

Bill Wieland and Friends

(Marla's Script)

(As people arrive — Welcome! slide on both walls)

(As Boulton, Marmorstein, and Fogderud speak — black slide)

My name is Marla Fogderud and I am here to tell you a little about the music and performers. Bill would like to thank everyone for attending on a workday and he especially wants to thank all his friends who are performing this evening.

The first music Bill can remember is the men's choir in the church where he grew up. Bill's great grandfather John Q. Wieland, a German immigrant, came to America in 1897. John Q. and his brother Karl were instrumental in establishing a church (and its men's choir) in rural Dazey, North Dakota. This parish is still active today. The men's choir sang for special occasions until a few years ago. "Christus ist erstanden" is an Easter hymn composed by John Q. The "Sanctus" is from a Latin Mass that Bill composed for the choir.

Tonight's opening pieces will be performed by an ad hoc choir including music educators, a real estate agent, an investment advisor, etc., etc. The common thread is that they all sang in Northern State choirs at one time or another.

(1st Men's Choir Hymn — St. Mary's Choir, Dazey, ND – 1938)

(2nd Men's Choir Hymn — North Dakota Memories – 1970s)

(Whenever Marla speaks — black slide)

At a young age, Bill was very eager to study music. He started piano lessons with Diana Skroch when he was in the 3rd grade. One piece he has played for about a half century is J.S. Bach's C major prelude. However, Bill is a collaborator rather than a soloist. Fortunately, Charles Gounod added a beautiful melody above Bach's prelude.

Bill is joined by our NSU colleague and soprano, Darci Bultema, to perform this beautiful classical "mash-up". Fun fact—Bill met his wife Mary Ann at Valley City State, but Mary Ann met Darci years earlier at the North Dakota Farmer's Union Camp!

(Darci Bultema and Bill Wieland — Bach and Gounod info)

In high school Bill was completely convinced that he would be a dairy farmer. However, he attended Valley City State like his parents and all his siblings. He had no major when he started college, then became a math major, but decided that music courses were easier and graduated with a music major and a math minor. Nonetheless, his advisor was always Roger Rand, a calculus professor. Bill included a couple of original compositions on his senior recital including "Agua", a piece that depicts rippling water. Because his sisters studied Spanish, he gave it the "exotic" title. The style is minimalism, which was very popular in the classical music world in the 1980s. A quick story about his senior recital. Bill's parents invited several neighbors including Mr. and Mrs. Fogderud, dairy farmers who lived 5 miles up the road. Unbeknownst to Bill, they brought their daughter—me! Bill's office here on campus is sandwiched between Darci's and mine. Another fun fact—Bill, Mary Ann, Darci and I all grew up on farms in Barnes County, ND. There must be something in the agua!

The performers in this ensemble include an English major, two accounting majors, and a Suzuki piano instructor who also teaches dance.

(Fl, Cl, Pno, Bass, Marimba — More N.D. Memories – 1980s)

Bill really enjoyed being a music major and when he was a senior at Valley City State, the music department chair Stuart Glazer encouraged him to go to graduate school. Two years later he earned a Master of Arts from the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. During that time, he composed “Godhead Here in Hiding”, a communion hymn. Bill has always been involved in church music. In 2009 Steph Raap, the music director at St. Mary’s, Aberdeen, asked Bill and Lennie Davis, another NSU music alumnus, to start a small Latin choir.

This evening’s choir consists of past and present members of that choir including music teachers, a biology teacher, and a retired EMT. Schubert’s “Ave Maria” was grandma Wieland’s favorite piece.

(1st Church Choir Hymn — U of MN photos)

(2nd Church Choir Hymn — Schubert info)

While in Minneapolis, Bill decided that he really wanted to teach music at a smaller university. To do that, he needed a doctoral degree and was very lucky to be accepted at Northwestern University. At that time their School of Music had a composition contest for a commencement fanfare. Bill’s fanfare won that contest and was performed at the 1990 Northwestern University School of Music graduation ceremony.

The group you are about to hear includes the Brown County Landfill Brass Quintet plus a few extra instruments. Because the fanfare is very short, Bill included an arrangement of a Romantic choral piece.

(Brass Ensemble Fanfare — Northwestern University photo)

(Brass Ensemble Chorale — Bruckner info)

After graduating, Bill and his Northwestern classmates struggled to find college teaching jobs. He was very pleased when Lonn Sweet hired him to teach at Northern State in 1994. He soon met Al LaFave, who at that time was the clarinet professor and symphonic band conductor. Dr. LaFave frequently encouraged his students, including Bethany Andrist, to collaborate with Bill at contests or recitals. Unfortunately, Bethany called in sick last night. Fortunately, NSU's current clarinet professor and band director Audrey Miller agreed to substitute with fewer than 24 hours notice. Thank you Audrey!

(Clarinet Duet — NSU Senior Recitals)

Beginning in 1995, Bill taught one week almost every summer at the International Music Camp at the Peace Gardens on the Manitoba/North Dakota border. During piano camp, pairs of students learn a duet together. However, there are often an odd number of students. In the spirit of making camp fun AND learning a marvelous piece of music, Bill arranged the main theme of Gustav Holst's "Jupiter" for piano, SIX hands. This is also a spoof of piano reductions Bill has encountered in which almost all the notes of the orchestra are given to a single accompanist—much to their chagrin! He is joined by his wife and Ani, a music major.

(Piano, 6 Hands — Holst info)

Retired NSU Theater professor Dan Yurgaitis occasionally asked Bill to compose incidental music for NSU plays. One included a scene with an easy-going grandfather who would sometimes say or do something unexpected—a little like Bill's father-in-law Marvin. This soft-spoken gentleman walked the long farmstead driveway to get the mail every day. The road is perfectly straight and slopes down from the mailbox to the farmhouse. When Marvin was well into his 80s, he pulled an old-fashioned sled with runners on his way to the mailbox. He got the mail and then sledded back to the house!

Bill joins two phenomenal performers from Aberdeen, Fritz Hemke and Travis Netzer, in tonight's blues trio.

(Blues trio laid-back opening — Grandpa reading and accordion)

(Blues trio double time — sled)

Bill had open heart surgery in 2014. Exactly 50 years after he was born, a Sioux Falls surgeon stopped his heart and replaced 2 valves. During surgery his arms were strapped to the operating table. Apparently, a nerve was pinched because his right hand was numb for almost half a year. Bill always performs on the NSU faculty recital in September and was a little nervous about playing with a numb hand, so he arranged Scott Joplin's piano solo for flute, clarinet, and a simpler piano part. Incidentally, his hand healed.

Maggie Knippling and Lexie Johnson are music majors.

(Flute, Clarinet, and Piano — Joplin info)

Bill and Mary Ann have three children. Bill has always wanted them to have a rich musical life, so he decided to give his oldest son John piano lessons. That lasted a few weeks. They were BOTH relieved when Kay Fischer agreed to give John piano lessons. Kay also grew up on a farm—near Bristol, South Dakota. For 14 years she taught a Wieland kid. (She has given piano lessons to hundreds of other South Dakota kids.) Kay and Bill are about to play a duet that he composed for his daughter, Sophie. She enjoys playing piano and dancing. You will hear a waltz in the style of Johann Strauss, a habanero in the style of Bizet's Carmen, and a polka in the style of Lawrence Welk and Myron Floren, two more Dakotans. Fun fact—Sophie plays her grandpa Marvin's accordion at nursing homes.

(Piano Duet — Waltz, Habanera, Polka)

Thank you again for coming tonight. If you would like to greet Bill, he will be outside that door.

(As people leave — The Next Wieland Generation)

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