Appalachian Winter

A Celebration of Music, Heritage, and Community

This December, Mount Tabor's Traditional Music Ministry invites you to experience the warmth and wonder of an Appalachian Christmas through Appalachian Winter, a Christmas cantata by composer Joseph M. Martin. The presentation will take place during our traditional worship service on **Sunday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m.**, bringing together the familiar melodies of the Christmas season with the rich musical traditions of the Appalachian Mountains.

Drawing inspiration from the folk traditions of Appalachia, Martin's cantata blends original compositions with familiar American hymns, carols, and folk melodies. Its distinctive instrumentation evokes the sounds of mountain music, incorporating traditional orchestral instruments alongside the rustic colors of guitar, mandolin, and percussion. The result is a musical journey that celebrates the simplicity, resilience, and enduring faith of Appalachian communities while telling the timeless story of Christ's birth.

Our presentation will feature instrumentalists from the local community and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, including Mount Tabor's own Jeff Maldonado on guitar and Jessica Beitel on piano. Featured vocal soloists include Christine Baltazar-Maldonado, soprano and our Director of Modern Music Ministries; Susan Giles, mezzo-soprano; and Abigail Ledbetter, soprano. Mr. Bob McHone will serve as narrator, guiding listeners through the story and musical landscape of Appalachian Winter.

Threads of Hope

MUSIC AND MISSION

In the spirit of Appalachian traditions, where quilting has long represented both artistic expression and community fellowship, our presentation is accompanied by a special Christmas quilt silent auction. The quilt, lovingly created by members of Mount Tabor's own quilting ministry, Loving Hands, reflects the craftsmanship and generosity that have been passed down through generations. The auction began on Sunday, November 22, and all proceeds will benefit the Maple Springs United Methodist Church Food Pantry, helping provide food and assistance to neighbors in need.

Our celebration of music and community will also extend beyond Mount Tabor's walls. On **Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 p.m.**, members of the Chancel Choir will share Appalachian Winter with residents of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community. This outreach performance offers an opportunity to bring the joy and comfort of Christmas music directly to members of our wider community.



Together, these efforts reflect the spirit of the season: sharing our gifts, celebrating our heritage, and caring for our neighbors. Through music, quilting, and outreach, we hope to offer nourishment for both body and spirit.

We invite you to join us on December 13 for Appalachian Winter, participate in the quilt auction, and celebrate the many ways Mount Tabor's ministries are sharing the hope and joy of Christmas.

by Clay Whittington
Director of Traditional Music Ministries