

Report to the Synod of 2018
From: Moravian Music Foundation

Mission, Purpose and Values

The Moravian Music Foundation (MMF) preserves, celebrates, and cultivates the musical life of Moravians. This is accomplished through care for the physical safety of the archival music collections of the Southern and Northern Province; cataloging and interpretation of that music; sponsoring concerts, events, and Festivals; publishing music, booklets; producing recordings; and serving as a resource for the congregations, pastors, and church musicians of the Moravian Church and (to a much lesser extent) those of our ecumenical partners.

Responsibilities

MMF, a separately-incorporated 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, is under contract with both provinces, the Salem Congregation, Bethlehem Area Moravians, Lancaster Congregation, Lititz Congregation, Nazareth Congregation (PA) and Dover (OH) Congregation, for the custody of the archival music owned by those entities. MMF is responsible for their physical care; for conducting (and supervising) research; and for publications and recordings from those collections.

In addition, MMF plays a very active role within the Moravian Church in America. Within the past four years, at least 33 Southern Province congregations have called upon MMF for counsel or assistance, with inquiries ranging from copyright advice to commissioning a new anthem; from help preparing a celebratory lovefeast ode or *Singstunde* to advice about involving more young people in music.

Summary of Activities

Preservation activities include, first and foremost, *GemeinKat*, the cataloging project MMF has nearly completed. Through this work, the information about all of MMF's holdings, previously accessible only through the card catalog in the Winston-Salem office, is now online and accessible worldwide. Digital copies of the music are *not* online, only the information about them – what you would find in a card catalog, enhanced with more information which was not available when the original cataloging was done more than 50 years ago. Through this work, musicians and scholars worldwide are able to identify specific pieces in MMF's holdings, for research and performance. This includes, as well, information about published anthems and recordings.

MMF also continues to **add to the collections** through gifts and some purchases. Recent additions range from the papers and recordings of country music star (and Moravian) George Hamilton IV, to an early printed copy of music of C. P. E. Bach signed by Moravian composer Johannes Herbst – both gifts to MMF. MMF seeks out music that congregations and individuals find tucked away in organ benches, attics, boxes and closets – hoping to find music from the 18th and 19th century that is known to have been played or sung then but which is missing from the collections.

MMF also encourages **living composers** to send copies of their works for preservation, so that 200 years in the future, people may know what Moravian musicians were writing and singing and playing in the 21st century.

Celebrating activities include, most visibly, **Moravian Music Festivals**, for which MMF assumed full responsibility in 2010 (previous Festivals were organized and sponsored by the Northern and Southern Provinces). The 25th Moravian Music Festival (23-29 July 2017 in Winston-Salem) had 309 participants, from 19 states and 5 foreign countries. Because of a 2012 bequest, MMF was able to provide travel subsidy support for 24 participants from the Western and Canadian Districts of the Northern Province. In addition, 49 adult participants received some scholarship support. (22 current students and 2 former students of Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, are included in that number, with scholarship support coming through Rollins College.) Three scholarships were offered to Winston-Salem area participants through the gifts received at the benefit concert held in February of 2017 at Advent Moravian Church. 29 children and 12 youth attended with no tuition fee and greatly reduced meal fees, due to generous gifts (and careful budgeting).

According to the feedback received from the participants, this Festival was a joy-filled success. Participants in both the choir and the concert band spoke highly of their conductors and of the music chosen. Workshops included beginning and advanced conducting; music for the smaller choir; developing choirs (especially children) to move from unison to two-part singing; music notation software; the music editing and publication process; and information about the composers. Plans are already under way for the 26th Moravian Music Festival to be held in Bethlehem, PA, in the summer of 2021.

This intersynodal period also saw the continuation of the annual **Moravian Music on the Mountain** weekends at Laurel Ridge, with an average attendance of 66 people. These weekends feature choral and band experiences, an informative seminar, and times of worship and relaxation, culminating with Sunday worship at Mountain Laurel Fellowship. Each year has featured different leaders, and “listeners” are very welcome to attend as well! Music on the Mountain 2018 will be held March 2-4.

2016 was the **60th anniversary** of MMF’s founding, and for that year more than 60 Moravian musical **events** took place around the country and beyond. In addition, MMF partnered with the Board of World Mission to ask for **donations of musical instruments** that were not being used (many people still have one back in a closet somewhere!) and send them to Moravian mission areas around the world where they would be used. More than 65 instruments were donated, along with over \$1,400 to support their repair and the purchase of instructional books and music, and a number of them have already been taken to Peru and Sierra Leone. MMF continues to work with BWM to “place” the rest of these instruments and music books.

MMF works to **celebrate the ministry of the musicians in our congregations**. MMF presents three different awards – the James V. Salzwedel Award for Excellence in Church Music; the Award of Merit, to groups or individuals who have shown an unusual interest in the Moravian Music Foundation by the contribution of their time, talent, money, or material possessions; and the Moramus Award, to honor scholars and others whose activities and achievements have resulted in outstanding contributions to American Moravian music and have furthered the work of the MMF. Since the 2014 synod MMF has presented the following awards in the Southern Province: Salzwedel Awards: Ben Fishel (Advent); Sam and Lillian Fort (Trinity):

Raymond Ebert (Friedland); Jeff Whitsett (Grace); Nancy Marie Manuel (Fairview); Charles Krites (Advent); Robert Clark (Oak Grove); Donald Armitage (Lutheran); Donna Rothrock (Trinity); Nola Knouse (Home); Award of Merit: Jayson Snipes (Friedland); Herbert Spaugh (New Beginnings); Moramus Award: Daniel Crews (Archives); Dirk French (New Beginnings).

In 2015 MMF began presenting 50-year service pins to musicians who have been active in church music for 50 years or more. This could include singing in choir, playing in bands, playing handbells, serving as music director, pianist or organist – any service in the music of the church. MMF has presented more than 250 pins since beginning to distribute them at the Salem Congregation Easter Band breakfast in 2015.

Cultivating activities include publications, recordings, and sharing of information and resources. Since the 2014 synod, MMF has published 28 anthems in the Moravian Star Anthem Series including 6 by living Moravian composers. MMF has also produced reprints of two highly significant historical works: *Historical Notes on Music in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1741-1871* by Rufus Grider (published for the 275th anniversary of Bethlehem, 2016), and the 1784 *Choralbuch* of Christian Gregor.

MMF has produced three **recordings** since the 2014 synods. *A Loving Home's a Happy Home* is a two-CD set of “parlor music” written by Moravian composers, mostly the three Van Vleck sisters, in the second half of the 19th century. The *Easter Cantata* by Ernst Wilhelm Wolf is a multi-movement classical work of the later 18th century, performed at the 2013 Festival and recorded in 2015 by the Bach Festival Society chamber choir and orchestra of Winter Park, Florida. *It Is a Precious Thing, a Moravian Music Sampler*, contains about 45 minutes of music with tracks taken from various MMF recordings. (*What Heights, What Depths of Love Divine*, Moravian lower-brass music for Lent and Easter, was released shortly before the 2014 synods, after MMF's report to synod was submitted.)

MMF continues to serve as an active **resource** to the Moravian Church in matters of music and worship. MMF Assistant Director Gwyn Michel regularly appears as a guest lecturer in classes at Moravian Theological Seminary and Moravian College. Both offices (Winston-Salem and Bethlehem) provide answers to countless inquiries regarding copyright, recommendations of music, and an amazing variety of topics. Gwyn Michel and Nola Knouse regularly assist with worship planning and music for synods and conferences. Nola has been the convener for the New Moravian Worship Resource Exploration Committee, which will submit its own report.

Future Direction and Opportunities

At its fall meeting 2016, the MMF board set four very audacious goals and a working principle:

1. MMF will increase accessibility to its holdings. This might include publications (print and online), recordings and digital downloads, educational activities and events, making use of all available technology.
2. MMF will grow the endowment by 100% and double its number of donors by 2019.
3. MMF will create an international linking of Moravian music cultures to promote sharing each unique collection around and within the worldwide unity. This may include online distribution of music from various Moravian music cultures; international scholarship and travel; educational programs; and music in many languages.
4. MMF will develop its relationship with full communion partners and other denominations. This will involve sending Moravian musicians to workshops and conferences offered by our ecumenical partners, and inviting musicians from other denominations to participate in Moravian Music Festivals and Moravian Music Weekends; recruiting members of other denominations to serve as at-large members on the MMF Board of Trustees (The 2018 Board includes Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Lutheran representation.).
5. MMF will equally allocate staff and financial resources to support and serve the ministries of these three communities: scholarly community, performing community, church community. This is more of a “working principle” than a stated goal; staff and board alike agree to monitor the allocation of our resources to be sure that all of our constituents are seen as of equal importance in our work.

The board restructured its committees to align with the first four goals, and the staff and board are working diligently to set strategies and timelines to achieve these goals.

Particularly challenging is goal #2, growing the endowment and number of donors. This is essential for MMF’s long-term sustainability. While the materials in MMF’s custody are *owned* by the church and its agencies, and MMF’s program continues to thrive, the *support* from the provincial share is declining. For 2018, the provincial share from the Southern Province designated for MMF is \$3,840, or less than 1% of our projected expenses for 2018. MMF must therefore devote considerable effort to securing the funds necessary to continue programs and services in support of its mission – *preserving, celebrating, and cultivating the musical life of Moravians*.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Nola Reed Knouse
Director