

Hello, everyone, and welcome to this concert of the Lititz Moravian Collegium Musicum. What a thrill to gather in Fellowship Hall for the first time in three years! The last time we were here, March 8, 2020, we squeezed in our concert just a few days before COVID changed our lives forever! We're happy to back in this place to use the 1787 Tannenberg pipe organ, which was originally in church sanctuary and provided music in worship for 100 years! David Tannenberg was a member of our congregation and is recognized today as a significant colonial American organ builder. Tonight, for the first time in a Collegium concert, you'll also hear the smaller 4-stop 1793 Tannenberg instrument that was built here in Lititz for Graceham, MD congregation. It now resides just over there in our chapel. Bellows Operator Rick Wagner and I appreciate your patience as we run from the balcony to the chapel in the middle of the first group of Latrobe *Preludes*. During Intermission, please feel free to visit the chapel to for a closer look at that lovely instrument! The remainder of the program following the opening organ works is an encore performance of the concert we presented in August for the 8th *Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music*. We've selected repertoire that we consider to be the "greatest hits" of our first six concerts.

The original Lititz Collegium Musicum was founded in the 1760's, and in the 19th century became the core of the Lititz Philharmonic Society and Lititz Band. In 2018, we revived the ensemble as Lancaster County's newest, yet oldest, chamber orchestra. For those of you unfamiliar with our Collegium Musicum gatherings, *collegia musica* was a term originally used to describe groups organized to play chamber music during the early 1700s in various German towns. As those groups multiplied, reflecting the rising middle class, they occupied a position between institutionalized church music and music of the princely courts. The term *collegium musicum*, therefore, is not clearly defined and *collegia musica* differed in size, social status, level of musical training, choice of music, and the private or public appeal of their performances. Colonial Moravian settlements in Pennsylvania – Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Lititz – included amateur musicians who gathered and performed for their own entertainment and for the delight of others. They met regularly to play in relatively informal settings and often invited guests to listen. I think of this effort as what the church musicians played the other six days of the week! The nature of today's Collegium is similar, though somewhat different as we've assembled *professional* musicians – including members of our own congregation – yet we remain purposefully informal in our presentation. Please read more about this history in the Program Notes provided.

All the repertoire for this concert has been selected and edited from handwritten manuscripts or original period publications discovered in the *Lititz Collegium Musicum*

Collection, which is stored safely in the Moravian Music Archives in Bethlehem. I would like to thank the Moravian Music Foundation and the Northern Province Archives for their excellent work in preserving and making available all of our church's historical documents, as well as the Lititz Congregation Joint Boards and the Museum & Archives Committee for their encouragement and financial support. In addition, I'd like to recognize John and MaryLee Yerger for all they do to bring these events to life, both musically and logistically! [Would you both mind standing so we can show our appreciation.] In addition, and to speak for the entire Collegium, we heartily thank the generous volunteers and donors listed in the program for all their efforts to make this gathering possible. We couldn't do this without you!!

And, finally, many thanks to all of you for purchasing tickets and being here this evening. I do have one more request for a contribution, however: please share your musical talent with us! During the hymns, please stand as you are able and sing out with a strong voice! Your heartfelt singing is needed to make our Collegium complete. OK...are you ready to launch our musical time machine?....Well, let's buckle up and prepare yourself to experience, "history you can hear!"