



*"Singing works a kind of alchemy in the singer ..."*

by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

*"People very rarely sing for joy."*  
-John Steinbeck

**Y**ou can probably understand how startled I was to be reading John Steinbeck's *Journal of a Novel* and come across the sentence above. What?! How can you say that, Mr. Steinbeck? People very rarely sing for joy? Why, I know a radio program specializing in great choral music that goes by that very name: *Sing For Joy*.

To be fair, this book of Steinbeck's is something quite different from the carefully considered prose that earned him a Nobel Prize. This book is a collection of pages never intended for publication; they are pages of random doodling, "warm up exercises" he calls them, as he prepared each day for writing his major novel, *East of Eden*. Therefore, I know I should not too insistently hold him to everything he says.

But I've been thinking about it.

He probably is half right. In the same day's entry of his journal he says, "Humans sing most beautifully in pain and longing," and there is more than a little truth in that. Think about all the very beautiful Advent and Lenten music of loneliness and longing. Think about one of America's favorite songs, "Amazing Grace." It is a song of joy, to be sure, but it is most often sung during times of pain or longing. Even a hymn that at first seems to overflow with complete and total joy — "Joy to the World" — has a stanza full of longing: "No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground."

I am not quite willing to concede that "people very rarely sing for joy," but Steinbeck has a point. When joy bubbles up within us and we just have to express it, we probably more often laugh, shout, clap our hands, give someone a hug, or maybe just sit and grin for joy. Yet if those actions are likely to be our initial expressions of joy, singing can and does often follow closely behind. The fact that our first sudden outburst of joy is not a song does not mean that later, when we do decide to sing, all joy has dissipated. Even if singing is the second or third thing we do in our joy, it can still be said that we sing for joy.

And there is one other aspect of singing that I think should be added to Steinbeck's observation. When a choir or soloist begins to sing — in either a rehearsal or a performance — joy might indeed be a submerged or secondary feeling. The singers would not describe themselves as singing for joy. But singing works a kind of alchemy in the singer, and by the time the song is complete, the singers are very often now singing for joy.

That being the case, I don't think we'll change the name of the program anytime soon! *Sing For Joy* it is. Long may it sing.

Peace be with you,



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## AUGUST 3, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 18 (YEAR A)

- (1R) Isaiah 55:1–5  
(PS) Psalm 145:8–9, 14–21  
(2R) Romans 9:1–5  
(G) Matthew 14:13–21

**Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises** (HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA) – South African Traditional / South African Traditional, lyricist (1R)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises!* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-1941  
© 1992 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**I Will Make an Everlasting Covenant** – Johann Friedrich Peter (1R, 2R)  
The Gregg Smith Orchestra: Yonkers, NY / Rosalind Rees, soprano / Gregg Smith  
(CD) *America Sings: Vol. 1 – The Founding Years (1620-1800)* / VOX BOX / CDX 5080  
© 1993 Vox Box [voxcd.com](http://voxcd.com)

**The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee** – Jean Berger (PS)  
Gloriæ Dei Cantores: Cape Cod, MA / Elizabeth C. Patterson  
(CD) *By the Rivers of Babylon* / GLORIÆ DEI CANTORES / GDCD 027  
© 1999 Gloriæ Dei Cantores [paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html](http://paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html)

**Elijah: O Come, Everyone that Thirsteth, Op. 70** – Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1R)  
Quartet from the Atlanta Symphony Chorus: Atlanta, GA / Atlanta Symphony Orchestra / Robert Shaw  
(CD) *Mendelssohn: Elijah* / TELARC / 2CD-803889  
© 1995 Telarc [telarc.com](http://telarc.com)

**O Taste and See** – Sir John Goss (1R, G)  
The Choir of Clare College: Cambridge, England / Dominic Wheeler, accompanist / Timothy Brown  
(CD) *Parish Anthems* / GAMUT RECORDINGS / GAMD 505  
© 1991 Gamut Recordings

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** (HYFRYDOL) – Rowland Hugh Prichard / Charles Wesley, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (G)  
Hymn Festival Congregation: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson, organ  
(CD) *Celebration! Boe Memorial Chapel* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2939/70  
© 2007 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

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## AUGUST 10, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 19 (YEAR A)

- (1R) 1 Kings 19:9–18  
(PS) Psalm 85:8–13  
(2R) Romans 10:5–15  
(G) Matthew 14:22–33

**He Comes to Us as one Unknown** (REPTON) – C. Hubert H. Parry / Timothy Dudley Smith, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (1R)  
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / St. Olaf Orchestra / John Ferguson  
(CD) *Ris'n With Healing in His Wings* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2564  
© 2002 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**Messiah: How Beautiful Are the Feet** – George Frideric Handel (2R)  
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields / Sylvia McNair, soprano / Sir Neville Marriner  
(CD) *Messiah* / PHILIPS / 434 695-2  
© 1992 Philips, PolyGram Records, Inc. [deccaclassics.com](http://deccaclassics.com)

**Jesus, Lover of My Soul** (ABERYSTWITH) – Joseph Parry / Charles Wesley, lyricist / Richard Marlow, arranger (G)

The Choir of Trinity College: Cambridge, United Kingdom / Richard Marlow  
(CD) *Descants from Trinity* / CONIFER CLASSICS / 75605 51281 2  
© 1996 Conifer Classics

**In the Night, Christ Came Walking** – Noble Cain (G)  
The Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle: Chicago, IL / J. Michael Thompson  
(CD) *Music for the Year of Matthew* / THE LITURGICAL PRESS / 7935-8  
© 1998 The Liturgical Press [litpress.org](http://litpress.org)

**It is Well with My Soul** (VILLE DU HAVRE) – Philip Bliss / Horatio G. Spafford, lyricist / Yu-Shan Tsai, arranger (G)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Andrew Bourgoïn, piano / Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith: Volume III* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3386  
© 2011 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

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*“If you sing just because your heart is full,  
anyone is welcome to join you. Sing For Joy often  
plays music made by professionals, but it  
welcomes all the world in every corner to sing along.”*

–Pastor Bruce Benson

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## AUGUST 17, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 20 (YEAR A)

- (1R) Isaiah 56:1, 6–8  
(PS) Psalm 67  
(2R) Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32  
(G) Matthew 15: (10–20), 21–28

**Locus iste** – Anton Bruckner (1R)  
Polyphony / Stephen Layton  
(CD) *Bruckner: Mass in E minor & Motets* / HYPERION / CDA67629  
© 2007 Hyperion, Hyperion Records Limited [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk)

**Let the People Praise Thee, O God, Op. 87** – William Mathias (PS)  
The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral: London, United Kingdom / Andrew Lucas, accompanist / John Scott  
(CD) *The English Anthem – Volume 4* / HYPERION / CDA66678  
© 1994 Hyperion, Hyperion Records Limited [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk)

**67th Psalm** – Charles Ives (PS)  
Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble: Seattle, WA / Loren Pontén  
(CD) *From Captivity to the Holy City* / LOFT / LRCD 1032  
© 2000 Loft, Loft Recordings, LLC [gothic-catalog.com](http://gothic-catalog.com)

**God Be Merciful Unto Us** – Percy C. Buck (PS)  
The Sheldon Consort: Wells, United Kingdom / Rupert Gough  
(CD) *British Church Composer Series – Volume 5: Percy C. Buck* / PRIORY RECORDS, LTD. / PRCD 835  
© 2005 Priory Records, Ltd. [priory.org.uk](http://priory.org.uk)

**Hear My Prayer, O Lord, Z. 15** – Henry Purcell (G)  
St. Thomas Choir of Men and Boys: New York, NY / Gerre Hancock  
(CD) *A Capella from St. Thomas* / KOCH (KOCH INTERNATIONAL CLASSICS) / 3-7351-2H1  
© 1998 Koch (Koch International Classics)

**Five Mystical Songs: Antiphon** – Ralph Vaughan Williams / George Herbert, lyricist (1R)  
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / St. Olaf Orchestra / Christopher Aspaas  
(CD) *Heaven and Earth, Awake and Sing* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3504/05  
© 2013 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

## AUGUST 24, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 21 (YEAR A)

(1R) Isaiah 51:1–6  
(PS) Psalm 138  
(2R) Romans 12:1–8  
(G) Matthew 16:13–20

**Built on a Rock** (KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS) – Ludvig M. Lindeman / Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig, lyricist / Jan Bender, arranger / Thorleif Aamodt, arranger (1R)  
The Gustavus Choir: St. Peter, MN / David Fienen, organ / Karle Erickson (CD) *Favorite Norwegian Hymns* / DELTA RECORDINGS / DRSCD93-327  
© Delta Recordings

**Tu es Petrus** – Gabriel Fauré (G)  
Schleswig-Holstein Festival Choir Lübeck / David Wilson-Johnson, baritone / Rolf Beck (CD) *Gabriel Fauré: Requiem; Cantique de Jean Racine; Tu es Petrus; Tantum ergo* / HÄNSSLER CLASSIC / CD 98.628  
© 2011 Hänssler Classic [haenssler-classic.de](http://haenssler-classic.de)

**Blessed Assurance** (ASSURANCE) – Phoebe P. Knapp / Fanny J. Crosby, lyricist (1R)  
St. Thomas Choir of Men and Boys: New York, NY / Leontyne Price, soprano / William Self (CD) *The Essential Leontyne Price: Spirituals, Hymns, & Sacred Songs* / RCA VICTOR / 09026-68157-2  
© 1997 RCA Victor

**Gloria in D Major: Domine fili unigenite, RV 589** – Antonio Vivaldi (G)  
The Sixteen / The Sixteen Orchestra / Harry Christophers (CD) *Bach: Magnificat; Vivaldi: Gloria; Caldara: Stabat Mater* / GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-365  
© GIA Publications [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com)

**Quatre Motets sur des Thèmes Gregoriens: Tu es Petrus, Op. 10, No. 3** – Maurice Duruflé (G)  
St. Thomas Choir of Men and Boys: New York, NY / Gerre Hancock (CD) *Most Sacred Banquet* / KOCH (KOCH INTERNATIONAL CLASSICS) / 3-7228-2H1  
© 1996 Koch (Koch International Classics)

**King of Glory, King of Peace** (GENERAL SEMINARY) – David Charles Walker / George Herbert, lyricist (G)  
The Choir of All Saints' Episcopal Church: Beverly Hills, CA / Thomas Foster (CD) *Hymns Through the Ages* / GOTHIC / G 49074  
© 1995 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. [gothicrecords.com](http://gothicrecords.com)

**King of Glory, King of Peace** (REDLAND) – Malcolm Archer / George Herbert, lyricist (G)  
The Choir of Wells Cathedral / Rupert Gough, organ / Malcolm Archer (CD) *The English Hymn, Vol. 1: Christ Triumphant* / HYPERION / CDP12101  
© 1999 Hyperion, Hyperion Records Limited [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk)

**Tu es Petrus, Op. 23, No. 2** – Charles-Marie Widor (G)  
The Choir of Westminster Cathedral / James O'Donnell (CD) *Vierne, Widor, Dupré: Masses and Motets* / HYPERION / CDA66898  
© 1997 Hyperion, Hyperion Records Limited [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk)

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*“The meaning of some words is actually better understood when the words are sung than when they are merely read or spoken.”*  
-Pastor Bruce Benson

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## AUGUST 31, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 22 (YEAR A)

(1R) Jeremiah 15:15–21  
(PS) Psalm 26:1–8  
(2R) Romans 12:9–21  
(G) Matthew 16:21–28

**Come Down, O Love Divine** (DOWN AMPNEY) – Ralph Vaughan Williams / Bianco da Siena, lyricist / Todd Wilson, arranger (2R)  
Plymouth Choir, First-Plymouth Congregational Church: Lincoln, NE / Plymouth Brass, First-Plymouth Congregational Church: Lincoln, NE, ensemble / Tom Trenney (CD) *Hymns from First-Plymouth* / PRO ORGANO / CD 7260  
© 2013 Pro Organo [proorgano.com](http://proorgano.com)

**Now the Silence** (NOW) – Carl Schalk / Jaroslav Vajda, lyricist (2R)  
ALCM Hymn Festival Congregation (CD) *So Much to Sing About: The Hymns of Jaroslav Vajda* / ALCM / CS-6  
© 2001 ALCM, Association of Lutheran Church Musicians [alcm.org](http://alcm.org)

**Ubi caritas et amor** – David Briggs (2R)  
The Choir of Trinity College: Cambridge, United Kingdom / Stephen Layton (CD) *Briggs: Messe Pour Notre-Dame & Organ Improvisations* / HYPERION / CDA67808  
© 2010 Hyperion, Hyperion Records Limited [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk)

**How Great Thou Art** (O STORE GUD) – Swedish Folk Tune / Carl Boberg, lyricist / Stuart K. Hine, arranger / Stuart K. Hine, translator (1R)  
Huddersfield Choral Society / Joseph Cullen (CD) *The Hymns Album* / SIGNUM CLASSICS / SIGCD079  
© 2006 Signum Classics [signumrecords.com](http://signumrecords.com)

**“Dettinger” Te Deum: O Lord, in Thee Have I Trusted, HWV 283** – George Frideric Handel (1R)  
Collegium Vocale / Hannover Hofkapelle: Hannover, Germany / Ulrich Stözel (CD) *Dettinger Te Deum* / HÄNSSLER CLASSIC / CD 98.365  
© 2001 Hänssler Classic [haenssler-classic.de](http://haenssler-classic.de)

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-Raleigh, North Carolina

*“Thank you for your program. I love hearing beautiful choirs again and singing along with the old hymns.”*  
-Anonymous

*“What a wonderful inspirational program.”*  
-Grand Junction, Michigan

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*Ruth Jacobson Estrem*

*Ruth Ferguson*

*Roger Johnson*

*my husband, M.S.*

*Helen Parks, my wife*

*Darryl Patten*

*Howard J. Rizner*

*Elaine I. Sprauwe*

*Mary Sternig*

AUGUST 2014 / YEAR A



**Sing For Joy staff:**  
W. Bruce Benson  
Host  
John Ferguson  
Music Adviser  
Jeffrey O'Donnell  
Producer and Music Director  
Joshua Wyatt  
Associate Producer  
Carolyn Pierson  
Communications Coordinator

Website: [singforjoy.org](http://singforjoy.org)  
Email: [singforjoy@stolaf.edu](mailto:singforjoy@stolaf.edu)  
Phone: 507-786-8596



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