
MEDEMA CONCERT FAQS

When is the concert?

Saturday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Where is the concert?

The Greenville Municipal Auditorium

Who will the concert benefit?

The concert will benefit Hunt Co. Shared Ministries (FISH) and Community Seeds of Lone Oak.

What is the price of admission?

A non-perishable food item for FISH's and Community Seeds' food banks.

Will you take cash?

Yes, cash donations will be accepted. Suggested donation per person is \$5.00

Why is it called A Thanksgiving to Remember?

Our vision is to bring in as much food as possible into FISH's and Community Seeds' food banks so that many people in Greenville and Hunt County will have a good Thanksgiving meal, a Thanksgiving to Remember.

Who is performing?

Ken Medema, an internationally-known, blind Christian pianist, singer, and songwriter.

Why should I be interested in hearing Ken?

Ken writes and performs in virtually every musical style. His concerts are entertaining, funny, thought-provoking, and convicting. Ken is also a master of improvisation. A highlight of his concerts is when he allows members of the audience to share a brief story, after which he improvises a song for them on the spot.

Here's a short bio from Ken's website (www.kenmedema.com):

Across the years, Ken Medema has shared his passion for learning and discovery through storytelling and music with an ever-growing circle of followers around the world. Ken has been performing for over 40 years in many different venues: churches, conventions, colleges, corporations and more, for groups ranging from 50 to 50,000 people. Through the Interlude, project, Ken and partners are now conducting retreats, workshops, and special programs for small churches. Though blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with heart and mind, singing stories from his audience and accenting themes and perspectives from speakers and workshop leaders. Ken custom designs every musical moment through improvisation and new composition to bring each event to life.

Here's a bio from Wikipedia: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Medema)

Kenneth Peter "Ken" Medema (born December 7, 1943) is an American musician and [singer-songwriter](#) who has been performing in the [United States](#), [Canada](#), and [Europe](#) for more than forty years. Some of his best known songs began as live improvisations.

Medema was born almost blind; his eyes let him tell light from shadow and see outlines of major objects. He began playing the [piano](#) when he was five years old, and three years later began taking lessons in classical music through [braille music](#), [playing by ear](#) and [improvising](#) in different styles.

In 1969, he majored in [music therapy](#) at [Michigan State University](#) in [Lansing](#), studying both piano and voice. Afterwards he worked as a music therapist in [Fort Wayne, Indiana](#), and later at Essex County Hospital in [New Jersey](#).

In 1973, he began performing and recording his own songs while at Essex County Hospital. "I had a bunch of teenagers who were really hurting," he says, "and I started writing songs about their lives. Then I thought, 'Why don't you start writing songs about your Christian life?' So I started doing that, and people really responded."

His lyrics generally provide social commentary on themes such as justice, hunger, poverty, homelessness, and Christian charity as it pertains to them. He has published a total of 26 albums, the first of which he recorded for Word and Shawnee Press, and then went on to found *Brier Patch Music* in 1985. Through Brier Patch Music, he organizes and schedules his events, as well as publishes his music. The business was named after Brer Rabbit's home in the legendary [Uncle Remus](#) stories.^[1] "Brer Rabbit lived in a place not comfortable for anyone else," Medema says, "and we decided to follow him there."

Performances regularly include songs improvised both musically and lyrically by accepting audience recommendations, sermon topics, or guest speaker stories as their basis. He performs in national and worldwide (church) congregations, campuses, youth gatherings, and annual assemblies. He lives near [San Francisco, California](#), with his wife Jane. They have been married since 1965 and have two grown children and four grandchildren.