

Richard FELC CIO NATO

SONGS FOR DARKNESS AND LIGHT

- SSA or TBB unaccompanied*
- 2803 I will sing to the Lord .35
My friend had a vineyard
Give ear, O heavens
As the hind longs for the running waters
- Mixed Chorus and Organ*
- 2799 Psalm 150-Praise the Lord in his sanctuary .35
- Unison Voices and Organ*
- 2804 Give thanks to the Lord .30
- 2805 Antiphon and Benedictus .35
(The Canticle of Zachary)

NOTE

Songs for Darkness and Light is a set of eight religious choral works designed for concert or liturgical use. Four are with and four without organ accompaniment. A variety of vocal dispositions is represented, including SSA, STB, TTB, and unison, with a view to making the pieces as useful as possible (No. 5, for example, may be performed STB or TTB by following instructions given at the outset). The texts are biblical and include complete settings of Psalm 150 (mixed or equal voices) and the Canticle of Zachary (unison voices), both with organ accompaniment. The Songs display a variety of lengths: the Antiphon, No. 7, is no more than a choral interlude, while Nos. 5 and 8 are complete psalm settings. The texts are such that most will be suitable for any time of the year, though they will have a particular relevance to the seasons of Lent and Easter. Taken as a whole, the set includes much of the music for the Vigil of Easter (Holy Saturday) in the Roman Catholic liturgy.

The pieces may be performed singly or in any combination, and the given order is not binding. Certain combinations, however, immediately suggest themselves: Nos. 1 through 4 may constitute a group. Nos. 1 through 5 may likewise form a group, especially in the order given - four unaccompanied Canticles followed by a triple alleluia and an accompanied Psalm 150 with a Doxology. The effect of this latter arrangement may be heightened (in liturgical, as well as concert use) if the pitches enclosed in squares in the first four Canticles are intoned with a single stroke of a handbell as they are sung. Although widely spaced in time, these pitches define, with a slow tolling, the melodic contour of the Easter Alleluia which is finally taken up by the voices themselves at the beginning of No. 5, just prior to the first appearance of the organ. Naturally, when the Canticles are performed singly, in a different order, or outside the Easter season, the bells should not be used (in any case, their deployment is optional, even as described above). Nos. 6, 7, and 8 are probably best treated singly.

The Canticle of Zachary is provided with two endings, so that it may be sung either with or without the concluding Doxology and Antiphon.

Songs for Darkness and Light

7. Antiphon *

for Unison Voices and Organ

Richard Felciano

Male
Voices
in
unison

♩ = 60

And ver - y ear - ly

Flue 8' only *p*

p Flue 16' only

3

in the morning Aft-er the Sab-bath, they came to the sep-ul - chre..

* When No. 8 Benedictus follows liturgically, use the second ending and repeat this Antiphon immediately after it.

Nos. 1-4 for SSA or TTB unaccompanied } are available separately.
No. 5 for SATB and Organ

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5

pp *distant*

at sun - rise, Al - le - lu - ia.

pp (8' only)

8. Benedictus

(The Canticle of Zachary)

Luke 1: 68-79

I Accompaniment flues: vary at will
 II Cornet, reed, etc. in foreground

Slowly, gently ♩ = 46

Voices in unison

mp
I Flues

legato

3 *mp* *sustained, subdued*

Bles - sed be the Lord, the God of Is - ra - el,

5

be - cause he has vis - i - ted and wrought re - demp - tion

7

for his peo - ple, and has rais'd up a horn of sal -

9

va - tion for us, in the house of Da - vid his ser - vant,

11

as he pro - mis'd through the

13

mouth of his ho-ly ones, — the pro-phets from of old; —

15

— sal-va-tion from our en-e-mies, and from the hands of all our foes.

Ped.

17

He has ful-fill'd his kind-ness to our fa-thers, and been mind-ful of his ho-ly cov-e-nant.

without pedal

19

— in the oath to A-bra-ham our fa-ther, — by which he swore to grant us, —

Ped. *without pedal*

22

that de - liv - er'd from the hands of our en - e - mies,

II: reed or cornet
mf only (II cornet)

24

we should serve him with - out fear, in ho - li - ness and

26

jus - tice be - fore him — all our days. And you, O child,

28

shall be call'd — the pro - phet of the Most

30 *poco cresc.*

High, for you shall go be-fore the Lord _____ to prepare (foreground)

(II) (I) II *mf*

poco cresc.

3

32 *mf* *mp*

his ways, to give to his peo - ple

f 8va

mf *mp*

34

know-ledge of sal - va - tion — through for-give-ness of their sins,

legato
Flues 8' only

6

37

be-cause of the com-pas-sion-ate kind-ness of our God, with which the O-ri-ent

tr^h

39

from on high has vis - i - ted us, to shine on those who sit in

p optional registration change

41

dark-ness and the shad-ow of death, to guide our fact in-to the way of

43

1.*

peace. —

45

pp *ppp* Fine

legato

* Use the first ending only if no Doxology and Antiphon are to be sung.

43 2. *pp with motion* 3 3 3

peace. — Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the

45 *p*

Ho-ly Spir-it, as it was in the be-

47

gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-

49 *(always p)* *mf*

men. *open box*

Repeat No. 7

