



# Benefit Piano Recital

To Help End Hunger

Presented by students of Sherry VanOveren's

Sunday, March 22, 2026

2:00 PM

**Ada Congregational Church**

**6330 Ada Dr. SE**

**Ada, Michigan 49301**

Feeding America Supporters



At Home and in the World

**Feeding America Benefit Recital**  
**March 23, 2025**

**WELCOME!**

**Chris, Katie, Gloria & Philip Smigiel**

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| I Like Skiing at Caberfae - Samantha Sachau             | Samantha Sachau                                |
| Chinese Painting - Nancy Faber                          | Caroline Leonard                               |
| Dance of Two Sea Horses - Carl Czerny                   | Caroline Leonard                               |
| Horseman's Night Ride - Nancy and Randall Faber         | James Leonard                                  |
| Mr. McGill's Boop Sha-Bop - Nancy and Randall Faber     |  |
| Sunrise - Annaliese Garner & Sherry VanOveren           | Philip Smigiel                                 |
| Sidewalk Tune - Jon George                              | Philip & Gloria Smigiel                        |
| Ferris Wheel - Nancy Faber                              | Owen Neubauer                                  |
| Yankee Doodle-Shuckburgh/Arr. Melody Bober              | Owen Neubauer & Aiden Arias                    |
| March of the English Guard - Jeremiah Clarke            | Aiden Arias                                    |
| Mysterious Rider - Melody Bober                         | Xander Elzinga                                 |
| Simple Gifts - Joseph Brackett Jr./Arr. Kevin Olson     | Theo Morris & Xander Elzinga                   |
| I Spy - Melody Bober                                    | Theo Morris                                    |
| Daydream - Robert D. Vandall                            | Rogue Velting                                  |
| Greensleeves - Trad. English/Arr. Perdew                | Culley Bredin, Jack Brooks, Rogue Velting      |
| L'Orage (The Storm) - Friedrich Burgmüller              | Gloria Smigiel                                 |
| Beautiful Dreamer - Stephen Foster/arr. by Edwin McLean | Gloria Smigiel, Brienna Price                  |
| Autumn Ballade - Kevin Olson                            | Brienna Price                                  |
| Le fin d'hiver (Winter's End) - Jennifer Linn           | Sydney Price                                   |
| Agent 003 - Martha Mier                                 | Meredith Kaltz, Stefania Makovey, Sydney Price |
| Dream Echoes - Edward L. Lancaster                      | Stefania Makovey                               |
| Heading Out to Sea - Melody Bober                       | Meredith Kaltz                                 |
| Night Train - Chris Goldston                            | John Irwin                                     |
| Allegretto Vivace - Carl Czerny                         | John Irwin & Sherry VanOveren                  |
| Tarantella Viva! - Melody Bober                         | Evan Kaltz                                     |
| Chopsticks - Arr. Kevin Olson                           | Jack Brooks, Evan Kaltz                        |
| Sonatina Op. 20 No. 1- Kuhlau                           | Jack Brooks                                    |
| Solfegietto - C. P. E. Bach                             | Culley Bredin                                  |
| Intermezzo - Timothy Brown                              | Finn Bredin                                    |
| In the Hall of the Mountain King - Edvard Grieg/Olson   | Finn & Culley Bredin                           |
| Für Elise - Ludwig van Beethoven                        | Anne Boersma                                   |
| Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 - Franz Liszt/Bober            | Anne Boersma, Sherry VanOveren                 |

**PROGRAM NOTES**

**Samantha Sachau** was born in Grand Rapids, MI in 2019. This is her very first piano recital. She loves snow skiing with her family, and recently took a trip to ski in Colorado. The name of her piece is "I like skiing at Caberfae", which was named before her big trip out west.

The pianist, Samantha Sachau, is 6 years old. She is in kindergarten at Knapp Forest Elementary School and has studied piano for 5 months. Samantha enjoys hockey, coloring, playing with her sister, Cece, and of course, snow skiing. This summer she is looking forward to swimming and Dirt Dawgs mountain biking.

Samantha wishes to thank her parents for supporting her interest in learning to play piano. She would also like to thank her grandparents for bringing her to the concert today, because mom and dad are on a ski trip.

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**“Chinese Painting”** is an original Chinese melody. Nancy Faber uses soft dynamics and a thin texture to create the wispieness of delicate paint brushes.

Nancy and Randall Faber are from the United States. They write in the contemporary period of music and are famous for writing over 300 of books and publications for the piano.

**“Dance of Two Seahorses”** the student part uses a single line of music in the right hand and a single line in the left hand to represent two “Sea Horses” dancing together. The accompaniment creates a flowing sound like water in which sea horses would be found.

The composer, Carl Czerny was born in Austria and lived from 1791 to 1857 during the late classical and early romantic periods of music. Czerny was most famous for being Ludwig van Beethoven’s student and for writing over 1000 works and books about the piano which are still used today.

The pianist, **Caroline Leonard**, is 9 years old, in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Thomas School and has studied piano for 8 months. Caroline enjoys soccer, basketball and swimming. This summer she is looking forward to going to Camp Henry.

Caroline wishes to thank her parents and Ms. Sherry for all the support and is grateful for the help.

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Nancy and Randall Faber are a husband and wife team who are most famous for co-founding the Faber Piano Institute and have written over 300 books together. Most notable is their piano series “Piano Adventures”. They are often invited to give lectures and workshops to piano teachers all over the world.

**“The Horseman’s Night Ride”** is in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time and sounds like a galloping horse because of the soft repetitive galloping pattern in the left hand.

**“Mr. McGill’s Boop Sha-Bop”** is fun and energetic and sounds jazzy because of the use of syncopated rhythms.

The pianist, **James Leonard**, is 11 years old, in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Thomas School and has studied piano for 8 months. James enjoys soccer, fishing and golfing. This summer he is looking forward to going to Camp Henry. James wishes to thank Miss Sherry and his parents for helping him with piano.

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Sherry VanOveren is Philip’s piano teacher and wrote this song with her granddaughter.

In **“Sunrise”**, the notes go higher and higher just like a sunrise.

**Philip Smigiel** is 9 years old, in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Crestwood Elementary school and has studied piano for 3 years. Philip enjoys soccer, basketball, and swimming. This summer he is looking forward to going on a cruise with his grandma and grandpa.

Philip wishes to thank his mom and dad for their care and support for helping him solve hard problems.

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Jon George was a prominent American composer best known for his significant contributions to elementary and intermediate piano works.

Philip is playing the Primo part of this duet, **“Sidewalk Tune”** and his sister, Gloria, is playing secondo. The secondo part is constantly repetitive as though someone is calmly walking down a well-worn path

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Nancy Faber was born in 1955 in Jackson, Tennessee and is still alive today. Nancy Faber and her husband Randall are famous for the teaching method called Piano Adventures.

**“Ferris Wheel”** takes you on a ferris wheel ride, going around and around and then getting higher and higher while slowing down at the end to enjoy the view from the top of the ferris wheel.

**Owen Neubauer** is 8 years old, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Cannonsburg Elementary School and has studied piano for 8 months. He enjoys building Legos, skiing and playing tennis. This summer he is looking forward to going to Florida with his family.

Owen wishes to thank his Mom and Dad for letting him learn to play the piano.

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Dr Richard Shuckburgh, who lived from 1705 to 1773, was a British military surgeon. He is credited with writing the lyrics to **“Yankee Doodle”** during the French and Indian War to mock, in the British view, the disheveled, unsophisticated, and unorganized American militia. The lyrics were meant to tease the colonists (Yankees) for being simpletons (“doodles”) and pretending to be fashionable (“dandy”) by merely sticking a feather in their caps. Americans then used the song as a way

to show patriotism. Yankee Doodle is still a song Americans sing today

Jeremiah Clarke was born in England in 1647 and died 1707. He is famous for composing the Prince of Denmark's March also called Trumpet Voluntary which is often used for a bride to walk down the aisle in a wedding. "**March of the English Guard**" is in 4/4 time as many marches are. You could march to the tempo of this piece.

**Aiden Arias** is 8 years old, in 2nd grade in homeschool. He has studied piano for 2 years. Aiden enjoys eating pizza and building things with Legos, K'nex and Magnatiles. This summer Aiden is looking forward to going to summer camp at Spring Hill. Aiden would like to thank his mom for helping him learn his songs, being encouraging and bringing him to lessons.

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This piece, "**Mysterious Rider**", was composed by Melody Bober. Mrs. Bober was born in 1955 in Moorhead, Minnesota, during the Contemporary Period. She is most famous for composing hundreds of piano pieces ranging from early elementary to advanced.

The title of the piece indicates that it is very mysterious. Mrs. Bober accomplishes this with the sound of hoof beats in the left hand and writing this song in a minor key.

The pianist, **Xander Elzinga**, is 10 years old and in 4th grade at Cherry Creek Elementary School and has done piano for 1.75 years. He enjoys playing legos, reading, and rocketry.

This summer he is looking forward to camping, reading, and playing legos.

Xander wishes to thank his parents for their support and encouragement. He is also grateful to Ms. Sherry for opening her home and finding ways to engage young learners. He likes her style of teaching.

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Joseph Brackett Jr was born in Cumberland Maine and lived from 1797 to 1882. Joseph was most famous for composing sacred music/Shaker hymns: "Simple Gifts" and True Vine. "**Simple Gifts**" is significant because it has inspired other musicians for over 200 years, including variations by John Williams for Barack Obama's inauguration and the rock band, Weezer. This variation was arranged by Kevin Olson, a contemporary composer, teacher and pianist from Utah.

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Melody Bober is a contemporary American music educator and composer who lives in Minnesota. Melody started taking piano lessons at the age of five after beginning to play by ear at age 3. She worked as a piano educator for years before publishing her first original composition at the age of 40.

The piece, "**I Spy**", is written in a minor key which gives a feeling of mystery. Repeated triplets show movement. (Imagine the Pink Panther sneaking up on Big Nose, causing a commotion, and then running away!)

The performer, **Theodore Morris**, is 9 years old and in third grade at Orchard View Elementary. He has been studying piano since age 6. Theo's other interests include snuggling his cat while playing video games or reading, and traveling with his family.

Theo would like to thank his mom for helping him with practice for his entire life doing piano, Ms. Sherry for being his piano teacher and...his cats Sir Elton J. Kitty Cat and Gem because they ALWAYS listen to his practicing.

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Robert D. Vandall was born in Akron, Ohio and lived from 1944-2017. Many of his compositions are listed in the Festival Music Club bulletins and music teachers use them for students to perform at recitals and competitions.

The name of this piece, "**Daydream**", is reflected in the music by Vandall's use of legato, connective pedal and soft sounds. The tempo is also slower and very calm as if in a daydream.

**Rogue Velting** is 14 years old and in 8th grade. He has studied piano for 4 years and enjoys skiing and mountain biking. This summer he is looking forward to fishing at Lake Bella Vista.

Rogue would like to thank his parents for driving him to lessons and encouraging him on his progress.

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The piece, "**Greensleeves**", is a 16th century English folk song with authorship unknown. "Greensleeves" most likely refers to a lady with loose morals, or a woman dressed in green. Green is usually considered the color of "lightness in love". "Greensleeves" gained early popularity during the Renaissance and was spread through handwritten music and performances. It tells the story of unreturned love, which was a common theme in songs of that time. It is even referenced in Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (1602).

The melody of Greensleeves is slow and expressive, giving it a gentle and emotional sound. The music uses smooth, flowing phrases that make it feel calm and reflective. Its minor key helps create a sad mood which matches the

story of lost or unreturned love. It became associated with Christmas in the late 17th century, paving the way for its later adaptation as the carol "What Child Is This?"

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Friedrich Burgmüller was born in Regensburg, Germany and lived from 1806 to 1874 during the Romantic period of music. Burgmüller was most famous for Children's Etudes for the piano.

The name of the piece **L'Orage (The Storm)**, is very loud in many parts of the music to resemble thunder or lightning. Toward the end it starts to sound like the "storm" is slowing down and getting quieter. When you put these together it paints a picture of a big storm.

**Gloria Smigiel** is 13 years old, in 7th grade at East Rockford Middle School and has studied piano for 6 years. Gloria enjoys playing volleyball, reading, and being with friends. This summer she is looking forward to going on a cruise.

Gloria wishes to thank her parents for motivating her to keep going and keep practicing.

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Stephen Collins Foster was born in 1826 and was known as "the Father of American Music". His song, **"Beautiful Dreamer"**, was published in 1864 the same year that he passed away. The composer uses soft notes to create a dreamily beautiful sound. It is one of the most loved of his songs.

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Kevin Olson was born in Utah in 1971. Olson is most known for being a prolific composer, pianist, and educator as well as publishing over 100 books and solos for students.

**"Autumn Ballad"**, which is the name of this piece, is significant because of its soft flowy notes representing autumn winds and its wistful, slow and almost dramatic qualities representing a Ballad.

The student, **Brie Price**, is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School, and has been playing piano for 5 years. Brie enjoys swimming, drawing, and playing Dungeons and Dragons with friends. This summer she is looking forward to doing summer theater.

Brie would like to thank her parents for supporting her doing piano for this long.

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Jennifer Linn was born in Boulder, Colorado in 1960, in the contemporary era. She received her masters degree in piano performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

**"Winter's End"** is a lovely song because of the dynamics and speed. It shows the harsh snow and cold weather using loud and high fast notes being replaced with warm temperatures, spring flowers blooming and grass starting to show beneath the snow by her softer dynamics and slower tempo.

The pianist, **Sydney Price**, is 10 years old and in fourth grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. She has had piano lessons for 2 ½ years. Sydney enjoys volleyball, piano, and petting random dogs.

This summer she is looking forward to nothing. She likes school and hates summer. "It's too hot and there is no school!"

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Martha Mier was born in Texas in 1936 during the Contemporary period of music. She was most famous for creating the Jazz, Rags & Blues series.

The name of this piece, **"Agent 003"** is significant because it is in a minor key which creates an atmosphere of a sleuthing detective trying to solve a crime. The melody accompaniment uses melodic minor and a descending walking ostinato bass line (a repetitive theme of music) which makes it sound like the detective is on the prowl for suspects.

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Dr. Edward L. Lancaster is an American piano composer and teacher who was born in Albertville, Alabama. He lived and worked during the contemporary period. He has spent most of his life helping people learn how to play the piano. He works with Alfred Music, where he helps write and edit piano books and became a piano teacher. His music is especially popular because it sounds beautiful but is still manageable for students. Dr Edward L. Lancaster is still alive today and helps many piano students as an adjunct piano faculty member at California state University, Northridge.

**"Dream Echoes"** uses soft dynamics and pedal to sound dreamy and loud and then soft tones that echo.

The pianist, Stefania Makovey, is 10 years old, in 5th grade at Northern Trails and has been learning piano for 5 years. Stefania enjoys drawing, reading and writing, theater, singing and sports such as pickle ball

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and swimming. This summer she is looking forward to going to Mackinac Island and swimming for the Watermark swim team!

Stefania would like to thank her parents for their support and perseverance, pushing her to become a better pianist, and their belief in her musical abilities.

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Melody Bober was born in Moorhead, Minnesota. She was born in 1955. Melody Bober has written over 489 listings in Alfred Music Publishing including piano solos and piano collections .

“**Heading Out to Sea**” is written in 6/8 time and sounds like a sea shanty which also has that time signature. It has a rolling motion as though a boat was riding up and down on the waves. Melody Bober also uses a call and response structure, which is like a sea shanty.

The pianist, **Meredith Kaltz**, is 11 years old, in 5th grade at Goodwillie Environmental School and has studied piano for 6 years. Meredith enjoys playing soccer, reading and writing, and being outdoors. This summer she is looking forward to going to Camp Henry and the pool!

Meredith would like to thank her parents for their endless care and support in helping her become a better pianist and participate in this concert.

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Chris Goldston was born in 1972. He has a Master of Music degree in piano performance and pedagogy. He is a sought after teacher in Chicago and is in high demand as a clinician and guest artist.

In 1991 he received the National Federation of Music Club Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award for his first composition “**Night Train**”. It was written while he was in college. This piece is a vivid, relentless portrayal of a moving locomotive. Rapidly moving eighth-note patterns in bass clef creates constant propulsive energy, similar to a steam locomotive. The piece has dramatic shifts in dynamics to invoke imagery of a train’s close and distant movement throughout its journey.

The pianist, **John Irwin**, is a retired Bank Executive. He has taken lessons for many years, but joined Ms. Sherry’s studio last fall in order to learn proper technique and restart his piano journey.

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Carl Czerny was born in Vienna, Austria in 1791 and died in 1857. He was a composer and teacher whose music spanned late Classical and early Romantic eras. He produced over a thousand works and his books for studies for piano are still widely used in piano teaching. He was one of Ludwig van Beethoven’s best known pupils and became one of the main teachers of Franz Liszt.

“**Allegretto Vivace**” (rather fast and lively) has a combination of rigorous technical demands with a light, energetic, and orchestral sound. The legatos and staccatos demonstrate that observation.

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Melody Bober was born in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota in 1955 in the Contemporary Period. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Illinois, and earned a master's degree from Minnesota State University. She has written over 300 pieces, and has taught and played for over 25 years.

The title of this piece, “**Tarantella Viva!**” means lively (Viva) dance of the spider (Tarantella) It uses a fast tempo, staccato and eighth notes, and a wide range of motion, to show this.

**Evan Kaltz** is 12, in 7th grade at Central Middle School, and has taken piano lessons for over 6 years. Evan enjoys reading, cross country, bassoon, D & D, and fish keeping. This summer he is excited to relax at the pool.

Evan wishes to thank his mom and dad for supporting and loving him. He is so grateful that they spend time to make sure he is happy. He wouldn't be here without them. He loves them both!

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“**Chopsticks**” is a simple piano duet that was written in 1877 by a teenage girl named Euphemia Allen, who used the pen name Arthur de Lulli. She originally titled the piece The Celebrated Chop Waltz. The nickname Chopsticks came later because the repeated notes sound like chopsticks tapping on a table. The piece became popular because it was easy to learn and fun to play with another person.

The music of Chopsticks is lively and repetitive, with a steady rhythm that makes it sound playful. Both players repeat short patterns, which helps keep the beat strong and exciting. The fast tempo and simple harmonies give the piece a cheerful feeling.

The arranger, Kevin Olson, is an active pianist, composer, and piano area coordinator at Utah State University. Kevin began composing at age five. When he was twelve, his composition, An American Train Ride, received the Overall First Prize at the 1983 National PTA Convention at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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Friedrich Kuhlau was born in 1786 in Germany and later lived<sup>4</sup> in Denmark. He was a Classical-period composer known for writing piano and flute music. Kuhlau is especially famous for his sonatinas, which help students learn good technique while still sounding musical.

“**Sonatina No. 1 in C Major**” is written in sonatina form, which is a short and simple type of sonata. The piece is marked Allegro, meaning fast and lively. It has a bright melody and steady left-hand patterns, with changes in dynamics that make the music.

The pianist, **Jack Brooks** is 14 years old and in 8th grade at Ada Christian School. Jack has studied piano for 6 years and likes playing video games and building forts in the woods. Jack would like to thank his grandparents for financially

assisting him with his piano lessons and his mom for driving him to lessons every week.

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Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach was born in Weimar, Germany and lived from 1714 to 1788 during the Baroque and Classical period. He was most famous for his very emotional and dramatic music. The piece, **“Solfegietto”**, is a fast paced technical study for pianists. The word solfegietto means “little study”. It is used for building finger speed and independence.

The pianist, **Culley Bredin**, is 14 years old, in 8th grade and goes to Lowell Middle School. He has played piano for 8 years. Some of his hobbies include lacrosse, basketball, and fishing. This summer he looks forward to swimming and hanging out with friends.

Culley would like to thank his mom and dad for always giving him rides to lessons, and encouraging him when he is having a tough time on his piece.

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Timothy Brown was born in Middletown, Ohio in the late 20th century during the contemporary period of music and is still present today. Brown is a teacher, Shigeru Artist, and award winning composer who is most known for his Neo-romantic style, using expression and emotional impact to create dramatic pieces of music. His work has been showcased in numerous North American and European venues, the biggest being Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center.

**“Intermezzo”** traditionally refers to a short connecting or contrasting musical movement, which is dramatic and expressive. Timothy Brown constantly shifts moods throughout the piece. From a peaceful melody that jumps to deep, powerful chords, you never know what to expect. This creates a dramatic mood.

The pianist, **Finn Bredin**, is 17 years old in 11th grade at Lowell high school and has studied piano for 10 years. Finn enjoys activities such as watching and playing lacrosse and basketball, as well as trying different restaurants/foods and doing activities with his family. This summer, he is looking forward to golfing with his friends as much as possible.

Finn would like to thank his Mom for motivating him to continue playing piano, as well as his older brother Teige for inspiring him to get better every day.

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Edvard Grieg was born in Bergen, Norway and lived from 1806 to 1875 during the Romantic Period. Edvard was most famous for pioneering a national romantic style that brought Norwegian folk music into the classical mainstream.

The piece, **“In the Hall of the Mountain King”**, is from the Peer Gynt Suites and were originally orchestral works based on Henrik Ibsen’s play. The suite represents a musical journey through Norwegian Folklore. The movement, “In the Hall of the Mountain King”, is descriptive of a frantic accelerating scene where Peer is chased by trolls. The piece builds tension throughout by slowly getting faster and louder.

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Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany in 1770. His lifetime bridged the Classical and Romantic periods of music. He is considered one of the greatest and most influential composers of all time. His music is known for its structural innovation and emotional expression, and includes a multitude of famous works, including piano sonatas, violin concertos, and powerful and complex Symphonies such as No. 5 and No. 9. Despite his progressive and devastating hearing loss, Beethoven astoundingly composed until his death in 1827.

**“Für Elise”** was not discovered until 40 years after the death of Beethoven. It translates to “For Elise” although nobody knows for certain the identity of Elise. Scholars have suggested a few possibilities, and believe she was most likely a close friend and important person in his life.

The pianist, **Anne Boersma**, has taken piano lessons for 5 years. Prior to her own piano study, her three children, all grown adults now, took lessons from Sherry for many years. Anne understands and respects the huge commitment parents make to provide a musical background for their kids. In addition to her piano

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study, Anne enjoys spending time with family & friends, gardening, playing pickleball, and volunteering activities. She looks forward to spending time up north in Leland this summer and enjoying Lake Michigan. Anne is deeply grateful for her parents who instilled a love of music in her from a young age and provided her lessons on both the violin and flute, and who continue to express their support in her piano journey. She is also thoroughly appreciative of her husband, Bill, for his love & encouragement, and his generous, listening ear during her practice sessions.

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In this work, Franz Liszt embodies the spirit and style of both the Romantic Period of music and that of Hungarian folk traditions. A rhapsody is a musical composition containing a variety of themes and moods, free-flowing and spontaneous in nature and lending itself to improvisation. **“Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2”** was composed by Liszt in 1851 during a wave of ethnic/cultural pride and expression among groups of people that had been formerly controlled and suppressed by the wide-ranging Austrian Empire. Liszt, having been highly influenced

by by the Hungarian folk music of his childhood as well as the musical styling of the Romani people, composed a set of 19 Hungarian Rhapsodies to honor and celebrate his musical heritage. While the opening theme is actually based on a Romanian melody, the overall piece resembles the form and essence of the Hungarian National Dance. This traditional folk dance, the Czardas, starts off slow and stately, then gradually moves into a snappy and quick-stepping rhythm. Hungarian Rhapsody no. 2 is the most famous of Liszt's set and has been performed since its publication in various solo, duet, and orchestrated versions. It's long-standing popularity has also lent it to a variety of 20th century movie scores and animated cartoons alike.

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Thank you *so much* for  
supporting our community  
through the work of  
Feeding America,  
West Michigan Food Bank!  
Your generosity will truly make a  
difference  
in the lives of our neighbors!**

*Sherry VanOveren and Students*

**Please join us for refreshments  
in Fellowship Hall following the Program.**