

# Bethany Worrell, Soprano

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## Press Release

*Raise Sounds of Joy!* will lift your winter-worn spirits and put a song in your heart. On Friday, January 19, soprano Bethany Worrell will present this concert at the Macomb First Presbyterian Church, 400 E Carroll St, at 7:30 p.m. Audience members (aged 10 and above) can expect to be encouraged and inspired. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken during the event, and 10% of the net proceeds will be donated to the local food bank Loaves and Fishes.

Ms. Worrell, a Macomb High and WIU graduate, received her Masters of Music from New England Conservatory and is currently a professional soprano living in New York City. Ms. Worrell shares, "During my last few years of working in music ministry, I've been awakened to the wonderful world of art music for the church that the great composers have left us. Many of these pieces of music are rarely heard in a sanctuary, but are instead left only to the concert hall. *Raise Sounds of Joy!* is my effort to present a concert experience that shares the high-quality and soul-stirring music from some of the best classical composers."

This concert is for everyone (aged 10 and above): the believer, the questioner, the doubter, the lover of classical music, the person who has never heard the symphony, and everyone who falls in-between. There is truly something for everyone on the program. Included are beautiful arrangements of hymns and spirituals alongside more classical offerings from the great oratorios and art song composers. Most of the concert will be sung in English, with just a few songs being offered in foreign languages with translations. Favorites like "Ave Maria" and "Be Still My Soul" will be heard alongside classical staples from Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Barber's *Hermit Songs*. You'll be sure to hear old favorites as well as new tunes.

Ms. Worrell has been a soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Chorale, Heritage Chorale, Atlantic Symphony, the Bostonians Concert Ensemble, and Boston Modern Orchestra Project. She has a great enthusiasm for art song performance and frequently gives salon-style house concerts in addition to performing traditional recitals. As a recitalist, she has performed in the wider Boston area, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Martha's Vineyard; Long Island, New York; and Salzburg, Austria. As a young champion of New Music, Ms. Worrell has given world premiere performances of orchestral, chamber works, and song cycles in Massachusetts and Illinois.

Joining Ms. Worrell is pianist Liang-yu Wang, WIU music faculty member. Actively engaged in concert appearances at national and international venues, she has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Italy, France, Finland, South Africa, Ireland, China, and Taiwan. Dr. Wang served as the artistic coordinator of last fall's WIU Beethoven Festival, in which she performed Beethoven's complete works for cello and piano, and Beethoven's complete sonatas for violin and piano.

For more information about these musicians, use the following websites: [www.bethanyworrell.com](http://www.bethanyworrell.com) and [www.liangyuwangpiano.com](http://www.liangyuwangpiano.com)