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## Recital Program Notes

Catherine Chambers

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## Little Innocent Lamb by Stacey Gibbs

Stacey V. Gibbs is a living composer who is most well-known for his spiritual compositions. His pieces have been performed by famous choirs from all over the world including but not limited to; The St. Olaf Choir, The King Singers, the United States Air Force Sergeants, and highly accredited choral universities like Michigan State and Millikin University. Stacey Gibbs' music was even performed at Barack Obama's presidential inauguration.<sup>1</sup> He has over 80 publications circulating in multiple different arrangements.

Aside from composition, Stacey Gibbs is very active in the choral music world. He has served as a clinician around the world. In 2016 the Stacey V. Gibbs Chorale was founded. Stacey Gibbs holds membership with the American Choral Directors Association.<sup>2</sup>

Stacey Gibbs composed *Little Innocent Lamb* in 2019 with its publication following in 2020. This spiritual is noted for its “big choral”<sup>3</sup> with playful and exciting melodies that Gibbs is well-known for. This piece was composed to honor Sam Hagan for his years of artistry and service to the *Atlanta Master Chorale* and performed under the direction of Eric Nelson.

This piece premiered in 2019 and in 2020 the global pandemic hit. This piece was published during the pandemic. During the pandemic, the *Atlanta Master Chorale* did their best, much like other choirs, to continue to bring the arts to the world in every way we could through virtual performances.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Stacey V. Gibbs”, accessed June 23, 2022, <https://www.ecspublishing.com/composers/g/stacey-v-gibbs.html>

<sup>2</sup> “Stacey V. Gibbs Biography”, accessed June 23, 2022, <https://www.singers.com/bio/7276>

<sup>3</sup> “Little Innocent Lamb”, accessed June 26, 2022 <https://www.morningstarmusic.com/little-innocent-lamb-gibbs.html>

<sup>4</sup> “Our History”, accessed June 26, 2022 <https://www.atlantamasterchorale.org/about-us>

## Jubilate Deo: Omnis Terra by Dan Forrest

Dan Forrest (1978-present) is a modern choral composer. Forrest composes in an array of styles from choral music to major works for choir and orchestra or solo music for instruments. His music is successfully recorded by professional groups such as VOCES8 and often performed in well-known venues such as Carnegie Hall. As a chair member of ACDA's Composition Initiative Committee, Forrest often guides fellow composers. His compositions gain much success around the world.

Aside from being an accomplished composer, Dan Forrest is heavily involved in the working music community. Starting as a department head for music in higher education, he has gone on to do more in the field. He keeps a full-time schedule of balancing residencies with universities as a teacher, workshopping, commissioning, and working with churches and communities. Dan Forest is highly accredited with a master's in piano performance as well as a doctorate in composition from the University of Kansas.

Dan Forrest is a present-day composer writing in an array of styles from choral works to solo instrumental works and major choral works. *Jubilate Deo* is one of Dan Forrest's major works. This piece was commissioned for Henry Leck. It was commissioned for his final concert as the artistic director by the Indianapolis Children's Choir in 2016.

It is written in seven different languages surrounding Psalm 100's text "O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands".<sup>5</sup> Each language presented in this major work stylistically reflects the music of the culture that each language is representing. In a time when the world is in a constant battle with one another and there are opinions floating and heads butting, it is beautiful for Dan Forrest to compose such meaningful text in an inclusive way.

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<sup>5</sup> "Jubilate Deo", accessed June 23, 2022, <https://danforrest.com/music-catalog/jubilate-deo/>

## Requiem: Lux Aeterna by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was an Austrian composer born into a family of music. His father was Leopold Mozart who was a violinist and working musician. In his short lifetime of 35 years, Mozart wrote in an array of art forms and excelled in everyone.<sup>6</sup> He successfully composed operas, choral music, sacred music as well as orchestral music. Mozart picked up music quickly and began composing at the young age of 4. Mozart's style was the most prominent style of the Classical Era, known as the peak of Viennese Classicism.<sup>7</sup> His sound was rooted in Italian opera, as well as influences from Austrian and German music. It was explained this way due to "its melodic beauty, its formal elegance and its richness of harmony and texture".<sup>8</sup> Mozart's pieces continue to be performed around the world today solidifying the eternal beauty of his music.

Mozart lived his life working as a court musician through different families. He was often commissioned to create works. At the time of his commission to compose this Requiem from Count Walsegg-Stuppach for his late wife, Mozart was already composing and finishing the famous opera's *Die Zauberflöte* and *La Clemenza di Tito*. Though the identity of his commissioner was not revealed to him, it was believed that Mozart was aware of who it was. After a long and confusing recovery of Mozart's Requiem, it was published after his death and he struggled with his declining health through its composition. He died in December of 1791,

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<sup>6</sup> Eisen, Cliff, and Stanley Sadie. "Mozart, (Johann Chrysostom) Wolfgang Amadeus." Grove Music Online. 2001; Accessed 22 Jun. 2022.  
<https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.0001/omo-9781561592630-e-6002278233>.

<sup>7</sup> Eisen, Cliff, and Stanley Sadie. "Mozart, (Johann Chrysostom) Wolfgang Amadeus." Grove Music Online. 2001; Accessed 22 Jun. 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Eisen, Cliff, and Stanley Sadie. "Mozart, (Johann Chrysostom) Wolfgang Amadeus." Grove Music Online. 2001; Accessed 23 Jun. 2022.

before finishing the composition, while he was in good spirits before the start of this commission in October.<sup>9</sup>

Mozart's Requiem was commissioned in 1791, the same year of Mozart's death, by Count Walsegg-Stuppach for his late wife.<sup>10</sup> Mozart passed while composing this Requiem, therefore; the finished product is not just a composition of Mozart. It was finished by fellow Austrian composer Franz Xaver Süssmayr. The Requiem is a Roman Catholic mass for the dead. The text is derived from the original chant and composed in a specific order. The order is Introit, Kyrie, Sequence, Offertory, Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei, and Communion.<sup>11</sup> Church music was booming as well as secular art forms such as operas in the late 1700s.

There is a tricky story following the publication of Mozart's Requiem. Mozart passed with *Lacrimosa* left to complete as well as the rest of the score which includes the *Lux Aeterna*, which was taken over by Süssmayr. The mystery commission of the piece as well as recovering the manuscript after a long disappearance was disputed by many European composers.<sup>12</sup> It is still disputed today. composer Franz Xaver Süssmayr. The Requiem is a Roman Catholic mass for the dead. The text is derived from the original chant and composed in a specific order. The order is Introit, Kyrie, Sequence, Offertory, Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei, and Communion. Church music was booming as well as secular art forms such as operas in the late 1700s.

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<sup>9</sup> Eisen, Cliff, and Stanley Sadie. "Mozart, (Johann Chrysostom) Wolfgang Amadeus." Grove Music Online. 2001; Accessed 22 Jun. 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Eisen, Cliff, and Stanley Sadie. "Mozart, (Johann Chrysostom) Wolfgang Amadeus." Grove Music Online. 2001; Accessed 22 Jun. 2022.  
<https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.0001/omo-9781561592630-e-6002278233>.

<sup>11</sup> Karp, Theodore, Fabrice Fitch, and Basil Smallman. "Requiem Mass." Grove Music Online. 2001; Accessed 22 Jun. 2022.  
<https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.0001/omo-9781561592630-e-0000043221>.

<sup>12</sup> William Pole. "The Story of Mozart's Requiem." *The Musical Times and Singing Class Circular* 14, no. 314 (1869): 39–41. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3353988>.

There is a tricky story following the publication of Mozart's Requiem. Mozart passed with *Lacrimosa* left to complete as well as the rest of the score which includes the *Lux Aeterna*, which was taken over by Süssmayr. The mystery commission of the piece as well as recovering the manuscript after a long disappearance was disputed by many European composers. It is still disputed today.

## Shenandoah by Mack Wilberg

Mack Wilberg (1955-present) is a living composer, arranger, and clinician. His music is highly performed and recorded around the world. He is the son of a miner and a teacher. His father tragically lost his life in a mining accident and his family sold their mine.<sup>13</sup> Wilberd went on to study piano and clarinet and after high school decided to dive into his musical studies further.

He is currently the music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in Salt Lake City, Utah at Temple Square. He was appointed to this position in 2008 after serving as the associate director since 1999.<sup>14</sup> He received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University and received master's and doctoral degrees from the University of South Carolina. His music is exclusively published through the Oxford University Press.<sup>15</sup>

Mack Wilberg's Shenandoah is a remake of a classic American folk song. This was published by the Oxford University Press in 2004. This arrangement is scored for 4 hand piano, orchestra, and SATB choir. This piece beautifully embellishes the words of this folk song. "From the gentle unison opening, the music builds up through a range of textures and harmonies to a rich climax, before gently relaxing for a quietly evocative close."<sup>16</sup> The running piano allows us to sense the river and the choral harmonies set our scene of this beautiful scenery.

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<sup>13</sup> Mack Wilberg", accessed March 23, 2023, <https://musicalics.com/en/composer/Mack-Wilberg>

<sup>14</sup> "Mack Wilberg", accessed March 23, 2023, <https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org/about/choir/bios/mack-wilberg.html>

<sup>15</sup> "Mack Wilberg", accessed March 23, 2023, <https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org/about/choir/bios/mack-wilberg.html>

<sup>16</sup> "Shenandoah", accessed March 23, 2023, <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/shenandoah-9780193868205?cc=us&lang=en&>

## If Ye Love Me by Thomas Tallis

Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585) is one of the most notable early composers of English sacred music. Information of Tallis' musical upbringing is missing. In 1532 he became the organist of Benedictine Priory. Tallis continued to travel through churches as organist, composer, and singer until landing his job with the King serving as a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal in 1543. Here he continued his composing, choral work, and organ playing. Tallis, with his pupil William Byrd, became the most well-known for music printing in England. Details of Thomas Tallis himself are also vaguely presented in studies so not much is known of who Tallis was as a person. The following is inferred:

The last two lines of his epitaph [are] - "As he did live, so also did he die, in mild and quiet sort (O happy man!); To God full oft for mercy did he cry, wherefore he lives, let death do what it can." - allude to a quiet, pious man, but little else.<sup>17</sup>

Thomas Tallis was writing in an unsettled religious system in his service at the Chapel Royal. Tallis worked under four different monarchs with varying religious beliefs. King Edward VI required all services to be done in English and Tallis was one of the first composers to make this happen.<sup>18</sup> If Ye Love Me is an aftermath of this rule, published in 1560, and is a beautiful setting of an English anthem. This setting of the text from KJV John 14: 15-17 was originally scored for AATB acapella.<sup>19</sup> The homophonic start creates a statement as to what the text is presenting. As the first line finished we are presented with polyphonic movement and the text "and I shall pray the father". Tallis uses text painting to create the sensation of continuous prayer starting the text at different times in each voice. We flow back and forth between homophony and polyphony to end the piece at a resolve on the word "truth" after experiencing polyphonic movement in the text "the spirit of truth".

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<sup>17</sup> "Thomas Tallis - a short Biography", accessed March 30, 2023, <http://www.medieval.org/emfaq/composers/tallis.html>

<sup>18</sup> "If ye love me : Thomas Tallis", accessed March 30, 2023, [pameladellal.com/notes\\_translations/notes\\_motets/n\\_tallis\\_if\\_je\\_love\\_me.htm](http://pameladellal.com/notes_translations/notes_motets/n_tallis_if_je_love_me.htm)

<sup>19</sup> "If ye love me (Thomas Tallis)", accessed March 30, 2023, [https://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/If\\_je\\_love\\_me\\_\(Thomas\\_Tallis\)](https://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/If_je_love_me_(Thomas_Tallis))



## Light of a Clear Blue Morning by Craig Hella Johnson

Craig Hella Johnson (1962-present) is an active composer, arranger, conductor, and educator. Johnson studied at many accredited schools such as St. Olaf College, Juilliard, and the University of Illinois, and finished his studies with a doctorate from Yale. He is a current professor at Texas State University where he started working in 2016 as Artist in Residence. Craig Hella Johnson is known for his beautiful work as an arranger and composer, his music is seen as a “musical journey(s) that create(s) deep connections between performers and listeners.”<sup>20</sup>

Johnson is the founding artistic director of the well-known, grammy-award-winning choir, Conspirare. They were awarded the Grammy in 2015 for best choral performance for *The Sacred Spirit of Russia*.<sup>21</sup> One of Conspirare and Craig Hella Johnson’s most notable works is *Considering Matthew Sheppard*. This choral work is a half-staged oratorio following the tragic life of a young gay man who was murdered in Wyoming in 1992. The Matthew Shepard Foundation awarded Craig Hella Johnson in 2021 for Community Leadership.<sup>22</sup>

Craig Hella Johnson often combines popular music with choral music. In his piece Light of a Clear Blue Morning, he arranged this famous piece originally released by Dolly Parton in 1977. This arrangement is SATB with a soprano solo continuing throughout the piece.<sup>23</sup> This piece examples Craig Hella Johnson’s ability to create a musical journey. The piece begins with a simple choral accompaniment to the soloist who is expressing their trials and the better days that are to come. The choir later repeats this text in a rich homophonic texture which is followed by a cacophony of musical textures broken up into 8 parts to create a sense of beauty in chaos. The piece is concluded with slow, quiet chords and the soloist finishing the text “I can see the light blue morning”.

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<sup>20</sup> “Craig Hella Johnson”, accessed March 30, 2023, <https://www.conspirare.org/people/craig-hella-johnson/>

<sup>21</sup> “Craig Hella Johnson, Music Director”, accessed March 30, 2023, <http://www.vaecinci.com/craig-hella-johnson-music-director/>

<sup>22</sup> “Craig Hella Johnson”, accessed March 30, 2023, <https://www.conspirare.org/people/craig-hella-johnson/>

<sup>23</sup> “Craig Hella Johnson- light of a clear blue morning”, accessed March 30, 2023, [https://www.singers.com/folio/Craig\\_Hella\\_Johnson/Light\\_of\\_a\\_Clear\\_Blue\\_Morning/08750799/](https://www.singers.com/folio/Craig_Hella_Johnson/Light_of_a_Clear_Blue_Morning/08750799/)

## Esto Les Digo by Kinley Lange

Kinley Lange (1950-present) is the founder and artistic director of AustinPro Chorus. This choir is dedicated to performing the music of living composers. Lange spent his youth between Texas and New Mexico and eventually became a member of the US Navy. It was here that Kinley Lange came into contact with the University of Hawaii and began his studies here after dispatch from the Navy. Here he completed his bachelor's and master's degree in Music Theory and Composition. He went on to complete graduate-level studies at the University of Texas in Choral Conducting and Composition.<sup>24</sup> His publications are performed worldwide and “are heard regularly at festivals and concerts in the United States as well as in Europe, South America, and Asia, including Carnegie Hall and the Vatican.”<sup>25</sup>

Esto Les Digo is composed of the text from Matthew:18 in Spanish.<sup>26</sup> This beautiful arrangement of SATB acapella creates a rich and dense atmosphere with its unique chords. This piece is almost completely homophonic with very short sections of imitative polyphony for only about one measure using the text “para pedir” which translates to “to request” in English. Lange uses this text to emphasize their request for prayer. A soprano soloist elegantly solos over the A section in A prime to create a beautiful sense of serenity ending on a high G.

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<sup>24</sup> “Lange, Kinley”, accessed April 10, 2023, <https://www.giamusic.com/store/artists/kinley-lange>

<sup>25</sup> “Kinley Lange”, accessed April 10, 2023, <https://www.helbling.com/int/en/person/kinley-lange>

<sup>26</sup> “Esto Les Digo”, accessed April 10, 2023, <https://www.jwpepper.com/Esto-Les-Digo/3294848.item#.ZDhZeuzML9E>

## Children Go Where I Send Thee arr. By Kevin Phillip Johnson

Kevin Phillip Johnson is a current composer, clinician, and associate professor of music at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia as well as the Minister of Music at the Catholic Church of St. Gabriel in Fayetteville. He received a B.A. and an M.A. from California State University in Los Angeles and received his D.M.A. from the University of Missouri in Kansas.<sup>27</sup> Johnson is most frequently writing for Catholic services and has a wide range of pieces from over three hundred psalms, seven masses, and many sacred octavos. He is the head of the Glee Club at Spelman College and they have successfully released multiple recorded albums of Johnson's music. His glee club also performed at the White House for President Barack Obama. Kevin Johnson is often working nationwide as a clinician for honors choruses as well as assisting educators and church musicians through workshops.<sup>28</sup> He publishes repertoire most commonly through his own publication, Lion and Lamb Publishing but is also published through Colla Voce, GIA Publications, and Treble Clef Press.

Children Go Where I Send Thee is an exuberant arrangement of a well-known African American Spiritual. This exciting and uplifting piece is set to text most suitable for a holiday concert. Children Go Where I Send Thee has text surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. In Johnson's arrangement, you can find an SATB choir with djembe and piano accompaniment with a soprano soloist and a rap soloist. It is a new piece released in 2022 and the rap in the piece is crafted by Ayana Davis but is welcome to be altered to fit your concert.<sup>29</sup> The different elements of this piece create an exciting performance and an overall experience that involves many different aspects of music. We begin with an optional soloist stating the text followed by string choral entrances throughout. In the middle rap section, this allows the audience to hear something different in the piece where we come to a peak with strong harmonies and fast melodies. The piece closes with an e minor chord as we start where the soloists repeat our starting text, bringing the wildly fantastic piece to a chilling end.

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<sup>27</sup> "Glee Club Director", accessed April 14, 2023, <https://www.spelman.edu/academics/majors-and-programs/music/ensembles/glee-club/members/director>

<sup>28</sup> "Johnson, Kevin", accessed April 14, 2023, <https://www.giamusic.com/store/artists/kevin-johnson>

<sup>29</sup> "Children, Go Where I Send Thee", accessed April 14, 2023, <https://www.presser.com/cm9743-children-2c-go-where-i-send-thee.html>

## Ain't No Windin in the Road by Greg Gilpin

Greg Gilpin (1964-present) is a current composer living in Indianapolis, Indiana. From a young age, Gilpin was heavily involved in his music studies and was an accompanist throughout middle and high school. He received his undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education from Northwest Missouri State University.<sup>30</sup> Gilpin is an active musician around the world:

In addition to his work in music education, he has traveled internationally as a back-up singer for various artists, in demand studio musician and producer and is a well-known ASCAP award-winning composer and arranger.<sup>31</sup>

As a respected choral conductor, Greg Gilpin has performed and worked in some of the most prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. He has delivered international choir tours and is currently Shawnee Press' Director of Educational Choral Publications as well as an active member in many different choral and music associations.

Ain't No Windin in the Road is an original piece by Greg Gilpin with words written by John Parker.<sup>32</sup> This piece is available in many different arrangements to make it accessible to whatever choir you may be working with and is scored acapella. In the beginning, we are welcomed with a slow choral accompaniment to a beautiful soprano soloist. The tempo picks up as we enter the piece and are given a musical landscape that offers feelings of turbulence and strife on the road ahead. We end the piece with a triumphant major chord to firmly suggest that though the road is long and hard, we will prevail in situations.

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<sup>30</sup> "About Greg", accessed April 14, 2023, <http://greggilpin.com/about.php>

<sup>31</sup> "About Greg", accessed April 14, 2023, <http://greggilpin.com/about.php>

<sup>32</sup> "Ain't No Windin' in the Road", accessed April 14, 2023, <https://www.alfred.com/aint-no-windin-in-the-road/p/00-PO-0001914/>

## Lift Thine Eyes from Elijah by Felix Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was a German romantic pianist, conductor, and composer from Hamburg. Mendelssohn began studying piano and composition at a young age. He was a quick musical prodigy and composed operas and symphonies at 9 years old.<sup>33</sup> Mendelssohn went on to study at Singakademie in 1819 and was composing continuously and became a conductor. His sister Fanny Mendelssohn was a great influence in his life and with her sudden death Felix struggled to keep his own “zest for life”<sup>34</sup> and died soon after.

One of Felix Mendelssohn’s well-known pieces is his oratorio, *Elijah*. Mendelssohn was asked to write a piece after being recognized for his conducting. He resurrected a piece with his friend, Pastor Schubring, after years of putting it aside together. Mendelssohn compiled the libretto and Schubring assembled old testament text. They created a series of stories with from the following story:

The life of the prophet Elijah epitomized the evolution of Jewish faith from worship of the Babylonian pantheon of idols and myths to [worshiping] one monotheistic God. Elijah met with God on Mt. Sinai, where Moses received the Torah. Elijah’s assignment: to return the dispersed Jewish tribes to Israel.<sup>35</sup>

*Lift Thine Eyes* is a 3-part treble arrangement. This beautiful piece is the depiction of the angels arriving to encourage Elijah to continue his will to live as he waits for God. This simple 3 part harmony creates a beautiful texture. The piece starts in homophonic texture and in true romantic fashion, we find ourselves in an out of polyphonic texture and unexpected chordal structure.

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<sup>33</sup> “Felix Mendelssohn”, accessed April 28, 2023, <https://www.biography.com/musician/felix-mendelssohn>

<sup>34</sup> “Felix Mendelssohn”, accessed April 28, 2023, <https://www.biography.com/musician/felix-mendelssohn>

<sup>35</sup> “Felix Mendelssohn Elijah”, accessed April 28, 2023, <https://www.sfchoral.org/site/felix-mendelssohn-elijah/>

## Hold Me, Rock Me by Brian Tate

Brian Tate is an award-winning composer from Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada. He is also a choir director, performer, and educator. Tate received his undergrad in music from the University of British Columbia. He continued to study further in various cities around the world. He is an active performer in various vocal styles. Tate founded Vancouver's 100-voice City Soul Choir in 2010 and in 2019 he handed it over to Karla Mundy.<sup>36</sup> Brian Tate is a well-known clinician for choirs and conductors. He is known for his ability to bring an exciting learning and working environment. It is said that “his programs include groundbreaking work such as using musical improvisation to enhance leadership and teams and using the voice as a tool for personal development.”<sup>37</sup>

Hold Me, Rock Me is a modern-day spiritual.<sup>38</sup> This SAB arrangement offers a beautiful unison to start. Each chorus layers another beautiful harmony. Each verse offers a section solo accompanied by a gentle “oo” from the remaining voices parts. “The words are reassuring and positive and the tune simply rolls as easy as a gentle wave.”<sup>39</sup> The text offers a gentle reminder of the home waiting for all of us on the other side.

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<sup>36</sup> “Brian Tate Biography”, accessed April 28, 2023, <https://www.briantatemusic.com/about.php>

<sup>37</sup> “Brian Tate Biography”, accessed April 28, 2023, <https://www.briantatemusic.com/about.php>

<sup>38</sup> “Hold Me Rock Me”, accessed April 28, 2023, <https://www.halleonard.com/product/145660/hold-me-rock-me>

<sup>39</sup> “Hold Me Rock Me”, accessed April 28, 2023, <https://www.halleonard.com/product/145660/hold-me-rock-me>

Betelehemu by Wendell Whalum, arr. Barrington Brooks

Dr. Wendell Whalum (1931-1987) was a well-known teacher, conductor, arranger, composer, and all-around musician. He is highly educated with degrees from Morehouse College, Columbia University, University of Iowa as well as an honorary doctorate from the University of Haiti.<sup>40</sup> Dr. Whalum was given the Glee Club at Morehouse College and spent his whole professional career there. He held many other positions at Morehouse College over his time there including Chair of the Music Department. He was a church musician all over various churches in Atlanta. Dr. Whalum has gained recognition internationally from performances with his Glee Club in West and East Africa as well as major US music centers.<sup>41</sup>

Barrington Brooks (1959-1996) was a graduate of Morehouse College. He was the chair of the music department at Talladega College as well as a voice professor and conductor. Brooks was the conductor at two churches in Atlanta, Georgia.<sup>42</sup>

Betelehemu is a Nigerian Christmas carol. The text is in its original language, Yoruba.<sup>43</sup> This upbeat and exciting piece features a lot of different things to spice up your concert. This piece is accompanied by percussion instruments. This piece also allows for ad-lib solos to allow your singers to take liberty in their singing. This fun SATB arrangement is a perfect concert addition.

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<sup>40</sup> "Wendell Whalum", accessed April 29, 2023, [https://hymnary.org/person/Whalum\\_W](https://hymnary.org/person/Whalum_W)

<sup>41</sup> "Wendell Whalum", accessed April 29, 2023, [https://hymnary.org/person/Whalum\\_W](https://hymnary.org/person/Whalum_W)

<sup>42</sup> "Barrington D. Brooks", accessed April 29, 2023, <https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/VA-news/VA-Pilot/issues/1996/vp961012/10120231.htm>

<sup>43</sup> "Betelehemu", accessed April 29, 2023, <https://www.jwpepper.com/Betelehemu/5327986.item#.ZE2mvuzMLPY>

City Called Heaven arranged by Josephine Poelinitz, Edited by Henry Leck

Josephine Poelinitz is living in Chicago and is an Elementary Music Resource Specialist serving 226 elementary schools.<sup>44</sup> She has received degrees from both DePaul University and National Louis University. She is a composer and arranger for schools, churches, and community choirs. She is the director of the All-City Elementary Youth Chorus Of Chicago Public Schools.

Henry Leck (1946-present) is an internationally recognized choral director specializing in children's choir. Leck is the founding conductor of the Indiana Children's Allstate Honor Choir.<sup>45</sup> He is a frequent conductor in ACDA National Honors Choirs for children and Jr. High. He is "widely known as a specialist in choral techniques, the child's voice, Dalcroze Eurhythmics, Laban and the boy's changing voice."<sup>46</sup> Henry Leck has many teaching videos and textbooks published under the Hal Leonard Corporation and Colla Voce, Inc.

City Called Heaven is a slow and beautiful gospel arrangement of this African-American spiritual. The arrangement allows musicians and singers who are new to gospel to explore this beautiful style of music. Experienced gospel musicians are encouraged to take reign of the accompaniment and stylize the vocal solo. The writing allows for a rich gospel experience for choirs that are younger or less advanced than others. Exposure of this music is important to musicians of all ages.

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<sup>44</sup> "City Called Heaven", accessed April 29, 2023. Henry Leck Choral Music

<sup>45</sup> "Henry Leck", accessed April 29, 2023, <https://icchoir.org/leck-bio/>

<sup>46</sup> "Henry Leck", accessed April 29, 2023, <https://icchoir.org/leck-bio/>