



Over The Mountain Festivals
and
Margaret H. Roy
Present

How Can We Keep from Singing?

Celebrating Thirteen Seasons of Sacred Choral Music



Dr. Jeff W. Reynolds, Guest Conductor

Ms. Karen Payne Krekelberg, Organist/Accompanist

The Over the Mountain Festival Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, February 13, 2022 • Four O'clock in the afternoon

Riverchase United Methodist Church, 1953 Old Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, Alabama 35244

otmfestivals.org • info@otmfestivals.org

Over the Mountain Festivals 2022

A Warm “Welcome Home”

In times of uncertainty, grief, and isolation, we find strength and joy in making music. – Anonymous

Over the past 24 months, most, if not all, of us have experienced the above emotions, and we’ve wondered when we will be able to sing or listen to live sacred choral music again. Those who regularly attend our concerts inquired, “When is the next OTM Festival concert?” Our singers asked, “Are we going to have a concert in 2022? We miss singing so much! How can we keep from singing?” Today, it gives us great joy to say to you, “Welcome home! Today is that day!”

In this our 13th season, we want to express our gratitude to everyone who has supported us through their participation, professional advice, attendance, and their financial support. It has been our joy to prepare and present these programs to you.

We welcome Dr. Jeff Reynolds as our Choral Conductor. He shares the following:

How apropos that after two years away we come together again with the theme “*How Can We Keep from Singing!*” Taylor Davis’ powerful anthem by the same name opens our concert and reminds of the importance of music in our lives. In a moving arrangement of “*Amazing Grace*,” Mack Wilberg captures the beauty and power of this beloved hymn. Perhaps never more poignant is the verse “Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease; I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.” At every British coronation since that of George II in 1727, “*Zakok the Priest*” has been sung. Known as one of the “Coronation Anthems” it is as powerful as it is exuberant. “*O God Beyond All Praising*” by Dan Forrest features a melody familiar to many – based on the tune THAXTED. “My Eternal King” by Jane Marshall is arguable one of the best-known anthems of our generation. It is as thrilling to sing as it is to listen to.

The “*Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo*” has the nickname “The Little Organ Mass” because of the prominent organ solo in the Benedictus. Dedicated to St. John of God, this short mass has few text repetitions and, in fact, dispenses with the requisite Latin text of the mass by “telescoping” or having different choral sections singing different texts at the same time! This was all from an order from Haydn’s patron that the entire mass not last more than 45 minutes.

“*The Road Home*” by Stephen Paulus has become a balm for singers throughout this time of pandemic. Its poignant text yearns for home – a return to our safe places and normalcy. It ends so beautifully: “rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.” For us, today feels like home.

Returning to OTMF are our Festival Organist and Accompanist, Ms. Karen Krekelberg and our Soloist, Mrs. Sadie Goodman. You will enjoy getting acquainted with these wonderful musicians in the next few pages of this program book.

Special thanks to Dr. Thomas R. Smith, Professor Emeritus of Music at Auburn University, who presented our pre-concert lecture this afternoon.

Please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices so that all may enjoy the performance without distraction. Any recording of this concert is strictly prohibited.

It has been requested by the Festival Chorus that all refrain from applause until the end of parts II and III of the program.

And lastly, as we sing our congregational hymns together, remember the words of John Wesley, “Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength.”

How Can We Keep from Singing?

Part I

Hymn No. 64

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

NICEA

The Festival Choir and Congregation

“How Can I Keep from Singing”

Arr. Taylor Scott Davis (b.1980)

Robert Wadsworth Lowery (1826–1899)

American Folk Song

My life goes on in endless song above earth's lamentations,
I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing,
It sounds an echo in my soul; how can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it liveth.
And though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble sick with fear and hear their death knell ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile, our thoughts to them are winging,
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

The Festival Choir

“Amazing Grace”

Arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

John Newton (1725–1807)

New Britain

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun;
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

The Festival Choir

“Zadok the Priest” (Coronation Anthem No.1)

Georg Friedrich Handel (1685–1759)

Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king.
And all the people rejoiced and said: God save the King, long live the King, God save the King!
May the King live forever, amen, alleluia (1 Kings 1:39–40).

The Festival Choir

“O God Beyond All Praising”

Michael Perry, 1982

Arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

THAXTED

from Gustav Holst, *The Planets*, 1918

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
For Christ, your gift from Heaven from death has set us free
And we, through Him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

The Festival Choir

“My Eternal King”

Poem (anonymous) from 17th Century Latin

Translated by Rev. Edward Caswall

Jane M. Marshall (1924–2019)

My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally.
Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
For me didst bear the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace;

Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, Should I not love Thee well?
Not for the hope of winning heav'n or of escaping hell;
Not with the hope of gaining aught, Not seeking a reward;
But as Thyself hast loved me O ever loving Lord!

E'en so I love Thee, and will love, And in Thy praise will sing;
Solely because Thou art my God, And my Eternal King.

The Festival Choir

Part II

Words of Welcome, Thanks, and Remembrance

Philip J. Capra, Jr., Executive Director

Hymn No. 711

“For All the Saints”
vv. 1, 2, 5, and 6

SINE NOMINE

Festival Choir and Congregation

Missa brevis St. Joannis de Deo
 (“Little Organ Mass”)

Joseph Hadyn (1732–1809)

I. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Festival Choir

II. Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
Adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris, Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest,
And peace on earth to men of good will.*
*We praise You, we bless You,
We worship You, we glorify You.*
We give You thanks for Your great glory.
*Lord God, King of Heaven,
God the Father Almighty.*
Lord only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
*You who take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.*
*You who take away the sin of the world,
Hear our prayer.*
*You who sit at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.*
*For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.*
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father, Amen.

Patrick Tisdale, Tenor
The Festival Choir

III. Credo

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem coeli et terrae,
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.
Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,
Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex patre natum ante
omnia saecula, Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum non factum,
consubstantialem Patri; per quem omnia facta
sunt. Qui propter nos homines et propter
nostram salutem descendit de coelis.
Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto,
ex Maria virgine; et homo factus est.
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato,
passus et sepultus est.
Et resurrexit tertia die secundum Scripturas, et
ascendit in coelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris, et
iterum venturus est cum gloria, iudicare vivos et
mortuos, cujus regni non erit finis.
Et in Spiritum Sanctum Dominum,
et vivificantem, qui ex Patre Filioque procedit,
qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur,
et conglorificatur, qui locutus est per Prophetas.
Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam
Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma in
remissionem peccatorum, et expecto
resurrectionem mortuorum,
et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

*I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father; through Him all things were
made. For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven.
He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary by the
power of the Holy Spirit, and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
He rose again on the third day in accordance with the
Scriptures; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father; He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have
no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; with the
Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He
has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one
baptism for the forgiveness of sins; I look for the
resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The Festival Choir

IV. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra, Gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis!

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest!*

The Festival Choir

V. Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Sadie Goodman, Soprano
The Festival Choir*

VI. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

The Festival Choir

Part III

Hymn No. 400

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

The Festival Choir and Congregation

“Beautiful Savior”

tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

revised O. C. Christiansen

Silesian folk tune

Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine!

The Festival Choir

“The Road Home”

Michael Dennis Browne

from *Southern Harmony* 1835

adapted by Stephen Paulus

Tune: “Prospect”

Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wondered, oh when will I know there's a way,
There's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away, there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away is the call, with love in your heart as the only song;
There is no such beauty as where you belong, Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

Julie Martin, Soprano
The Festival Choir

“For Spacious Skies”

Katharine Lee Bates (1859–1929)

Melody by Paul Short

Arr. David L. Brunner

O beautiful for spacious skies for amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife
Who more than self their country loved And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

The Festival Choir

“Ain’t Got time to Die”

Hall Johnson (1888–1970)

Lord, I keep so busy praising my Jesus; ain’t got time to die.
Cause when I’m healing the sick, I’m praising my Jesus; ain’t got time to die.
Cause it takes all of my time to praise my Jesus, all of my time to praise my Lord.
If I don’t praise Him, the rocks gonna cry out, “Glory and honor”, ain’t got time to die.

Lord, I keep so busy working for the Kingdom; ain’t got time to die.
Cause when I’m feeding the poor, I’m working for the Kingdom;
Ain’t got time to die.

Lord, I keep so busy serving my Master; ain’t got time to die.
Cause when I’m giving my all, I’m serving my Master; ain’t got time to die.

Now won’t you get out of my way? Let me praise my Jesus.
Let me praise my Lord. If I don’t praise Him the rocks gonna cry out,
“Glory and honor! Glory and honor!” Ain’t got time to die!

Dan Medders, Tenor

The Festival Choir

Thank you again for spending your Sunday afternoon with us. Although we will not have a formal reception, please plan to stay awhile to meet Dr. Reynolds, Ms. Krekelberg, our soloists, and our singers who have diligently prepared to share this program with you. They would love to meet you.

Our Festival Conductor

Dr. Jeff W. Reynolds, Guest Conductor

Dr. Jeff Reynolds currently serves as Minister of Music at Riverchase United Methodist Church, as well as Associate Professor of Choral Music and Conducting at UAB. He holds a BM from Samford University, a MM from Southwestern Theological Seminary, and a DMA from the University of Illinois.

As Music Director of the International Cathedral Music Festival, singers and instrumentalists from all over the world have performed under Dr. Reynold's direction in such historic venues as Salisbury Cathedral; Southwark Cathedral; Christ Church, Oxford; St. Mary's Church, York; St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh; Domkirche, Eisenstadt; St. Etienne-du-Mont, Paris; and the Votivekirche and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

We Are the Music Makers: The Choral Music of David Brunner was recorded by the Schola Cantorum of Florida and is evidence of his desire to provide contemporary composers a high-quality voice for their works. Dr. Reynolds served as lecturer on the music of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven at the Seminar fur Klassische Musik in Eisenstadt, Austria, where choirs under his direction were selected Chorus-in-Residence for 1991, 1992, and 1994.

Our Festival Organist and Accompanist

Ms. Karen Payne Krekelberg, Organist

Karen Krekelberg is currently serving as the Associate Director of Music and Arts/Organist at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church where she has been since 2011. Prior to this, she served as pianist/organist at Trussville First Methodist Church for 13 years, and other churches since the age of 16.

Karen earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Montevallo with an emphasis in piano pedagogy. While there, she studied piano with Robert Cowan and organ with Betty Louise Lumby. She has enjoyed teaching private piano as well as group classes to students of all ages over the years. Karen maintains a piano studio at the Conservatory of the Arts at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church and serves as head of the piano faculty. A mother of two grown children, she can often be found accompanying for various music groups and theatre productions around Birmingham, including The Birmingham Girls Choir and the Birmingham Harmony Belles.

The Festival Singers

Sopranos

Brooke Bell
Beth Branscome
Janice Bricker
Elizabeth Calhoun
Teresa P. Capra
Jaana Clayhills
Cathy Crittenden
Donna DePrine
Elizabeth Guenther

Kay Harris
Renee' Hyre
Lynne Leo
Susanne Leveille
Lissa Lutenbacher
Joy Holcomb Martin
Julie Martin
Kat Martin
Erin McDow

Kim McRae
Nikki Mestre
Amy Pfeil Neimkin
Diane Popwell
Linda Preston
Anna Sangrey Russell
Laura Stewart
Gilda Wilkerson

Altos

Dale Baldwin
Monica Burson
Jackie Cantelmo
Beth Davis
Holly Dees
Josie Doelman
Karen Harmon

Wendy Hellings
Cathy Henry
Rosemary Holcomb
LuAnn Mansfield
Emily McKelroy
Karen McKelroy
Sue Pearson

Judy D. Pelletreau
Carol Reed
Dianne Roberts
Ruth Robinson
Anne Schultz
Jan Jones Shultz
Denise Vasut

Tenors

James A. Brown
Philip Capra
Rusty Chastain

George Hodges
Dan Medders
Albert Smith

Bill Tiemann
Patrick Tisdale
Alex J. Webster

Basses

Dave Balias
Wess Bramlitt
Bruce Burson
James P. Diaz

George A. Fritsma
Al Lassiter
Bill Lawrence
Joel Megginson

Keith Reed
Robert Reiche
Paul West
Chris Willoughby

The Festival Soloist

Dr. Sadie Goodman

Soprano **Sadie Goodman** has enjoyed performing with opera companies such as Opera Birmingham and the Aspen Music Festival's Opera Theater. Sadie is a former member of the Cathedral Church of the Advent Choir, and she and her husband John are parishioners of the Advent. While a student at Northwestern University, Sadie worked closely with composers John Musto and Ricky Ian Gordon on the roles of Mid-Aged Woman and Rosasharn in their respective operas *Bastianello* and *The Grapes of Wrath*. Other favorite roles include Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi* and Second Spirit in *Die Zauberflöte*. Sadie has worked closely with composer Terre Johnson as the soprano soloist for the premieres of his works *Missa Femina* (2014), *Song of the Captive* (2016), and most recently *The Wind* (2017), which premiered in Carnegie Hall in New York City.

She holds Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Master of Music Education degrees from Samford University, a Master of Music degree in Voice and Opera from Northwestern University, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Alabama. For years she served on the faculty at Judson College as Assistant Professor of Music where she taught Applied Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, Opera Workshop, Vocal Literature, Music History, Class Voice and Diction for Singers. Currently she teaches Arts in Society, Applied Voice and Graduate Opera Literature at her alma mater, Samford University.

She also enjoys performing with Over the Mountain Festivals and the choir of the Eternal Word Television Network. Recent discography includes a CD and DVD of the EWTN choir entitled "The Family Christmas Special," in which they perform Advent and Christmas chants and carols, and "Great Hymns of the Faith," a recording of beloved Catholic hymns and chants.

The Festival Orchestra

First Violin	Second Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass
Daniel Szasz	Esther Roestan	Zak Enikeev	Warren Samples	Alex Horton
Mayumi Masri	Troy Bast	Rene Reder	Patti Pilon	
Serghei Tanas	Bonnie Furuto			
	Flute	Oboe	Bassoon	
	Lisa Weinhold	James Sullivan	Cameron Bonner	
		Kelly Newport	Jack Sharp	
	Trumpet	French Horn	Timpani	
	Ryan Beach	Nina Tarpley	Jay Burnham	
	Nick Ciulla			
	Harry McAfee			

Bonnie Furuto, Orchestra Contractor

Church Choirs and Choral Groups Represented

Alabama Civic Chorale	Hunter Street Baptist Church Choir
Alabama Symphony Orchestra Chorus	Independent Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN
Auburn United Methodist Church	Irondale United Methodist Church
Briarwood Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir	Mountain Brook Baptist Church
Cahaba Springs Presbyterian Church	North Jefferson Community Choir
Cathedral of St. Paul	Riverchase United Methodist Church
Christ Church United Methodist Church	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church	South Highland Presbyterian Church
Dawson Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir	Trinity Presbyterian Church
Episcopal Church of the Ascension	Trussville First United Methodist Church
Evangel Church, PCA, Alabaster	Vestavia Hills Baptist Church
Faith Presbyterian Church	Warblers Club
Holy Trinity-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral	

Because of You . . .

The Board of Directors and Planning Committee of Over the Mountain Festivals, Inc., want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have demonstrated their belief in the mission of the Festival of Sacred Music through their generous financial support. Without it, this event would not be possible. Those who give to support this organization are listed in the program each year. Every effort has been made to accurately acknowledge everyone's contributions. Donations received after this program is printed will be acknowledged in next year's program.

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(In memory of John Holcomb)	

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Rosemary Holcomb	Robert and Nancy Walton
(In loving memory of John Holcomb)	Michael Worrell
Lois Howell	John and Mary Margaret Yeilding
Lucia Hunt	(In memory of Donald Voss)
	Anonymous (2)

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For more information, email: otmfestivalchairman@gmail.com

Website: otmfestivals.org

With grateful appreciation to . . .

Riverchase United Methodist Church, for hosting this year's Festival of Sacred Music
David H. Balias, Jr., webmaster and program cover designer
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the gracious members of Riverchase United Methodist Church
Ms. Ruth Baldwin
The dozens who participated in our various fundraisers

With special thanks to
Elizabeth and Paul Allen

What We Do and for Whom

Over the Mountain Festivals exists to foster and perpetuate the singing of sacred choral music and to provide training and encouragement to directors of small choirs and their choristers, both adults and children, for the glory of God, the edification of participants, and the enjoyment of the community.

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* Board of Directors

In Memoriam

Jim Roy

Over the Mountain Festivals bid farewell to James S. Roy (Jim) on June 20, 2020. A founding member, Jim was one of the Festival's staunchest supporters, serving on the Board of Directors and in many other capacities as a non-singer: in support of his singing wife, Margaret, and through his faithful monetary support. He was one a small group of individuals from the beginning that helped make the Festivals possible, and he will be greatly missed.

Born in Fayetteville, Arkansas on June 28, 1935 to his parents, Sarah Spencer Roy and Kenneth Bennett Roy, Jim is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Margaret Howard Roy of Birmingham, AL; his two sons, Kenneth B. Roy III (Carla) of Arley, AL; and James Spencer Roy Jr. of Opelika, AL; one grandson, Nathan Thomson; and one brother, Kenneth B. Roy, Jr. of Anniston, AL.

To remember Jim's contributions to Over the Mountain Festivals, the Board of Directors has voted to establish the James S. Roy Musicians Fund. The money directed to this fund will help maintain the high quality of music professionals that have served this organization so well over the years.



Don Voss

Donald Lee Voss (Don) of Birmingham passed away on September 8, 2020. Don served faithfully on the Board of Directors and as our Director of Spiritual Care for many years. He was a constant source of encouragement and prayerful support. His passing will leave us diminished, though enriched by his contributions while with us.

Left to cherish his memory is his beloved wife of over 54 years, Joan Cooper Voss; daughters, Amy Voss Monahan (Michael) and Ginny Voss Matthews (Alan); seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, Michael Voss of Grand Haven, MI and Greg Voss (Gayle) of Milford, MI, along with many nieces and nephews.

To acknowledge and remember Don's service to its organization, the OTM Festivals Board of Directors has voted to establish the Donald Lee Voss Directors Fund. The money directed to this fund will help maintain the high quality of artistic directors that has served this organization so well over the years.



John Holcomb

John Veto Holcomb, born on January 30, 1952, in Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on October 22, 2021, at the age of sixty-nine. John was preceded in death by his parents, Veto Holcomb and Joe P. Holcomb, and his sister JoAnn Holcomb Gaylord. He is survived by his loving wife Rosemary E. Holcomb, his children, their spouses, and his grandchildren.

John was a 1970 graduate of Woodlawn High School and a 1974 graduate of Auburn University. He was known as a "salesman of the first order" and was a long-time employee of Metro Trailer in Pelham, Alabama. He enjoyed fishing, reading, photography, and spending time with family and friends.. He was a faithful servant of his church, Cahaba Springs Presbyterian, where he sang in the choir and served as an Elder. He also enjoyed singing in the choir and serving as Treasurer for the Board of Directors of the Over the Mountain Festivals.

John was also a faithful servant of Alcoholics Anonymous and freely shared his personal story with countless others as a message of hope. At the heart of this message was a lesson to "die to self" and take it "one day at a time." Community, service, and fellowship were important to John. He volunteered at the Jimmy Hale Mission, a homeless shelter in downtown Birmingham, and would often give people a ride to church from JHM on Sundays. John is and will continue to be greatly missed!



These singers in the history of the Festivals have passed away, and are fondly remembered:

Mick Abercrombie, Peggy Boisky, Charles Boyd, Wally Buckner, Ella Mae Hale, Lyn Hedl, Josephine Pankey, Ann Raburn, Ramona Robertson, Flory Ruiz, Sam Saxon, Judy Shamburger, Bill St John, Barbara Wood.

