From the
Odes of Solomon

Three settings for unaccompanied mixed choir

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From the Odes of Solomon

From Odes 1 & 3 of the Odes of Solomon  Duration 5’
From Ode 14 of the Odes of Solomon  Duration 5’
From Ode 17 of the Odes of Solomon  Duration 5’ 30”

From the Odes of Solomon was first performed in concert by the Ars Brunensis Chorus on June 2, 2002, at the Husov Sbor, Brno. Recorded on June 1, 2002, at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, Brno - Husovice, Czech Republic. Roman Valek conducted the Ars Brunensis Chorus, Dan Kalousek choirmaster, Frantisek Poul recording engineer, and Annegret Lange producer. Released on CD by Capstone Records.

For information about the composer, visit: www.gregbartholomew.com or send email to info@gregbartholomew.com.

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From the
Odes of Solomon

The Odes of Solomon are believed to have been written around the year 100 A.D., and include strong parallels to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Scholars have debated whether the Odes should be considered Jewish, Christian or Gnostic, and whether they were first written in Greek, Hebrew or Syriac. Early Christian writings refer to and quote from them. An old Syriac manuscript containing the text of most of the Odes was discovered in 1909 by the English scholar J. Rendel Harris, and other partial texts in various languages have also been found. There are 42 Odes. Some fragments are still missing from Odes I and III, and no part of Ode II has yet been found.

I have selected text from four of the Odes of Solomon which I found particularly compelling. The anonymous translation I have used comes from The Gnostic Society Library.

Greg Bartholomew
October 7, 2000
Seattle
From Ode I

The Lord is on my head like a crown
And I shall not be without him.

From Ode III

I clothe his limbs, his own limbs,
and hang from them. He loves me.

How would I know how to love the Lord
if he did not love me?
And who can tell us about love?
Only one who is loved.

I love the beloved, and my soul loves him.
I am where he reposes,
and I will be no stranger to him,
because he is not petty, my high merciful Lord.

I have gone to join him
for the lover has found his beloved.

From Ode XIV

As the eyes of a son to his father,
so my eyes turn to you, O Lord, at all times,
for with you are my consolation and joy.

Do not turn your mercy from me, O Lord,
or your kindness,
but stretch out your right hand,
and be my guide to the end.

Care for me, save me from evil,
and let your gentleness and love be with me.
Teach me to sing of truth,
that I may engender fruit in you.

Open the harp of your holy spirit
so I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes.

From your sea of mercy, help me,
help me in my hour of need.

From Ode XVII

I was crowned by God, by a crown alive.
And my Lord justified me.

I was freed from myself and uncondemned.
The chains fell from my wrists.

The thought of truth drove me.
I walked to it and did not wander off.

He glorified me by kindness
and lifted my thought to truth.
I opened closed doors, shattered bars of iron.
My own shackles melted.

Nothing appeared closed
because I was the door to everything.

I freed slaves,
left no man in bonds.
I spread my knowledge and love,
and sowed my fruits in hearts
and transformed them.

I blessed them. They lived.
I gathered them and saved them.

They became the limbs of my body
and I was their head.

--anonymous translation excerpted from the
Gnostic Society Library
(www.webcom.com/~gnosis/library/odes.htm)
From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my first music teacher, Mary Christine Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

\[ \text{\textcopyright 2000, 2003} \]
From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon
limbs, and hang, I hang from them.
He loves me.

limbs, and hang, I hang from them.
He loves me.

limbs, and hang, I hang from them.
He loves me.
From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

How would I know how to love the Lord?

if

He did not love me?

And who?

He did not love me?

How would I know how to love the Lord?

And
From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

5

S

A

T

B

Pno

How would I know how to
And who can tell us about love?

How would I know how to
The Lord?

If

If

If He

And who can tell us about love?

And who can tell us about love?

He did not love me?

And who can tell us about love?

love the Lord?

And who can tell us about love?

He did not love me?

And who can tell us about love?

did not love me?

A bout love?
Only one who is loved.

I love the beloved and my soul loves Him.

I love the beloved and my soul loves Him.
From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

79

mf

he re - pos - es.

I am where He re - pos - es. And I will be no_

I am where He re - pos - es. And I will be no_

I am where He re - pos - es. And I will be no_

85

mf

And I will be no stran - ger____ to Him____

stran - ger____ to Him.____ no stran - ger____ to Him.____

stran - ger____ to Him.____ no stran - ger____ to Him.____

will____ be____ no____ stran - ger____ to Him____

Pno
From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

[Music notation]

He is not petty, my high merciful Lord.

I have gone, I've found

Love has found

For the lover has found his be-

I have gone to join Him, for the lover has found his be-

[Music notation]
The Lord is on my head like a crown.

love. I have gone to join Him, my high merciful Lord.

I have gone to join Him, my high merciful Lord.

I have gone to join Him, my high merciful Lord.
And I shall not be without

I shall not, shall not be without

And I shall not be, I shall not be without

Him. He loves me.
From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my father, Fletcher Lavallee Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

As the eyes of a son to his father,
so my eyes turn to you, O

As the eyes of a son to his father,
so my eyes turn to you, O

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

for rehearsal only

Lord, at all times, for with you are my consolation and joy.

Lord, at all times, for with you are my consolation and joy.

Do not turn
From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

Do not turn your mercy from me, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy from me, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy from me, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy from me, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy, O Lord,

nor your kindness

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

Do not turn your mercy from me,

Do not turn your mercy from me,

Do not turn your mercy from me,

Do not turn your mercy from me,

Do not turn your mercy, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy, O Lord,

Do not turn your mercy, O Lord,
Do not turn your mercy from me, but stretch out your right hand, and nor your kindness, but stretch out your right hand, and Lord, Lord._ But stretch out your right hand and

be my guide to the end. Care for me. Save me from evil. Care for be my guide to the end. Care for me. Save me from evil. Care for be my guide to the end. Care for me. Care for me. Save me from evil. be my guide to the end. Care for me. Care for me. Save me from evil.
From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

Save me, save me from evil, and let your gentleness and love be with me.

Care for me, care for me.

Care for me, care for me.

And let your gentleness and love be with me.
Più allegro (\( \mathbb{Q} = 72 \))

Teach me to sing.

Con moto (\( \mathbb{Q} = 54 \))

Teach me to sing of truth, that I

Teach me to sing of truth that I

Teach me to sing of truth.
Teach me to sing

may engender fruit in you.

Teach me to sing

may engender fruit in you.

Teach me to sing

of truth.

Open, open,

Open, open,

Open, open,

rit.

Open, open,
From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

S

A

T

B

Pno

67

so I may praise you,

so I may praise you,

praise you, Lord

so I may praise you,

so I may praise you, Lord

so I may praise you,

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

61

S

T

B

Pno

o - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit.

so I may praise you,

so I may praise you, Lord

so I may praise you,

so I may praise you, Lord

so I may praise you,

so I may praise you, Lord

so I may praise you,

so I may praise you, Lord
From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

Open, open, open the harp of your holy spirit
so I may praise you,
so I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes.

So I may praise you, Lord,
So I may praise you, Lord, with all its

so I may praise you, Lord,

so I may praise you, Lord

so I may praise you, Lord,

so I may praise you, Lord

pen, pen, pen, pen so I may praise you,
From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

So I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes. From your sea of mercy, help me, help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me.

Lord. O-pen the harp of your ho-ly spi-rit.
From your sea of notes.
So I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes. From your sea of

Lord. O-pen the harp of your ho-ly spi-rit.
From your sea of

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon
Help me in my hour of need.
Help me in my hour of need.
Help me in my hour of need.

Relaxed, as a memory
As the eyes of a son to his father.

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon
From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my sister, Annie Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

I was crowned by God, by a crown a-live.

and my Lord justified me.

and my Lord justified me.

and my Lord justified me.

and my Lord justified me.

I was freed from myself;

and un-condemned.

I was freed from myself;

and un-condemned. I was freed.
I was freed from myself, The chains fell from my wrists.
and un-condemned. The thought of truth drove me.

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon
From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

S: poco accel.                      rallentando  mf   poco accel.
A: thought of truth drove me.     The thought of truth
T: The thought of truth drove me. The thought of truth.
B: The thought of truth drove me. The thought of truth drove me.

S: poco rall.                           
A: drove me.                           
T: thought of truth.                   
B: thought of truth. The thought of truth drove me. I
From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

I walked to it and did not wander off. He glorified me by kindness and

I walked to it and did not wander off. He glorified me by kindness, and

I walked to it and did not wander off. He glorified me by kindness, and

I walked to it, and did not wander off.
From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

My own shack-les melt-ed.

i - ron. The thought of truth. My own shack-les melt-ed._
No-thing ap- peared closed be- cause

Nothing ap- peared closed be- cause I was the door to ev- ry- thing.

I freed

I was- the door to ev- ry- thing.
slaves, left no man in bonds.

I freed slaves, left no man in bonds.

My own shackles melted.

I freed slaves, left no man in bonds.
My own shackles melted.

I spread my knowledge and love.

I spread my knowledge and love.

I spread my knowledge and love.

I spread my knowledge and love.
and sowed my fruit in hearts and transformed them.

I sowed my fruit in hearts, and transformed them.

and sowed my fruit in hearts and transformed them.

I blessed them. They lived. I gathered and saved them.

I blessed them. They lived. I gathered them and

I blessed them. They lived.

I blessed them. They lived.
From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

They came the limbs of my body.

They saved them.
From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

I was crowned by God.

I was crowned by God.

I was crowned by God.

I was crowned by God.
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Leo, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2002 (Duration: 5:45)
A setting of excerpts from Astronomica, a 1st Century B.C. Latin text by Marcus Manilius.
Finalist in the 2007 Cincinnati Camerata Choral Composition Competition.

From the Odes of Solomon
Available on CD from Capstone Records

From Odes 1 & 3 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:00)
From Ode 14 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:00)
From Ode 17 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:30)
For unaccompanied SATB choir. The Odes of Solomon are believed to have been written around the year 100 A.D., and include strong parallels to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Finalist in the 2003 Briar Cliff University New Choral Music Competition.

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Beati Quorum Via, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2003 (Duration: 2:30)
A new setting of the traditional Latin text.

The Fervid Hokey Poke, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2010 (Duration: 2:45)
A setting of the hilarious prize-winning poem by Jeff Brechlin.

Song of the Mountains, for mixed SSAATB choir with piano accompaniment, 2004 (Duration: 6 min.)
A setting of text adapted from prose by American naturalist John Muir (1838 - 1914).

Stoke Fleming, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2000 (Duration 3:30)
A meditation on rocks and waves written at a small hamlet on the English Channel.

The Tree, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2003 (Duration: 3 min.)
A setting of the poem by American transcendental poet Jones Very (1813 - 1880).

The Promise of Liberty, or unison or 2-part chorus and piano, 2009 (Duration: 3 min.)
Adapted from the poem, The New Colossus by Emma Lazarus ("Give me your tired, your poor...").

Three American Winter Settings

A Country Boy in Winter, for unaccompanied TTBB men’s chorus, 2001 (Duration: 3:20)
A setting of the poem by American poet Sarah Orne Jewett (1849 - 1909).

A Rainy Day, for unaccompanied SSAA women’s chorus, 2001 (Duration: 4:15)
A setting of the poem by American poet John Brainard (1796 - 1828).

To a Locomotive in Winter, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2001 (Duration: 6 min.)
A setting of the poem by Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892).

Three Gnostic Poems

An Open World, 2007 (Duration: 3 min.)
When I Land, 2007 (Duration: 4 min.)
And the Wind, 2007 (Duration: 5 min.)
For unaccompanied SATB choir. Three settings of poems by Fletcher LaVallee Bartholomew, meditations on the ineffable.