

Faith Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, Washington  
2016 Music Ministry Report



FPC's Music Ministry seeks to give to the people of God and to the community beautiful music that lifts the soul and enhances the spoken word in our corporate life. Achieving this objective requires both individuals learning music privately and many corporate rehearsals directed by committed leaders.

**RECOGNITION** Dozens of trained volunteer musicians labor at their craft. For another year, choral music has enhanced the themes of our corporate worship led by **Florence Rayburn** (adults) and **Melissa McMillan** (*Choristers*). **Margaret Eby** has assisted with the adult choir rehearsals; **Marie Seifert** has aided the *Choristers* with her faithful help. **Maddie Lee** has served yet another year as primary accompanist for the adults and **Amy Lawty** has faithfully accompanied the *Choristers*. Good Friday and Christmas Eve allowed the choirs to lace our high worship days with beautiful music, and choral anthems also enhanced weddings and funerals. Our faithful service organists and pianists deserve our appreciation as well. Thank you **Ruth Bechtel**, **Amy Lawty**, **Maddie Lee**, **Elsie Matsuda**, **Hannah Matsuda**, **Melissa McMillan**, **Jonathan Feucht**, and **Abraham Sullivan**. Thanks, too, to several skilled musicians (strings, woodwind and brass), who serve alongside the organ and piano, adding color and depth to the congregational singing. Finally, we thank the volunteer sound system technicians who are perfecting the art of recording our music for wider distribution and enduring enjoyment.

**REPORT OF EVENTS** Our collaboration with the Alliance of Christian Musicians (ACM) since 2007 has brought to our church many new friendships, expanded musical offerings, and increased musical training of church musicians, both youth and adult. **Elissa Hastings** joined the ACM team as Executive Assistant in late 2015 and she has assisted the FPC music ministry with key clerical tasks. For the seventh year in a row, FPC hosted ACM's Young Church Musicians Recital Competition (YCMRC) in which 41 students, ages 9-20, from 16 local churches competed. FPC students won 6 of the 13 cash scholarship prizes and 3 of the 8 honorable mentions.

After 14 months of rehearsals a combined choir of FPC singers and others from the community presented Mendelssohn's marvelous masterwork *Elijah* in April under **Florence Rayburn's** baton. In May some of our pianists attended an instructive *Accompanist's Workshop* led by **Maddie Lee** and **Sydney Jarrard**. In June FPC hosted *Resonate with Ross (Hauck)*, an evening of food, fellowship and singing instruction for all. In July we hosted ACM's sixth annual children's singing camp under the leadership of **Melissa McMillan**, assisted by **Sonia King** from Pilgrim Bible Church. Also, our own **Hannah Matsuda** (piano) and **Elsie Matsuda** (organ) played the Midsummer Classics Concert. In October, the Church Music Symposium featured author and composer **Greg Wilbur** (PCA elder, church musician from Nashville). **Ross Hauck** presented *Joseph*, a musical retelling of the ancient hero's true story. **Martha Alford** (flute), and her son, **Michael Alford** (French horn), came from Philadelphia to present music. During Advent 2016 we enjoyed a rich evening of worship around the singing of Handel's *Messiah* (Part 1). Singers from eight area churches combined with FPC singers under **Ron Bechtel's** direction. Soloists were: **Rachael Kim**, **Gwen Trussler**, **Daniel Roberts** and **Ross Hauck**. Our two Christmas Eve services included music from Sarah Fary and the *Choristers* singing throughout lessons and carols in the early service, and the Adult Choir's full palette of Christmas anthems in the late service.

In the Fall **Pastor Rob Rayburn** launched an important new initiative on periodic Sunday evenings to enhance our church family's understanding and practice of congregational singing. **Margaret Eby** has been supplementing each lesson with practical instruction on various aspects of singing: melody, harmony, rhythm, tempo, and more. Preludes to Sunday Evening Worship are providing opportunities for more and more skilled musicians (including high school students) to present beautiful music appropriate to the occasion.

Our desire to provide music that rises to the highest standard in Christian worship and to train a new generation of service musicians continues to enjoy the Lord's blessing. This year we anticipate new events including three "Community HymnSings" (aka, "Bring Your Own Instrument"), *Messiah* (April 9), classical concert pianist **Samuel Rotman** (June 20), and a special Reformation 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration featuring appropriate teaching and music in the Fall.

With thanksgiving for the joy of serving musically,  
**Ron Bechtel**, Organist and Director of Music