

Reviews on Hymn-Based Compositions

Joshua Brodbeck

New Music

Three Organ Preludes on Psalm Tunes

Robert J. Powell. Paraclete Press, PPM01554, 2015. \$11.25 US.

The three psalm tunes in this collection (MARTYRS, DUNDEE and LONDON NEW) come from the *Scottish Psalter*. The first prelude is based on MARTYRS and is a theme with three variations. All three variations are very different, and will show off the different colors of your instrument. The last two variations on DUNDEE and LONDON NEW are majestic and will display the full resources of your instrument as well as your pedal technique. All three preludes are of medium difficulty and should be easily accessible to most players.

Come Gather and Worship

Mark Hayes. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, G-8793, 2014. ISBN 785147879367. \$25.00 US.

Mark Hayes has composed some great arrangements of GIA hymns from the 1980s and 90s. The ten piano solos are of medium difficulty and most can be very effective as a prelude or a postlude. Some hymn tunes included in this collection are: ALL ARE WELCOME, TASTE AND SEE, THE SUMMONS, and WE ARE CALLED. The other benefit to this collection is the arrangements are in the keys in which you traditionally sing the hymn! These pieces show Mark's signature style of different chords and flourishes for the right hand.

One of My "Old" Favorites

Meditation on "Down Ampney"

Arr. C. Griffith Bratt. Paraclete Press, PPM01546, 2015. \$7.50 US.

DOWN AMPNEY is one of my favorite hymn tunes, with its commanding rhythm and wonderful chord progressions. This meditation is a very refreshing idea on this popular hymn tune. The piece is written in 12/8, which gives the player a feeling of a slow jig. Bratt's arrangement is of moderate difficulty, but will require agile feet and plenty of finger substitutions to keep the accompaniment *legato*. I foresee this piece to be used a lot on Sundays when this tune is sung!

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