season at the Reformed Presbyterian Home in Pittsburgh at 7:00 p.m. on March 4, 2026 before departing on a 5-day bus tour to New England including venues in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The choir will then appear at Geneva College for their annual Spring concerts on campus at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21 in John White Chapel.

Last December, The Genevans sang “Treasures of the Heart” as they contemplated the life of Jesus’ mother Mary, who “treasured all these things in her heart.” The choir discovered that her experiences were a matter of the heart: that God in love sent His only Son to save the world.

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This Spring the choir continues in this vein by singing melodies they treasure that celebrate the love of God. Central to this theme is the well-known anthem by Sir John Stainer, “God so Loved the World,” which is paired with the contemporary composer Philip W.M. Stopford’s setting of Philippians 2 “Jesus Christ is Lord.” From an opera by another recent composer, Stephen Paulus, comes “Pilgrims’ Hymn,” which declares that God’s unceasing love surpasses all we know. “Glory Hallelujah to the Risen Lamb!” rounds off their contemporary selections, in the upbeat spiritual by Victor C. Johnson.

With two pieces in Latin, the choir reaches back to Renaissance masters with Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina’s Psalm 42 “Sicut cervus” on the soul’s metaphor of a deer longing for water, and with the short piece by Tomás Luis de Victoria on the sweetness of Jesus’ presence “Jesu, Dulcis Memoria.”

Forty-two members of The Genevans anticipate an 18-day tour in May throughout the country of Vietnam, in the latest of their quadrennial international trips. Remarkably, G.F. Handel’s “Hallelujah!” chorus is well-loved there, so the choir is happy to bring an American rendition to those audiences. Indeed, their program will be punctuated with hallelujahs, including the Johnson spiritual and the melismatic “Alleluja” found at the end of J.S. Bach’s motet “Lobet den Herrn alle Heiden.”

While conductor David Kenneth Smith was growing up in Vietnam, he learned the Charles H. Purday hymn setting of Psalm 121 “Unto the Hills,” and he reports a continuing strong pull of memories whenever The Genevans sing it. Choir alumnus Michael R. Kearney was similarly taken by the psalm, and arranged it for double choir during their tour to the Philippines in 2014.

Kearney's arranging is also heard in the choir's Psalm 96 processional and in a descant he wrote for Psalm 116A "I Love the Lord" for their Trinity Psalter Hymnal recording project. To that Smith added a tender arrangement of the first three stanzas for this season.

Other composer partnerships are celebrated with Psalm 95 "O Come, Let Us Sing for Joy to the Lord," by Diane Whitacre, from whom three psalm anthems were commissioned by the choir since 2013. Another Geneva alumnus Michael Tabon has penned for the psalter the syncopated Psalm 118 "O Thank the Lord, for He is Good." His psalm was arranged boisterously for lower voices by Smith in 2014. Finally, Psalm 131 "O Lord, My Heart" is a favorite psalm of trust composed for women's voices by Byron G. Curtis, Professor Emeritus of Geneva College. The last of the Smith arrangements are two beloved hymns, "To God be the Glory" and "Wonderful Grace of Jesus," and the Christmas plainchant "Of the Father's Love Begotten."

Each evening's concert ends with F. Melius Christiansen's arrangement of "Beautiful Savior" and "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz in the choir's signature surround-sound style.

The Genevans' concerts are open to the public and free of charge, though a love offering is taken during intermission. After that, concertgoers enjoy performances by the Grace Notes, a women's ensemble, and the Eight Bells, a double barbershop quartet.

The Genevans choir exists to glorify God and minister to people through the gift of music. Formed in 1938, the choir continues a rich heritage of choral singing dating from the founding of Geneva College. While engaging audiences with important spiritual truth, The Genevans have acquired a reputation for choral excellence, musical variety and emotional impact.

For more information, including recordings for purchase, and The Genevans' full concert schedule, visit The Genevans on the web at <https://www.geneva.edu/genevans>, or contact conductor Dr. David Kenneth Smith at Geneva College's Music Department (724) 847-6660 or at dksmith@geneva.edu. The Genevans can be seen on their channel <http://www.youtube.com/thegenevans>, and heard on major streaming services ("Trinity Psalter Hymnal Album 1"). Follow The Genevans on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thegenevans> and on Instagram@thegenevans.

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