

SACRED

Alleluia! Laudamus Te Alfred Reed

Our opener is actually a canticle of praise without words; the concert band is treated largely both as a single massive choir and, at times, broken down into individual sections, each functioning as a separate sub-choir or semi-chorus. It is a sonorous piece depicting joyous triumph!

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S. Bach/arr. Lucien Cailliet

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring is the most common English title of the 10th movement of the cantata *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben*, BWV 147 composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. The frequent use of arrangements of the piece in modern weddings is in no way related to its scope or Bach's intent for it. Rather, it was one segment of an extended, approximately 20-minute treatment of a traditional church hymn.

Symphonic Paraphrase Elliot Del Borgo

The commission for Mr. Del Borgo's composition came from an outpouring of love by family and friends of Robbie King, a vital and enthusiastic 18-year old who was tragically killed in a skiing accident in 1994. "It Is Well With My Soul" has been interwoven in the composition, as it was Robbie's favorite hymn.

At The Strongholds of En Gedi David R. Holsinger

Mr. Holsinger's piece is based upon the story in the book of I Samuel relating great conflict between King Saul and David & his men. As Saul's pursuit intensified, David's company took refuge in the desert region of Maon, in the caves of En Gedi.

INTERMISSION

Finlandia (Tone Poem) Jean Sibelius/arr. Frank Winterbottom

Most of the piece is taken up with rousing and turbulent music, evoking the national struggle of the Finnish people against the Russian empire. But towards the end, calmness prevails and the serenely melodic *Finlandia Hymn* is heard. Often incorrectly cited as a traditional folk melody, the Hymn section is of Sibelius's own creation.

Blessed Are They Johannes Brahms/arr. Barbara Buehlman

The style is unabashedly romantic, but the form of "Blessed Are They" is clearly influenced by Handel and reflects Brahms' intensive study of earlier masters. This is the first movement of the German Requiem. The original pairs chorus with instruments and creates a heavy, somber mood.

Amazing Grace Frank Ticheli

The spiritual, "Amazing Grace" was written by John Newton (1725-1807), a slave ship captain. After years of transporting slaves across the Atlantic, Newton recognized the evilness of his acts. The hymn has grown to become one of the most beloved of all American spirituals. Ticheli wanted his setting to reflect the powerful simplicity of the words and melody.

Liturgical Dances David R. Holsinger

This composition displays two images; the first, a prelude of reflection on the emotional and spiritual bonds that unite people of like hearts; and secondly, exuberant praise and celebration, not only for the service of men to their vocations, but also to the creator of music, a wonderful vehicle with which to exhibit exhilaration for life!