

Reviews of Hymn-Based Organ Publications

Wayne L. Wold

All prices are in U. S. dollars.

Ashdown, Franklin D. **Glory of the Easter Feast: Organ Settings for the Season.** Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-9407-5. \$20.00.

Opening the volume is “An Easter Triptych,” a seven-page work in three sections that begins *mistico* and builds from soft to full organ. The famous EASTER HYMN is heard in the final section. Also included are settings of the Tanzanian MFURAHANI, HALELUYA, the 16th century chorale CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN, TURNBULL, WOODLANDS, a sortie on SALVE FESTA DIES, a partita on NOËL NOUVELET, and a non-hymn-based piece “Glory of the Easter Feast” by Ashdown. Medium difficulty.

Biery, James. **The Paschal Lamb: Easter Settings for Organ.** Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-9409-9. \$18.00.

Biery’s works are always well-crafted and effective, and this volume is no exception. Standing out in this volume is his exciting setting of Luis Bojo’s tune SANTO DOMINGO, to which is sung the exciting Easter hymn “¡Aleluya! Cristo resucitó/Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen.” Other tunes include the Tanzanian traditional tune MFURAHINI, HALELUYA, plus RAABE, NELSON, PROMISE, CARDINAL, MY NEIGHBOR, and KINGDOM. Medium difficulty.

Callahan, Charles. **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross: Ten Preludes and Postludes for Lent, Easter, and General Use.** MorningStar Music, MSM-10-334. \$18.00.

The title says it all—this collection is a mixture of pieces on various tunes in varying styles for various uses within the worship service. Especially effective are Callahan’s “Fanfare on Thine Is the Glory” (JUDAS MACCABEUS) and the title work, using the tune ROCKINGHAM OLD. Easy to medium difficulty.

Cherwien, David M. **Good Friday Reflections: Organ Meditations on Stations of the Cross.** MorningStar Music, MSM-10-365. \$18.00.

Cherwien’s composition includes interpretations of nine of the traditional Good Friday stations plus one. Each movement incorporates an appropriate hymn tune, using language that is often chromatic and dissonant. The selections may be used separately or all together, either in concert or liturgical settings. Also included are readings, responses, and prayers created by Susan Palo Cherwien and an order of service that may be printed out for congregational use. Medium difficulty.

Diemer, Emma Lou. **Glory, Laud, and Honor.** Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-9406-8. \$18.00.

This volume contains seven hymn settings, all in Diemer’s always-fresh style. Especially notable is the title piece, a setting of VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, with its driving rhythm and

crashing chords. Other tunes include MAUNDY THURSDAY (a tune by Diemer), MIDDLEBURY, NOËL NOUVELET, VÅRVINDAR FRISKA, HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN (PASSION CHORALE), and VRUECHTEN. Medium difficulty.

Owens, Rebecca Kleintop. **Were You There: Three Organ Pieces for Lent.** MorningStar Music, MSM-10-385. \$12.00.

A rather easy but effective “Adagio” on WERE YOU THERE opens the collection. The second piece is a more demanding “Toccata on Go to Dark Gethsemane,” using the Moravian tune LATROBE. The final work, entitled “Wondrous Love,” features both the *Southern Harmony* tune of that name plus Lowell Mason’s HAMBURG, most often paired with the text “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” Kleintop’s setting begins quietly and mysteriously and ends broadly with full organ.

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