



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

2026 MID-WINTER SINGING & FOLK FESTIVAL

Workshop Schedule

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1020 S. HARRISON, EAST LANSING

	SANCTUARY	FELLOWSHIP HALL	FIRE PLACE ROOM
12:00 - 1:15	<p>SINGING IN THE STREET Songs of Resistance, Resilience and Joy. Lyrics provided.</p> <p>DAN CHOUINARD</p>	<p>UKULELE 1-2-3 Let's Get it Started: Beginning Ukulele! For the beginning ukulele player. Learn the basics of the uke, including: parts of the instrument, tuning, beginning chords, and simple songs to get you used to chording and strumming. Bring your ukulele or use a 'loaner' available from Ben at the Festival.</p> <p>BEN HASSENGER</p>	<p>SATURDAY SCHEDULE</p> <p>Gate Opens: 11 am Used CD / LP sale: 11 am - 9 pm Workshops: Noon - 4:15 pm Festival Choir: 4:30 - 5:45 pm Evening Concert: 7:30 pm</p>
1:30 - 2:45	<p>FOLK SONG JAM-ALONG You pick from our ever-growing list of 300+ songs, spanning everything from folk classics to pop favorites. We put the lyrics and chords on the screen, and together, we bring the music to life. Acoustic instruments and voices are encouraged!</p> <p>LORI FITHIAN & JEAN CHORAZYCZEWSKI</p>	<p>C JAM BLUES ENSEMBLE We'll use a high-ceiling, low-floor approach so all levels of players can participate in this ensemble activity; playing the Duke Ellington classic as a group with chords, melody, and improvisation.</p> <p>BEN HASSENGER</p>	<p>THIS FAR BY FAITH This workshop explores the evolution of African American sacred music from the spiritual, Prayer and Praise hymns, through the Blues and into Gospel. We will look at how Black music was used as a tool of healing, a weapon of change, and a celebration of victory. Specific elements will include improvisation, the use of rhythm, accompaniment and "the moan."</p> <p>REV. ROBERT B. JONES SR.</p>
3:00 - 4:15	<p>FINDING YOUR VOICE: UNDERSTANDING GOSPEL HARMONIES Min. Robert Jones II, has grown up singing and teaching sacred music in nearly all its forms. From singing with the legendary Nina Scott to overseeing the music for Detroit's Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, he has taught people the art and craft of singing. In this workshop he will explore techniques that will teach you how blend multiple voices, whether it be two or one hundred.</p> <p>MINISTER ROBERT JONES II</p>	<p>UKULELE STRUM AND SING The uke is the most fun when played with others! Ben will lead participants in a set of well-known songs for everyone to play and sing together. Lyrics and chords are projected on a screen.</p> <p>BEN HASSENGER</p> <p><i>Ben Hassenger is well-known across the state and North America as Michigan's Ukulele Ambassador, using the "most folk of folk instruments" to bring folks together.</i></p>	<p>SATURDAY WRISTBAND</p> <p>\$25 Public \$20 Fiddle Members \$5 Students One Saturday wristband good for both afternoon workshops and evening concert.</p> <p>www.tenpoundfiddle.org</p>
4:30 - 5:45		<p>FESTIVAL CHOIR: "NOW LET US SING" A medley of spirituals arranged by Melanie DeMore • Rachel Alexander, Festival Choir Director • Kait Wilson, Accompanist</p> <p>You are invited to join this ad hoc, on-the-spot Festival Choir and learn the piece, "Now Let Us Sing".</p> <p>The Festival Choir will then present this piece at the very beginning of the 7:30 pm evening concert. Lyrics and music provided. Meet in Fellowship Hall.</p>	



Learn more at www.singingfestival.com

Get tickets here

