

## A NOTE FROM CHARLES LAZARUS

"This is one of many projects I've created with our executive producer Paul Grangaard and longtime collaborator Tommy Barbarella. It's part of my joint venture with Paul called Concerts for Community supporting various concert series and organizations advocating for and working in community music, mental health, and education.

Over decades of teaching and performing, I have seen the overwhelming power of how music brings us together in positive long-lasting ways. This may sound cliché and sentimental, but it is still profoundly true. Participating in music, whether as a performer, educator, parent, student, producer, arranger, composer, or audience member requires and fosters listening and openness. When young musicians in schools are involved in music, they learn listening skills, teamwork, leadership, and community connection. These skills translate into all other aspects of their lives which gives them greater ability to develop tools for professional and personal success and happiness. Simply put, it makes us better human beings.

I often hear from adults after concerts that they used to play an instrument that made them feel connected to their community, but they stopped playing and regret it. Paul, Tommy, and I decided to create a publication that would be accessible to players of all ages and levels that includes a recording they can play along with and sheet music they can easily use in musical environments that are part of their existing communities like churches, schools, and bands. A modern take on something classic that is useful and a vehicle for community music.

That's how we came up with The Modern Hymn Project."

### Featuring The Lazarus Band:

- Charles Lazarus - trumpet and flugelhorn
- Tommy Barbarella- keyboards
- Jeff Bailey – bass
- David Schmalenberger - drums

### With guest soloists:

- Scott Agster – trombone
- Cece Belcher – violin
- Tonia Hughes Kendrick – vocals
- Adam Kuenzel – flute
- Kainalu Lazarus – vocals
- James Romain - sax



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