
**A CONCERT OF
CONTEMPORARY HYMNS
AND
TRADITIONAL SACRED MUSIC**

by

**The Houston Bach Society
and
The Texas A&M Hymnology Class**



May 8, 2004
3:00-4:15 PM

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
906 George Bush Drive
College Station, Texas 77840

Sit

Sacred madrigal: *Die mit Tränen säen*

(From *Israelsbrunnlein*)

Die mit Tränen säen,
werden mit Freuden ernten.
Sie gehen hin und weinen
und tragen edlen Samen
und kommen mit Freuden
und bringen ihre Garben.

Johann Hermann Schein

(1586–1630)

They that sow in tears
shall reap in joy.
Those that go forth and weep,
bearing precious seed,
shall come again with rejoicing,
bringing their sheaves with them.
(*Psalm 126*)

Stand

HYMN SINGING

“Breath of Praise”

1. Close by lurk my enemies.
God will make them leave this land.
Vanquish, vanquish them forever.
David sang twas by God’s own hand.

2. Christ sang, love your enemies;
Hate them was a harsh refrain.
Loving only who are loving,
Leaves on Earth no sweet song to gain.

Debbie Pfunter and Lindsey Lyon

3. Save me Lord from enemies;
Calm all malice, guide my life.
Holy Spirit, show me Your way,
Goodness, guide me now free from strife.

Sit

Cantata: *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*, BWV 93

J. S. Bach

1. **Chorus** and Ms. Melville, Ms. Wade, Mr. Rag sdale,
Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten
Und hoffet auf ihn allezeit,
Den wird er wunderbarlich erhalten
In allem Kreuz und Traurigkeit.
Wer Gott, dem Allerhöchsten, traut,
Der hat auf keinen Sand gebaut.

Mr. White
God will protect wonderfully
whoever leaves to Him all power
and always hopes in Him,
even in times of sadness and distress.
Whoever trusts in almighty God
has not built upon sand.

Stand

HYMN SINGING

“God will Lift You Up”

1. The ones who are working they feel darkness
double and kill.
It’s dark as a dungeon in those mills and mines.
Keep God’s lamp on at all times
God will life you up, will life you up.

2. There is a hole that everyone knows void,
darksides of the soul.
Oh life it can construct you a growing pit,
But don’t you fall down into it.
God will life you up, will life you up.

Ross Peavey and Joseph Olivarez

3. So don’t drink from a broken bottle don’t you
stay, not follow.
Oh you can feel there’s no heaven where you go.
But you won’t find it here below.
God will life you up, will life you up.

4. Do not let yourself be swallowed up drink
from you savior’s cup.
No one’s death has stopped the world from
turning.
Find that home you have been yearning.
God will lift you up, will lift you up.

2. Chorale and Bass Recitative – Mr. Wall

Was helfen uns die schweren Sorgen?
 Sie drücken nur das Herz mit Zentnerpein,
 mit tausend Angst und Schmerz.
 Was hilft uns unser Weh und Ach?
 Es bringt nur bittres Ungemach.
 Was hilft es, daß wir alle Morgen mit Seufzen
 von dem Schlaf aufstehn und mit betränntem
 Angesicht des Nachts zu Bette gehn?
 Wir machen unser Kreuz und Leid
 Durch bange Traurigkeit nur größer.
 Drum tut ein Christ viel besser,
 Er trägt sein Kreuz mit christlicher
 Gelassenheit.

What help to us are grievous worries?
 They only oppress the heart with heavy
 worries, with a thousand anxieties and pain.
 What help to us are our sighs?
 They bring only bitter distress.
 What does it help to rise from sleep every
 morning with sighs, and to go to bed at night
 with tear-stained face?
 We only make our cross and grief
 greater through anxious sadness.
 Therefore, a Christian fares much better;
 he bears his cross with Christ-like calm.

3. Tenor Aria – Mr. Ragsdale

Man halte nur ein wenig stille,
 Wenn sich die Kreuzesstunde naht,
 Denn unsres Gottes Gnadenwille
 Verläßt uns nie mit Rat und Tat.
 Gott, der die Ausgewählten kennt,
 Gott, der sich uns ein Vater nennt,
 Wird endlich allen Kummer wenden
 Und seinen Kindern Hilfe senden.

Just be quiet
 when the hour of the cross draws near,
 for our God's mercy
 does not leave us without advice and help.
 God who knows the elected,
 God who calls himself our father,
 will eventually banish all sorrows
 and send salvation to His children.

HYMN SINGING

“How to Live My Life”

1. Lord in spite of schedules, plans and dreams
 Life keeps coming at me constantly.
 You placed these servants in your holy word
 To show me how to live my life, Lord.

2. Esther was the Queen of Courage
 She stood in the palace of the King.
 She hoped that her people would be set free.
 A woman of fearless faith
 Lord, help me live my life that way.

Cheyenne Patterson and Elizabeth Brewer

3. Daniel was the man who knew dreams
 Always giving Jehovah glory
 He turned toward Zion praying everyday.
 A servant of selfless love
 Lord, help me live my life that way.

Refrain:
 These remarkable people
 taught me how to live.
 If I follow their example,
 I'll see heaven at the end.

4. Aria, Soprano/Alto Duet – Ms.
 Marc
 Er kennt die rechten Freudesstunden,
 Er weiß wohl, wenn es nützlich sei;
 Wenn er uns nur hat treu erfunden
 Und merket keine Heuchelei,
 So kömmt Gott, eh wir uns versehn,
 Und läset uns viel Guts geschehn.

ado and Ms. Wade
 He knows the proper time for joy,
 He knows when it is useful;
 If He has found us faithful
 and does not notice any hypocrisy,
 He comes to us before we know,
 and lets good things happen to us.

Stand

HYMN SINGING
“In the Silent Beauty”

Melissa Castillo and Andrew Jaegle

1. I stand in the shadow of heaven,
A cold gush burns my cheek;
The darkness overcomes me,
In all this beauty, I feel so weak.

Refrain:
Where is He when I'm weak?
Where is He when the world disappears?
Where is He within this void?

2. The light of the stars breaks the silence.
My anxious heart's made still.
He parts the clouds of my night;
The moon shines a light upon my path.

Refrain:
Where is He in the midst of the chaos?
Where is He in the call of the storm?
Where is He in the thrall of the darkness?
Where is He when I'm alone?

3. A strong wind nudges me forward,
The fear that consumes me blows away;
The path shines so much clearer now,
The light of dawn proclaims the day.

Refrain:
You are the dawn of my new day.
You are the rock that holds me up.
You are the warmth that engulfs me,
You are my joy; Lord, you are my hope.

Stand

HYMN SINGING
“God is Love”

Alison Pittman and Shannon Gallion

1. God is love,
A love from above.
God is light,
A light giving sight.

2. God is kind,
So kind to mankind.
God is meek,
So meek to the weak.

3. God is life,
A life void of strife.
God is song,
A song whom all long.

4. God is here,
So hear Him, no fear.
God is near,
So near can't you hear?

Refrain:
He love me,
He love me,
My Father in Heaven.
What I should do
Is say I love You,
To my Father, My Friend.

5. Chorale and Tenor Recitative – Mr. Ragsdale

Denk nicht in deiner Drangsalhitze,
 Wenn Blitz und Donner kracht
 Und dir ein schwüles Wetter bange macht,
 Daß du von Gott verlassen seist.
 Gott bleibt auch in der größten Not,
 Ja gar bis in den Tod
 Mit seiner Gnade bei den Seinen.
 Du darfst nicht meinen,
 Daß dieser Gott im Schoße sitze,
 Der täglich wie der reiche Mann,
 In Lust und Freuden leben kann.
 Der sich mit stetem Glücke speist,
 Bei lauter guten Tagen,
 Muß oft zuletzt,
 Nachdem er sich an eitler Lust ergötzt,
 "Der Tod in Töpfen" sagen.
 Die Folgezeit verändert viel!
 Hat Petrus gleich die ganze Nacht
 Mit leerer Arbeit zugebracht
 Und nichts gefangen:
 Auf Jesu Wort kann er noch einen Zug erlangen.
 Drum traue nur in Armut,
 Kreuz und Pein
 Auf deines Jesu Güte
 Mit gläubigem Gemüte;
 Nach Regen gibt er Sonnenschein
 Und setzt jeglichem sein Ziel.

Do not think in your time of hardship,
 when lightning and thunder crack
 and heavy weather makes you afraid,
 that you have been forsaken by God.
 God remains in the greatest need,
 yes, even in death,
 with mercy among his people.
 You should not think
 that this God just lives
 like a rich man who every day
 indulges in pleasure and joy.
 Whoever seeks constant pleasure,
 with nothing but good days,
 in the end,
 after he has indulged in vain pleasure,
 must often say "Death is in the pots!"
 The course of time changes much!
 Peter once spent the whole night
 in vain
 and did not catch anything:
 At Jesus' word he eventually obtains a shoal.
 Therefore, when you feel poor,
 when you suffer and are in pain,
 trust in the goodness of Jesus
 with a believing spirit.
 After rain he gives sunshine
 and sets everyone his goal.

6. Soprano Aria – Ms. S. Lynn

Ich will auf den Herren schauen
 Und stets meinem Gott vertraun.
 Er ist der rechte Wundermann.
 Der die Reichen arm und bloß
 Und die Armen reich und groß
 Nach seinem Willen machen kann.

I will look to the Lord
 and always trust my God.
 He is the true miracle worker.
 He can make the rich poor and naked,
 and the poor rich and great,
 according to His will.

HYMN SINGING

"Praise to the Lamb"

1. The Lamb of God came to this Earth.
 His love did touch the hearts of men.
 He bore the cross He took our pain
 and by His stripes we're freed from sin.

2. That God would send His Son to die,
 this is the honest truth of love.
 That we might have eternal life
 and live fore'er with him above.

Stephanie Faglie and Fred Grigg

3. By Him all men have seen the light
 that leads us down the narrow way.
 Where once was darkness, sin, and shame,
 the Son will rise on a new day.

Refrain:

Praise to the Lamb who bled and died
 Gory to Him be magnified.
 To He who reigns to Him we sing.
 Praise to the Lamb, Jesus our King.

Sit

Cantata: *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*, BWV 93

J. S. Bach

7. Chorale

Sing, bet und geh auf Gottes Wegen,
Verricht das Deine nur getreu
Und trau des Himmels reichem Segen,
So wird er bei dir werden neu;
Denn welcher seine Zuversicht
Auf Gott setzt, den verläßt er nicht.

Sing, pray, and go on God's way;
do your things faithfully
and trust in the rich blessing from heaven,
then He will be with you anew;
For whoever places all confidence in Him
God does not abandon.

Stand

HYMN SINGING

“Breath of Praise”

Belle Palmer and Kristen Griffes

1. You are eternal just and true.
You keep the rain and winter snow.
How can I lift a song to You
from Your Creation far below?

3. Your strength renews me all day long.
You give new hope, new life to breathe.
May You hear now the joyful song
that Your salvation gives to me.

2. The rocks have voice to give you praise.
They speak to You of one accord.
How can I raise through my own ways
such exaltation to You Lord?

Refrain:
We softly praise with harp and lyre.
We loudly praise with cymbals raised!
Our souls resound the strings' desire
throughout creation, breath of praise.

Sit

Motet: *Ite in universum mundum*

Hans Leo Hassler
(1564–1612)

Ite in universum mundum, et praedicate
Evangelium omni creaturae; qui crediderit et
baptizatus fuerit, salvus erit. Alleluia.

Go therefore into all the world, and preach the
Gospel to all creatures; whoever believes and
is baptized, shall be saved. Alleluia.

Sit

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Fugue from **Prelude and Fugue in A Minor**, BWV 543

J. S. Bach

Please thank the generous donors who made this concert possible:

The Texas A&M Academy of Visual and Performing Arts
The Arts Council of the Brazos Valley & The American Guild of Organists, Brazos Valley
The Texas A&M Department of Performance Studies

BACH CHOIR

Soprano
Camille Belcher
Elizabeth Kragas
Sharlu Melville
Virginia Mercado
Dereth Phillips

Alto
Kimberly Graham
Elaine Lynn
Sarah Lynn
Kathy Moore
Liz Wade

Tenor
Roy Johnson
Myron Karner
Ray Pledger
Jeffrey Ragsdale

Bass
Eric Drake
Eduardo Lopez de Casas
Pete Reinthaler
Jim Stovall
Sampy Wall
Joe White

BACH ORCHESTRA

Violin I
Jane Kimmis

Viola
Carter Crawford

Oboe 1
Julie Jacobs

Archlute
Scott Horton

Violin II
Agnes Simkens

Cello
Peter Kempter

Oboe 2
Valerie Gudell

Organ
Paul Meier

Double Bass
Christopher Burns

Bassoon
Paige Edwards

Guest Director Leon Couch

Music Director Robert Lynn

Contractor Julie Jacobs

Organist/Pianist (Hymns) Bonnie Harris-Reynolds

Upcoming Bach Society Events

Sundays, 5:00 p.m.; no admission charge

MAY 16 - BACH VESPERS

Bach Choir and Orchestra, Dale Voelker, Guest Director

Includes J. S. Bach: Cantata 137, *Lobe den Herren*

at

Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston, TX

3323 Rice Boulevard • Houston, TX 77002

Christ the King Lutheran Church

BACH SOCIETY



PROGRAM NOTES

by the

Composers and Authors

“Lord, truly You are good to all” by Sarah Frederick and Sarah Perry

Our hymn is based on Psalm 73, which we chose because it is a sincere expression that is near to our hearts. Following the Hebrew pattern, this hymn has a thesis that declares the goodness of our holy God. The antithesis reveals our human nature to fall away from the Lord and seek earthly ways, as well as to question if our efforts to please God are really worth it. We realize in our synthesis, however, that He alone is all that we need to be satisfied in life; that His love is better than anything the world has to offer. The words of this hymn hold a deep significance for us because these thoughts and struggles are things we have encountered. We want to praise God for His faithfulness and love. We also came up with a tune that we feel is easy to sing and remember. Creating it has been a lot of fun, and we hope you enjoy it too!

“Love Your Enemies” by Debbie Pfunter and Lindsey Lyon

The first stanza explores Old Testament attitudes about vengeance before there was the New Testament of grace and forgiveness, which was fulfilled by Christ. The second stanza teaches this new covenant of grace and forgiveness, which is exemplified by Christ’s words, “Love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44). The final stanza shows the believer’s need to still feel protected by God from his or her enemies, and that he or she is willing to try God’s way, the way of the new covenant. The believer asks God to guide him/her with the Holy Spirit and example of goodness. The stanzas follow the Hebrew pattern of thesis, antithesis and synthesis. The final stanza is a synthesis of two competing scriptural viewpoints, which ends the debate when the believer wants to be forgiving like God, rather than standing on self-righteousness. The tune is in the folk tradition of American shape-note hymns. This style of hymn is typically sung without instrumental accompaniment and is usually sung in four-part harmony with a designated person to lead the singing. The tenor voice carries the melody line (below), which is a distinctive feature of shape-note singing. Shape-note melodies tend to be simple in order to have the focus of the hymn on the words. In “Love Your Enemies,” the rhythm and harmonies imitate the characteristic folk harmonies, melodies, and rhythms found in shape-note singing.

“In the silent Beauty” by Melissa Castillo and Drew Jaegle

How simple it is to see God and feel His presence when everything in our life seems to be going well. Even easier, unfortunately, is the ability to lose sight of Him when the obstacles of life throw us off our course. If we but look around, we will recognize that God surrounds us, never abandoning His flock. He exists among the very nature He has created for us. There is no

need for spoken words when God can speak directly to the heart in a language it can understand – the language of feelings evoked by His wonders. We need not ask Him where He is; we simply need to open the eyes of our heart to see that He is always with us. Inspired by these facts, our hymn text hopes to ignite a renewed faith that God will never desert His children. The music reinforces the struggle of losing sight of God and the ultimate realization that He lives *In the Silent Beauty*.

“Praise to the Lamb” Stephanie Faglie and Fred Grigg

“Praise to the Lamb” was composed using musical and textual characteristics of the Gospel hymn. The Gospel hymn came from the American folk tradition and developed fully during the late nineteenth century. The harmonic movement is stereotypically simple, using the primary chords I, IV, and V⁷. One also finds numerous static repeated chords. Another characteristic of the gospel hymn is the use of a refrain. The refrain has designated parts for the tenors and basses that employ syncopated rhythms. The text of the hymn is lively, joyful, and expressive and ends in a traditional gospel “Amen.” This simply worded poem expresses little theology. Using our knowledge and personal appreciation of the Gospel style hymn, we have created “Praise to the Lamb.”

“Breath of Praise” by Belle Palmer and Kristen Griffes

This song imitates today’s contemporary praise worship styles. It is inspired by four texts in particular. The first stanza resembles thoughts found in the concluding chapters of Job. The remaining stanzas are all inspired by praises found throughout the Psalms: Psalm 19, Psalm 51, and the final chapter, Psalm 150. The outlining of these specific thoughts is a reflection of the magnificent ways in which the surrounding Creation gives praise to God and how we, as humans, search for meaningful ways of praising God. The first two stanzas develop the idea of Creation having its own voice to praise God. The third stanza, inspired by writings in Psalm 51, presents the realization of the connection that can exist between God and humans through His salvation. Finally, the refrain is a voice that gives both answer to the singers’ concern and suggestions for the forms of worship unique to human beings, the worship found in instrumental music. The combination of the praises found in Creation and throughout our lives gives off the sweet breath of praise that is commanded in the concluding verse of Psalm 150 which reads, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”