

John Goldsmith

(1946-2017)



DIRECTOR, HEINZ CHAPEL CHOIR
(1989-2014)

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

This is one of John's favorite texts and it clearly represents his life. Born and raised by Bill and Zeulah Goldsmith on a dairy farm in central Ohio with his four siblings, his was the traditional Midwest "Americana" upbringing. The Goldsmiths were pillars of the little Central College Presbyterian Church and leaders of the Grange. They were the epitome of loving and compassionate generosity to everyone they met, always lifting people up without judgment. True role models for their kids who have all emulated the best of both parents.

John was not a religious person. However, he was spiritually fed by working with the Heinz Chapel Choir, singing and listening to the choral music of J.S. Bach, traveling the world, reveling in laughter at friend and family gatherings (including pranks and pie fights), devouring books on our front porch surrounded by his international flag collection, holding Gracie the cat in his lap, and feeding the finches in our back yard. He was fluent in all of the languages of love with everyone and especially me. "Anything for you, Babe," he would say to me after I discovered he had quietly repaired or replaced something around the house without being asked, or after he pulled off a surprise retirement celebration, or planned a life-changing international trip.

Today, in the Chapel are the current HCC singers and many alumni, also alumni from John's choirs at Eastmoor High School in Columbus and West Virginia University, classmates from his student days at Capital University and Westminster Choir College, and members of the Bellefield Singers. You are joined by others who just loved John or were moved by his musical offerings. He still has the same best friend since age 6. This tribute of your presence makes me sure that John truly came down where he ought to be and he fully recognized that with constant gratitude.

The music for the memorial was either requested by John or chosen by me because it captures his essence or important chapters in his life.

On behalf of our whole family, I thank Pat Gibbons and the Heinz Chapel Staff, Dr. Susan Rice and the Heinz Chapel Choir, the University of Pittsburgh Department of Music, and all who participated in and attended this memorial gathering. Let us celebrate the life of John, a.k.a. JG/Jayge, whom some have lovingly called a quiet giant.

Gratefully,
Elaine Goldsmith

Prelude

Hostias from Mozart REQUIEM

(Memorial service for the Challenger crew, February 1986: Concert Chorale of Houston and Texas Chamber Orchestra: John Goldsmith – conductor)

(sung in Latin): *Sacrifices and prayers of praise, Lord, we offer to You. Receive them in behalf of those souls we commemorate today. And let them, Lord, pass from death to life.*

Mache dich mein Herze rein from J.S. Bach ST. MATTHEW PASSION

(Pittsburgh Bach & Baroque Ensemble performance April 2000: Don Franklin – conductor, Brent Stater - bass)

(sung in German) *Make thyself clean, my heart. I will myself entomb Jesus. For he shall henceforth in me forever and ever take his sweet rest. World, be gone, let Jesus in!*

Tributes

At the River, arr. John Goldsmith

(Heinz Chapel Choir, Susan Rice – conductor. Tenor soloists: Eric Weaver '14, Ian Bricker '16, and Stefan Poost '17)

Deane Root (Professor & Chair, University of Pittsburgh Department of Music)

Don Franklin (Professor emeritus, University of Pittsburgh Department of Music)

Erbarme dich mein Gott from J.S. Bach ST. MATTHEW PASSION

(Pittsburgh Bach & Baroque Ensemble performance April 2000: Don Franklin – conductor, John Goldsmith – countertenor)

(sung in German) *Have mercy, my God, for my tears' sake. Look hither, heart and eyes weep before thee bitterly.*

Bill Goldsmith (brother)

Ed Goldsmith (brother)

The Coolin (a favorite text) read by Kirby Dilworth (friend & member of the Bellefield Singers)

And I Love Her, Lennon-McCartney/arr. Bob Chilcott
(Bellefield Singers, Kirby Dilworth – tenor)

Martha Dudich (friend)

Teresa Hall (sister-in-law) read by Linda Everhart (friend)

Brother James's Air, Gordon Jacob
(Heinz Chapel Choir & Alumni)

Postlude

Saints' Fugue, arr. Ward Swingle
(Bellefield Singers)

Simple Gifts, arr. Rene Clausen/John Goldsmith
(Heinz Chapel Choir 1998)

Down in the River to Pray, arr. Philip Lawson
(Heinz Chapel Choir 2007)

...and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

Submit your memories of John to a private blog for Elaine by visiting the memorial page at the HCC website (www.pitt.edu/~heinzcc) or at tiny.cc/memories-of-JG