

Choral Reviews

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BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING

We See That Men Do Ever, Jacques Arcadelt (1505-1560), SSA unaccompanied, OCT 2294, 30c (M-).

This piece is one from a new collection called "Renaissance Choral Series" edited by Don Malin. There are many short secular compositions in the set, and all are for women's voices. Other composers include Jacques Regnart, Gregor Lange and Leonhard Lechner and all have English translations as well as the original language. Each work is published separately. The Arcadelt composition reveals the original text; during the nineteenth century the music to this chanson had been adapted to an Ave Maria. This entire collection will be appreciated by those conductors seeking good music for women's voices.

I carry your heart, David Mathew, SATB unaccompanied, MC 4621, 40c, (M plus).

Mathew is a fine young composer who writes in both traditional and electronic styles. This setting of the poetry of e. e. cummings is mildly dissonant and quite charming. It would be especially useful with small madrigal and chamber groups

seeking twentieth-century repertoire.

Three Kings Are Here, J. Adrian Verkouteren, unison and piano, CMR 3315, 30c (E).

This is a delightful setting of an Epiphany Carol. The meters rapidly shift from measure to measure; there are three verses. Highly recommended for children's choir.

Lord of All Being, Throned Afar, David A. Wehr, SATB with youth choir and handbells, GHCS 21, 30c (M).

This piece is in 5/4 with one theme used throughout in a series of variations. The choral parts are not difficult and a soloist could be substituted for the youth choir. Thirty different handbells are employed. It is a worthy addition to the limited repertoire for churches with handbell choirs.

Alleluia — 1973, Edward Diemente, SAB with electronic tape, GCCS 22, 30c, electronic tape \$5.95 (M-).

Although the performance time is 6'15", the amount of actual music for the three-part chorus is small; some is in unison. It is designed for those church choirs and junior high groups who want to perform electronic music but do not have advanced musicians within the group. The vocal parts are very easy and have limited ranges. The work is quite calm and employs fermatas at the end of sections to accommodate the tape. The choral score includes pitch notation of the electronic tape sounds. Recommended to those groups who have felt electronic music was too difficult for their choir.

Born Anew This Day, Joseph Roff, 2 equal or mixed voices with keyboard, FEC 10119, 30c (E).

There are three verses in this Baptism anthem. The first and third verses are predominantly unison with the third modulating up a half step. The piece is charming and simple enough for a youth choir.

Angelus ad Virginem, arr. Philip Moore, SATB with organ, CMR 3304, 30c (M-).

This Christmas Carol is an arrangement of a fourteenth-century English melody. There are five verses with the second and fourth set for unaccompanied choir. The organ accompaniment is simple as is the music for the voices.

—Peter Bagley

THEODORE PRESSER COMPANY

What Are Those Bells? Arranged by Olive Nelson Russell, SATB, handbells, guitar, organ, Gentry 247, 40c, (E).

A buoyant setting of an old English carol treated as two-part writing. Verse one is sung unisonally while verse two

is treated antiphonally. The final verse utilizes imitation. A pleasant melody, simple rhythms, and traditional harmonies makes this a good Christmas anthem for junior, senior high and church youth choirs. Handbell and guitar parts are included in the vocal score.

Sleep, Holy Child, Fred Bock, junior choir, SATB, keyboard, Gentry 274, 40c, (E).

An easy but palatable lullaby for Yuletide season, written in a chordal style with traditional harmonies. The junior choir melody could be given to a solo voice. Recommended for junior, senior high and church youth choirs. If you like Bock's numbers, then you should also peruse another recent Christmas anthem entitled **Never Quite the Same**, Gentry 260, SATB, keyboard, 50c, (E). Recommended for senior high and church youth choirs.

Three Laments, Lothar Klein, SATB, 312-41048, 40c, (M).

Three brief contemplative works on texts from Robert Payne's "The White Pony." These expressive pieces are homophonic, rhythmically simple, and clothed in mildly dissonant harmonies. Recommended for high school and college chamber choirs.

The Door, David Peninger and William Treadwell, 4 solo voices, SAB, piano, 412-41058, \$1.95, (E).

A relatively simple drama which seeks to explore whether Christians have meaning in their lives. The work is divided into six movements and an opening piano prelude. It utilizes dialogue and congregational involvement in this contemporary harmonic setting. The chorus parts duplicate three of the four solo voice lines in the drama. Suggestions for staging is also included. Duration, 35 minutes. Recommended for church youth or adult choirs who wish to experience another dimension in Sunday morning worship.

I've Got Jesus in My Heart, Ron Harris, SATB, piano, Gentry 252, 45c, (E).

A spiritual-like number with a good text, easy syncopated rhythms, close traditional harmonies and a pleasing melody. Should capture the interest of young singers. Recommended for junior, senior high and church youth choirs.

Now in a Manger Sleeping, Edited and arranged by Robert Field, SA, piano, 312-41041, 35c, (E).

Textural variety sustains interest in this repetitive setting of an old Italian carol. The vocal ranges lie well within the appropriate span for young singers as they move in conductus style. Recommended for elementary, junior high and church children's choirs.

Three Walter Ehret arrangements of French, Polish and Spanish carols are offered by the publisher. All are easy, pleasant, tonal and move in a homophonic manner. The French carol is **As Joseph Was A-Walking**, SA, piano, optional flute, 312-41042, 35c, (E). The addition of the flute part will enhance the effectiveness of the anthem. From Poland comes **Be Merry, Ye People**, SATB, keyboard, Gentry 245, 40c, (E). An SSA, keyboard arrangement of the Spanish carol is entitled **In The Midnight Heavens**, Gentry 246, 40c, (E). All are recommended for junior high and church youth choirs.

Creator of the Stars of Night, Arranged by Jean Pasquet, SA, keyboard, Elkan-Vogel 362-03170, 30c, (E).

Easy setting of the beautiful Sarum Plainsong Conditor Alme. The voices move homophonically within tonal harmonies. No problems. Recommended for

1974 New Choral

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