

Deo Cantamus exists to serve, educate, and promote worship, using quality instrumental and vocal music that glorifies our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pursue excellence in an effort to worship our God and bring others closer to Him.

Statement of Purpose

Deo Cantamus is an organization of musicians whose purpose is to worship the true and living God through the performance of and instruction in quality vocal and instrumental music. Because worshipping God is our fundamental intention, this necessarily requires that we be in right relationship with the God we worship. We believe that this is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we as individuals are followers of Jesus Christ.

We believe that Jesus is the fully divine and fully human Son of God. His death and resurrection is the only means by which people can have forgiveness of their sins and eternal life. We believe that the guilt of our sins was entirely charged against Him on the cross. On the sole condition of trust in Him, God credits Christ's righteousness to us and pronounces us to be righteous for His sake. Therefore we have each personally believed in Jesus as our fully sufficient and exclusive Savior from sin. Further, we have committed ourselves to holy living, in accordance with the character of Jesus Christ and the commands of the New Testament.

Deo Cantamus is not directly attached to any particular church or denomination. We are a group of musicians who believe the Gospel message as stated above. We do believe, however, that the New Testament requires us to display an attitude of thoughtful deference toward all those who hold in common with us our commitment both to the Gospel and to holy living.

Deo Cantamus strives to pursue excellence in the performance of both choral and instrumental music. We are an organization that requires a high standard of proficiency from all musicians who perform. We are committed to this high standard because we believe the kind of music we perform and the way we perform that music says something about our understanding of the God that we worship.

Deo Cantamus seeks to offer both education and performance opportunities for musicians. We will provide individual and group instruction for students and ensemble members, but we also believe that students learn best through regular performance. We will avoid extremes, either of being primarily educational or primarily performance oriented. Therefore, we will provide quality instruction for students along with regular concerts and recitals that will allow students to develop their skills as solo and ensemble musicians.

Acknowledgements

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Coming Soon...



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"We Sing for God"

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Deo Cantamus presents



a new oratorio by Josh Bauder

October 25, 2014
7:00pm



"Abraham" is sponsored by Axiom Marketing Communications. Axiom is honored to support the ministry of Deo Cantamus, and delighted to be a part of the world premiere performance of this piece.



What a joy and privilege to once again collaborate with Josh Bauder. I can still remember when, in April of 2005, he sang with the Deo Cantamus chorale for one of our first concerts, “Praise Him.” That event was a benefit concert for the Urban Initiative. Josh has since grown into a brilliant young composer, and we look for him to glorify God with his music for a long time.

“Abraham” has been a major project for Josh, and it has been a joy for me to watch it come together. We have been talking for over two years about doing an oratorio, and his setting of this narrative is especially significant. Tonight you will hear some beautiful music, and you will relive the historical events of the life of Abraham, but more importantly we pray that you will leave the performance having a renewed understanding of the promises of our God. Through Abraham’s seed we can receive Christ’s redemptive power in our lives.

Working with Josh on this work has also brought new life to Deo Cantamus as an organization. We strive to “serve, educate, and promote worship, using quality instrumental and vocal music that glorifies our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” What a treat that we as an organization have been, in some small way, an influence in the life of a young man like Josh Bauder. It’s been a privilege to be a part of that journey, and we look forward to what the Lord has in store for him in the years to come.

Thank you again for taking the time to be a part of this special evening.



The story of Abraham pierces through two layers of God’s dealings with His people. On the first, local layer, it establishes Abraham as the father of the Jewish nation—a privileged people to whom is given the Law, the mark of circumcision, and the responsibility to reveal God to the nations. On the deeper layer, however, the story of Abraham advances God’s project of redemption begun in Genesis 3. The story reveals that it will be Abraham’s seed who crushes the serpent’s head, thus rescuing not only Israel but the whole world from sin, Satan and the grave. The miraculous birth and near-sacrifice of the local seed, Isaac, hint at the life and death of the future Seed, Jesus; and Abraham’s justification by faith, interpreted splendidly by the Apostle Paul, is a cornerstone of Biblical soteriology.

In adapting Abraham’s story into an oratorio, I have tried to connect the local and deep layers. First, I have occasionally given the local characters words spoken by their deep counterparts; Isaac, for instance, has lines from Jesus and John the Baptist, and Sarah sings Mary’s Magnificat. Second, I have included, at key structural points, Christian hymns carefully selected to avoid anachronism. Third, I have written several verses of new text, always sung to the Promised Land theme, to reinforce the plot and comment on its significance. Fourth, I have used the narration to give voice to the Apostle Paul, whose epistles have a great deal to say about Abraham and the life of faith. My hope is that this oratorio will prompt reflection on God’s long-unfolding plan for human redemption; that the themes of trust, sacrifice, and deliverance will encourage Christian faith and obedience; and that believers will remember that they too are a chosen people, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation called out of the world to receive a Promised Land.



Jeff Raehl, Melchizedek

Raised in the city of Cuiaba, Brazil by missionary parents John and Joyce Raehl, Jeff always enjoyed music in general and singing in particular. This interest eventually led to music study and a bachelor’s degree in Bible and Music from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, MN, and a master’s degree in Church Music from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. He taught voice lessons and church music classes at Pillsbury College from 1996 to 2007. He has sung in choirs all his life, currently with the Minnesota Chorale and the Deo Cantamus Chorale. He also directs the adult choir at First Baptist Church in Faribault, MN.

“I am looking forward to this project because the story of Abraham is foundational to God’s plan for Israel and the rest of mankind. Even the current situation in the Middle East ultimately finds its way back to the person of Abraham. I am also looking forward to the musical challenge of this project.”



John Swedberg, Isaac

John Swedberg grew up as a missionary kid in Brazil, where he began his musical training on the violin. In 2008, he moved to the United States, where he began studying voice as well. John graduated from Faith Baptist Bible College in 2013 as a Sacred Music major. Since then, he has worked as a violin teacher, worship leader, and occasional orchestra musician.

“I feel extremely privileged to sing with Deo Cantamus for the third time. Having greatly enjoyed singing pieces by Josh Bauder before, I am especially honored to be a part of the worldwide premiere of *Abraham* and look forward to a great production.”

Deo Cantamus Chorale

Soprano

Marisa Anderson
Leah McIntire-Barnett
Colleen Dettmer
Aleta Jackson
Carol Kilian
Sara Kilian
Kim Morrell
Naomi Price
Diane Ryden
Jennifer Swedberg
Gretchen Waldeland

Alto

Lois Armstrong
Kerri-Lynn Bielinski
Bekah Flaming
Maria Hanson
Debbie Isaacs
Brenda Johnson
Ingrid Johnson
Jen Markgraf
Christa Martin
Marhea Monson
Jenny Pacyna
Sarah Poorman

Tenor

Shawn Cowell
Kerry Graffunder
Kent Halsey
Rich Jansma
Richard Joseph
Sam Macalus
Jason Nicholson
Jerry Schwenke
Benjamin Stilwell
Josh Streblov
John Swedberg
Gary Whiteford

Bass/Baritone

Josiah Appell
Dave Barnett
Kimball Cummings, Jr.
Steve Davis
Jason Erickson
Ben Hanson
Dan Johnson
Michael Johnson
Roger Kilian
Jeff Raehl
Caleb Siefkes
Phil Siefkes

Instrumentalists

Violin I

Jennifer Thomas

Bass

Nathaniel Kling

Tuba

Chris Wilson

Flute

Aleta Jackson

Violin II

Nathan Wilson

Trumpet

Miriam Dennis

Percussion

Erik Holm

Lacey Kruse

Paul McKenzie

Viola

Anna Christian

Horn

Laura Kozamchak

Organ

Woody Johnson

Cello

Hilary James

Horn

Becky Jyrkas

Piano

Kay Hawkins

**Johnny Grainger, narrator**

Johnny brings over 30 years of performance and ministry experience. He has performed in plays, musicals, operas and oratorios, as well as solo and concert work. He is most blessed when the opportunity to minister and perform collide. He is looking forward to *Abraham* because of the power and impact of the story and its significance in our faith heritage. “So excited to be a part of this new work.”

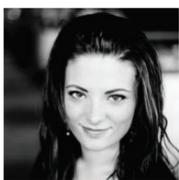
**Dan Johnson, Abraham**

“Ever since the Lord gloriously saved me, He has truly given me a ‘new song’ to sing for Him. I love to worship the Lord by singing of His faithfulness that is recorded in Scripture. The story of Abraham reveals the covenantal faithfulness of our God to people learning to live by faith. We can learn so many lessons about ourselves and our Savior through this story. I can’t wait to sing the promises and character of God as we worship Him together.”

**Richard Joseph, God**

Richard Joseph is a DMA student at the University of Minnesota where he studies with Adriana Zabala. Richard recently made his debut with VocalEssence in the role of Inkslinger in their revival production of *Paul Bunyan*. He sang Beethoven’s 9th symphony in his debut with the Minnesota Chorale and Metropolitan Symphony, and with the St. Kate’s Choral society. He also sang the role of Fenton in the University Opera Theater’s production of *Falstaff*, and has sung several comprimario roles for Minnesota Opera. In addition to performing, Richard teaches voice and music classes at Anoka-Ramsey Community College and North Central University.

“I am looking forward to what I’m sure will be a beautiful and God-focused piece of music. I have had the opportunity to sing several different pieces by Bauder. His settings of sacred text are thoughtful and thought-provoking.”

**Leah McIntire-Barnett, Sarah**

Leah McIntire-Barnett has won accolades as both a cellist and soprano, and has been awarded state, regional, and national titles in various vocal competitions. She has appeared in numerous masterclasses with various artists, including Cheryl Studer, Judith Haddon, and Simon Estes; she has also been featured in several performances with Simon Estes. McIntire-Barnett earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in voice and cello from Drake University in the spring of 2012. She is a seven-time winner of the National Association of Teachers of Singing state and regional competitions; in 2008 McIntire-Barnett won the Music Teachers’ National Association state, regional, and national competitions in the Senior Division, and was again a finalist in March 2013. In the summer of 2010, McIntire-Barnett made her international debut playing the role of Violetta Valery in *La Traviata* with La Musica Lirica, a prominent summer program held in Novafeltria, Italy. McIntire-Barnett returned to Italy as Queen of the Night in Tuscia Opera Festival’s 2013 production of *Die Zauberflöte*, and again in 2014 to teach and perform for the Tuscia Opera Festival. McIntire-Barnett maintains an active private studio for both cello and voice students at her home in Des Moines, where she resides with her husband, Dave Barnett.

“I am so excited to be a part of this project. Not only do I love new music, but it is delightful to be a part of a work whose subject, Abraham, has little been acknowledged up until this point in classical music.”

**Jenny Pacyna, Hagar**

Jenny found her voice as a young child and developed musically through instruction from grade school to university level. She received formal training in both choral and solo technique and has performed in both settings. Now she delights in sharing in the ministry of music in the church and has joyfully embraced the opportunity to sing with Deo Cantamus.

“The prospect of singing in the production of *Abraham* was captivating from the beginning. While I am eager to sing in a premiere performance of an original work, what is more significant to me is the content of this work. As I consider the corresponding Biblical narrative, I am stunned by how God’s grace towards Abraham touches me. This is the Gospel! And it is astounding! To sing is always a joy, but to sing about God’s marvelous dealings with mankind is thrilling.”

Program**PART ONE****No. 1
Overture**

Here Abraham’s theme is presented.

**No. 2
Siddim**

Chorus: Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies. He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole that he has made. His mischief returns upon his own head, and on his own skull his violence descends.

Melchizedek: Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High who has delivered your enemies into your hand!

**No. 3
The First Covenant**

God: [Abram,] Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Abram: “A great nation.” O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?

God: This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.

Abraham: Behold, you have given me no offspring.

God: Lift up your eyes. Look toward heaven, and number the stars. So shall your offspring be.

Abram: [But] O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?

God: I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur to give you this land to possess. To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

**No. 4
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.

Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.

Strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

Lord, I trust Thy mighty power,
Wondrous are Thy works of old;
Thou deliver’st Thine from slav’ry,
Who for naught themselves had sold:

Thou wilt conquer
Sin, and Satan and the grave.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell’s destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan’s side.

Songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee.

God: Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.

**No. 5
Promised Land**

Here the instruments present the theme for the Promised Land.

**No. 6
Hagar’s Introduction**

Sarah: Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.

**No. 7
The Second Covenant**

God: [Abram,] I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly. Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

And I will establish my covenant between me and you for an everlasting covenant. As for Sarah your wife, I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.

Abraham: Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child? Oh that Ishmael might live before you!

God: No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac.

No. 8 The Birth of Isaac

Sarah: God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me. Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

No. 9 Promised Land Trio

Sarah: O, my lord! For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition.

Give him no kingdom, crown or throne
Unless that kingdom is Your own;
Give him Your Spirit's pow'r instead,
Power to crush the serpent's head.
Give him the Promised Land,
Give him the Promised Land.

Hagar: O, my lord! For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition.

Give him a mighty, tireless arm,
Give him a shield from foe and harm,
Give him a bow of burnished yew,
Give him a thousand arrows true.
Give him the Promised Land,
Give him the Promised Land.

Abraham:

Lord, for my sons I humbly pray:
Teach them to love and to obey;
Make them courageous, strong and wise,
Lift up a light before their eyes.
Give them the Promised Land,
Give them the Promised Land.

Chorus:

He by Himself hath sworn; I on his oath depend,
I shall, on eagle's wings upborne, to Heav'n ascend.
I shall behold His face, I shall His pow'r adore,
And sing the wonders of His grace forevermore.

Fifteen-Minute Intermission

PART TWO

No. 10 Hagar Exiled

Sarah (*spoken*): Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.

Hagar:

Why do you hide in times of trouble?
Where is your steadfast love of old?
I am gone like a shadow at evening;
O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger;
I'm traveling through this world of woe,
Yet there's no sickness, toil or danger
In that bright land to which I go.
I'm going there to see my father,
I'm going there no more to roam;
I'm just a-going over Jordan,
I'm just a-going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather round me,
I know my way is rough and steep;
Yet golden fields lie just before me
Where God's redeemed shall ever sleep.
I'm going there to see my father—
He said he'd meet me when I come—
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

No. 11 God's Command

God: Abraham!

Abraham: Here I am.

God: Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and there, on one of the mountains, offer him as a burnt offering.

No. 12 The Sacrifice

Abraham:

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Give me your son.

Sarah: What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son! The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning.

Chorus: Lift up your eyes.

Isaac: Father!

Abraham: Here I am, my son.

Isaac: Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

Abraham: God will provide for himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.

God: Abraham, Abraham!

Abraham: Here I am.

God: Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.

Isaac: My hour has not yet come.

God: Lift up your eyes. By myself I have sworn, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the sand upon the seashore. And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.

No. 13 One New Man

Sarah: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

Isaac: After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me. Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!

Chorus: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!

Melchizedek: And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Hagar and Sarah: For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility—

All soloists: —that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross.

Chorus:

The God of Abraham praise, whose all sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my happy days, in all my ways.
He calls a worm His friend, He calls Himself my God!
And He shall save me to the end, thro' Jesus' blood.

No. 14 Promised Land Finale

All:

Give us no kingdom but Your own,
Give us no king but You alone;
Give us the eyes to see Your face,
Give us the hearts to heed Your grace.
Give us the Promised Land,
Give us the Promised Land.