

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY

MALLET PERCUSSION RECITAL



TONI LIBHART

FRIDAY, JAN. 21 - 7:30 PM

Alumni Auditorium

Friends University Mallet Percussion Recital

Toni Lynn Absher Libhart,
marimba and vibraphone
Judy Chadwick, piano



Toni Lynn Absher Libhart taught band and orchestra grades 5 through 12 in the Wichita Public Schools for 13 years and served as the instrumental music teaching specialist for two years. Her bands and orchestras consistently received First Division ratings. High school select percussion ensembles under Libhart's direction have received national awards at competitions across the United States.

Libhart performed as an alternate percussionist in the Wichita Symphony Orchestra for more than 20 years.

Many of her private percussion students have been all-state players in high school. Several university percussion students have gone on to complete graduate degrees.

Libhart has a published marimba arrangement of "Elite Syncopations" by Scott Joplin. She plays percussion and directs the orchestra at Central Christian Church. Libhart has been a member of the National Association for Music Education since her freshman year in college.

She faithfully taught at Friends University for over 30 years before retiring last year. She is married and has two stepdaughters and three grandchildren. Her life verse is Jeremiah 29:11.

To God be the glory!

TRANSLATIONS

**English lyrics by Robert Bridges for
J.S. Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's
Desiring* from *Cantata No. 147***

Jesus, joy of man's desiring
Holy wisdom, love most bright
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring
Soar to uncreated light

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned
With the fire of life impassioned
Striving still to truth unknown
Soaring, dying round Thy throne
Jesus, joy of man's desiring

Holy wisdom, love most bright
Drawn to Thee, our souls aspiring
Soar to uncreated light

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned
With the Fire of life impassioned
Striving to truth unknown
Soaring, dying round Thy Throne

**Lyrics by Dorothy A. Thrupp
(1779-1847) to *Savior,
Like a Sheperd Lead Us***

Savior, like a sheperd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy fold prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine; do Thou befriend us,
Be the Guardian of our way;
Keep Thy Flock, from sin defend us
Seek us when we go astray
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse and power to free;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy Favor;
Early let us do Thy Will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosom fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

**Lyrics translated from German by
Edward Caswall (1814-1878) to
*When Morning Gilds the Sky***

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
To Jesus I repair;
May Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day,
When from the heart we say
May Jesus Christ be praised!
The Powers of darkness fear,
When this sweet chant they hear,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

In heaven's eternal bliss,
The loveliest strain is this,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let earth, and sea, and sky
From depth to height reply,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My song of love divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song,
Through all the ages long,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

**Lyrics to *His Eye Is On
the Sparrow***

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely?
And long for heaven and home?
When Jesus is my portion,
My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free;
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled,"
His tender words I hear;
And resting on His goodness,
I lose my doubt and fear.
Though by the path He leadeth,
But one step I may see;

Wherever I am tempted,
Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing,
When hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him;
From care He sets me free;
I sing because I'm free;
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

NOTES

Savior, Like a Sheperd Lead Us

Many thanks to Daniel Chisham for this lovely medley arrangement of these two hymns.

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

I started this arrangement about 1979 and completed it in October of 2021.

Yellow After the Rain by Mitchell Peters

This is a great beginning 4 mallet piece because it uses most techniques involved in playing 4 mallet literature. It was my first mallet piece and I have used it over the years for many students.

Elite Syncopations

Scott Joplin was a composer and pianist. He is known as the "King of ragtime" because of the fame achieved for his ragtime compositions. His music was born out of African-American heritage. He wrote over 100 original ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet and two operas.

I published this arrangement and played it on both my junior and senior undergrad recitals. Arranging something for 4 mallets that was originally written for 10 fingers definitely increases the difficulty level. Because I was not happy with my performance of this piece over 40 years ago, I decided to try to conquer it on this recital.

Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra

This Brazilian composer and percussionist specializes in music for percussion. His first concerto was composed in 1986 and uses Brazilian and jazz elements along with mixed meter and contemporary harmonies. The traditional fast-slow-fast pattern is augmented by an inserted third movement called "Dance" which prepares the final "Farewell" and balances the long central "Lament" which displays the wide variety of textures and sounds available to the mallet soloist.

I taught this piece to a Friends student about 1990 and really liked the piece. I have intended to learn it ever since then and after retirement in May of this year, I decided to work on two movements and that led to learning all four movements. Notice the final movement is called "Farewell" so this is my farewell retirement recital.

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