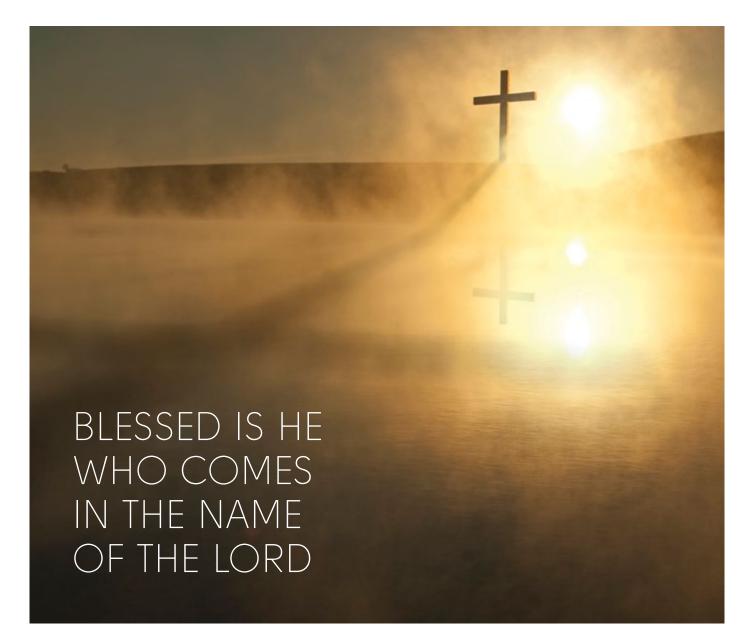
# thechorister

 RESOURCES FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

 april | may 2014

 volume 65 | issue 6



# PLUS:

BLESSED ASSURANCE HYMN STUDY TOP 10 FESTIVAL ANTHEMS & COMBINED CHOIR PIECES

10 QUESTIONS WITH CONDUCTOR MARTHA SHAW





# **Region 1** Conference July 14–16, 2014 Christ Lutheran Church, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD

### The Three Days—Singing Salvation History

Music plays an important role in bringing the ancient liturgy of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter to life in a contemporary context. Together we will experience and explore some possibilities, imagining what will work in your unique congregation.

**Scott Weidler**, ELCA Program Director for Worship & Music, will guide our conversation through the Three Days.

# **Region 2** Conference **June 30–July 2, 2014** Christ Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC

### Many Voices—One Choir

Is it possible in today's reality of differing worship and musical prefer-ences and practices to worship God together with one voice? This conference will address the challenges we face in engaging all people to proclaim the gospel through music in our own particular context.

## Featuring: Hymn Festival led by Mark Mummert

**Region 3** Conference July 28–30, 2014 Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, MO

# Setting the Table Well: Feeding Hungry Worshippers in a Fast Food Culture

Menu Includes: • Spiritual renewal for leaders • Keeping worship fresh with music • Use of visual art • Keeping children, youth, and adults engaged • Poetry and psalms

Featuring: **Peter W. Marty**, senior pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA

# **Region 4** Conference June 15–18, 2014

Concordia University and St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Portland, OR

## Emerging: Living and Serving on the Hinge of Change

- Living with grace as the world changes around us
- Adding and sharpening skills for ministryEmpowering young families in worship
- Engaging children and youth
- Preparing for advances in information technology

Opening Worship: **Bach Cantata Vespers**, St. James Lutheran Church, Portland, OR

# For more information, visit **alcm.org** and find us on **Facebook**.

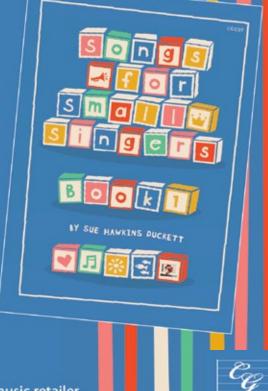
# Now Available! Songs for Small Singers, Book 1

# By Sue Hawkins Duckett

# CGC59 \$19.95

Written for use with Preschool age singers, the 28 songs in this collection are simple and easy-to-learn, and will help to teach your choristers some of the most-loved stories and lessons from the Bible.
Each can be taught by rote. Chords are included for optional piano or guitar accompaniment. The collection also includes suggested motions to help young singers learn the words and imprint their meanings upon their hearts.

Includes a Preschool Christmas Pageant!



Available at www.choristersguild.org or from your favorite music retailer.

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# Contents



# thechorister

The Chorister is published bimonthly. Choristers Guild is a nonprofit, religious and educational corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

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# From the Editor

Dear Choristers Guild Members,

My name is Susan Eernisse, and I am honored to serve as the new editor of *The Chorister*. I have worked in many areas of music throughout the years: teaching music in both public and private schools; directing children's choirs in churches; serving on the faculty of summer music camps and festivals; writing and editing children's music materials; leading conferences and workshops for music teachers and children's choir leaders; mentoring college students pursuing degrees in music education; teaching college courses in music education, and much more. It is with great excitement and joy that I add editing *The Chorister* to this list. My plan is for *The Chorister* to continue to grow as a vital and practical resource for church musicians.

We close the final chapter on Volume 65 of *The Chorister* with this issue. I am so grateful for the time and energy that Susan LaBarr has invested as Editor these last few years. She brought a new look to *The Chorister*, and continued a great tradition of excellence that has always been the signature of *The Chorister* throughout its history. Susan will continue to be a good friend of Choristers Guild, and will remain a vital member of the Choristers Guild family.

For several years now, my husband and I have taken a week of vacation in May before the rush of summer travelers fills the highways and airports. Since our lives revolve around the church calendar, it is a time to rest and recharge. Summers tend to be quite full with conferences, camps, and preparation for the new church year to come. There have been years when August arrived and we realized that summer had slipped by, and so had our chance for vacation and family time. Church musicians need to take breaks—take deep cleansing breaths, and exhale slowly. We need to enjoy the grand pause, the caesura, the silence. We need to experience this time of quiet stillness at regular intervals—yearly, monthly, weekly, daily, even hourly. Check your calendar right now, and make sure you schedule a time without schedules sometime in the next few months.

Keep singing the song!

-Susan



Questions, comments, or ideas for submissions may be addressed to seernisse@mailcg.org.

# From the **Executive Director**

# Choristers Guild Welcomes New Editorial Staff

Over 100 candidates applied for recent editorial openings at Choristers Guild. It is a pleasure to announce that Katie Houts and Susan Eernisse were among those gifted applicants. They have accepted the responsibility of shepherding the future of our Choristers Guild publications. Both Katie and Susan bring experience, passion and expertise to their new roles of inspiring church musicians and the children's choirs they direct. We welcome them to the Choristers Guild staff team and look forward to sharing in this important work with them.

# **Katie Houts**

Katie Houts serves as our new Choral Editor. She has been a Choristers Guild member for the last 10 years since graduating from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA with Church Music and Religion degrees. Before coming to Choristers Guild she served as a Worship and Music Director for Midwestern Lutheran churches specializing in children's choir program development. In those church positions additional responsibilities included serving as organist, pianist, guitarist, leading brass ensembles, handbell groups and contemporary bands, as well as composing and arranging for worship. She now makes her home in the Boston suburb of Braintree, MA with her husband, Ryan, and their two children, Ben and Annie.

# Susan Eernisse

Susan Eernisse serves as our new editor for *The Chorister*. With degrees from Anderson University and Berry College she is a vocational music educator having taught in the classroom for 20 years and directed children's choirs in the church throughout her life. She has written children's choir curriculum for both Lifeway and the new Growing In Grace curriculum series. Additionally she serves at conferences as a children's choir leader trainer. She lives in the Atlanta suburb of Carrollton, GA where her husband, Glenn, serves as the First Baptist Church Associate Pastor of Music and Worship.



# FESTIVAL ANTHEMS & COMBINED CHOIR PIECES

Singing in a large, combined choir, whether at a festival or in your own church, can be exhilarating. Here are anthems that work well in both situations. Challenge yourself to think outside the box. Plan for groups of multiple ages to sing together in various pairings. Combine men with boys, women with girls, youth and primary choirs, or adult and elementary singers. Consider inviting a choir from another church to sing with you. Involve the congregation. Add a handbell choir and instrumentalists. Begin and end the year with combined anthems. Appreciation for your program and its opportunities will grow!

10

The Lord Is My Light Michael Bedford

# CHORISTERS GUILD CGA878, UNISON/2 PART, FLUTE

This festive anthem can be sung by one choir, but it is the perfect choice for two younger choirs who cannot handle harmony alone. The A section is built on rhythmic, echoed phrases (vocal and instrumental) while the unison B section has a lyrical, contrasting melody. Add a flute and this setting of Psalm 27 will put a smile on faces and joy in the hearts of all who sing and hear it.



Processional Kyrie John R. Paradowski and Barbara Semmann

### CHORISTERS GUILD CGA983, SATB WITH UNISON, HANDBELLS, C INSTRUMENT

I'll never forget the first time I experienced this anthem in worship. Handbells processed with a simple ostinato. The gorgeous flute part and piano accompaniment began at measure 3 when ringers were in place. A cantor sang the first petition and all answered with *Kyrie eleison* at measure 15 in SATB parts and melody. I was transported. By combining choirs, ostinato handbells, C instrument, and congregation, this Kyrie can be a truly beautiful combined choir/congregational offering. A children's bell choir can master the ostinato and also serve as cantors. Printable parts for the congregation are included.



Night of Silence Daniel Kantor

# GIA PUBLICATIONS, INC. G-2760

Written to be sung simultaneously with the Christmas carol, Silent Night, this anthem provides an excellent way to include your congregation. Sing stanzas 1 and 2 of the anthem as written, then divide choirs: high voices sing stanza 3 of anthem, low voices sing 1st stanza of Silent Night. (If there are no low voices, try placing choirs in different sections of church.) Repeat stanza 3 of the anthem and invite the congregation to simultaneously sing stanza 3 of Silent Night. The anthem contains opportunities to teach phrasing, expression, and diction. You can hear a performance of this piece on the St. Olaf Choir's most recent recording from Norway's Nidaros Dom Cathedral.



Tunaomba Mungu Atawale (We Pray God to Reign) John R. Paradowski

# CHORISTERS GUILD CGA1171, UNISON/SATB, PERCUSSION

Go for it! This song of the Trinity looks difficult (percussion, Swahili and English texts, two choirs, SATB harmony), but it is not hard to learn or put together. Teach the A section by echo, since that is its structure. After it is learned, let your choir lead and you echo. If you do not have an SATB choir to sing the B section, it sounds great in unison. The Swahili text repeats with one word change each time: *Mungu*–God, *Yesu*–Jesus, *Roho*– Spirit, and then the joyful *Bwana*–Lord. Pronunciation guides and performance options are included.



Praise to the Lord, for the Lord Is Good Ellen Woods Bryce

# CHORISTERS GUILD CGA1044, UNISON WITH SATB, CONGREGATION, OPT. HANDBELLS, TRUMPET

This anthem begins with a lilting 6/8 melody in stanza 1 (children's choir), adds an echo to that melody in stanza 2 (women and children), creates harmony with SATB ostinatos entering one after the other (children on soprano line), and then moves into the hymn *Lobe den Herren–Praise to the Lord*, first with choir only and then with the congregation on the final stanza. The choirs and instruments complete the anthem with a coda. When you get to the phrase, "let the Amen sound from his people again," and all are joined in joyful singing, you know Heaven is rejoicing with you.



## CHORISTERS GUILD CGA977, UNISON, C INSTRUMENT, HANDBELLS (3,4, OR 5 OCTAVES)

With five stanzas, a descant, bells, and an extended Amen, this anthem builds in intensity as the text walks us through creation, the life of Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and into our present-day journeys. The lyrical melody gently rises and falls. Stanzas 1 and 3 are unison, stanza 2 is two-part mixed (suggested Youth Choir), stanza 4 is SATB, and stanza 5 modulates up a whole step, adding the handbell choir and soprano descant. The C instrument plays throughout. This is a solid, memorable work—worthy of learning and sharing among your choirs.



# Concertato on "Thine Is the Glory" Robert J. Powell

### CHORISTERS GUILD CGA457, UNISON AND SA(T)B CHOIRS, CONGREGATION, 2 TRUMPETS, HANDBELLS, ORGAN

Want to involve everyone in a flourish of hymnody? This is your anthem! After an introductory fanfare with organ and trumpets, the congregation sings stanzas 1 and 3 with the choirs. Stanza 2 belongs to the choirs: children sing melody and the SATB choir and instruments join them at the refrain. The instrumental interlude before stanza 3 leads all to a triumphant ending. If the descants are too much for your young singers, let them sing the melody. Your choristers will love singing with a host of musicians while leading the congregation. This is a perfect hymn or offertory anthem for Easter Day or anytime throughout the Easter season.



# CHORISTERS GUILD CGA79, THREE PART TREBLE/MIXED, HANDBELLS

Sleeth's brilliant 3-melody, 3-voice anthem introduces each unison melody separately, and then puts each in a 3 part canon before moving on to the next. By the end, each voice takes a separate melody and it all fits together beautifully. If one of your choirs needs help maintaining its vocal line, move stronger singers as needed. The bell choir's chordal part helps keep everyone together. The exciting coda includes bells shaking one big chord.



Let All the World in Every Corner Sing Jody W. Lindh

## CHORISTERS GUILD CGA573, UNISON/ TWO PART OR SATB, HANDBELLS

This lovely, very doable setting of George Herbert's well known text has an additional phrase: Let bells throughout the world their praises ring! thus giving a nod to the Handbell Choir which plays throughout, but takes the melody of stanza 2 without voices. My choristers love to sing the lines, The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out! I combine Junior Choir singing unison throughout with Youth Handbells. This is a classic text that all our choristers should learn.

# Earth and All Stars Herb Brokering & David Johnson

### JOHN FERGUSON GIA PUBLICATIONS, G-6204

Surprise your organist and ask her to be an integral part of your combined choir experience. Ferguson's arrangement was originally written to accompany a congregation, but as recorded on the CD, Harmony: American Songs of Faith, 2008 (track 12) by the American Boychoir and St. Olaf Choir, it is set for choirs with organ, singing, and whistling. Try it! The introduction can be shortened: stanza 1-all voices; stanza 2-trebles (all on refrain each time): stanza 3-low voice: stanza 4-organ with choir whistling melody in 4/4 time (adjust it to fit organ part): stanza 5-all voices with the congregation joining. A real winner!

# **BONUS ANTHEMS**

**Morning Star** John S.C. Kemp CHORISTERS GUILD CGA547, ANTIPHONAL UNISON, SATB CHOIR, RECORDER AND STRINGS

Hosanna Christian Gregor, arr. James C. Pfohl HAL LEONARD/FRED BOCK HL 00123487, TWO-PART TREBLE

> Hosanna, Blessed Is He Hal H. Hopson

CHORISTERS GUILD CGA1360, SATB AND UNISON CHOIRS

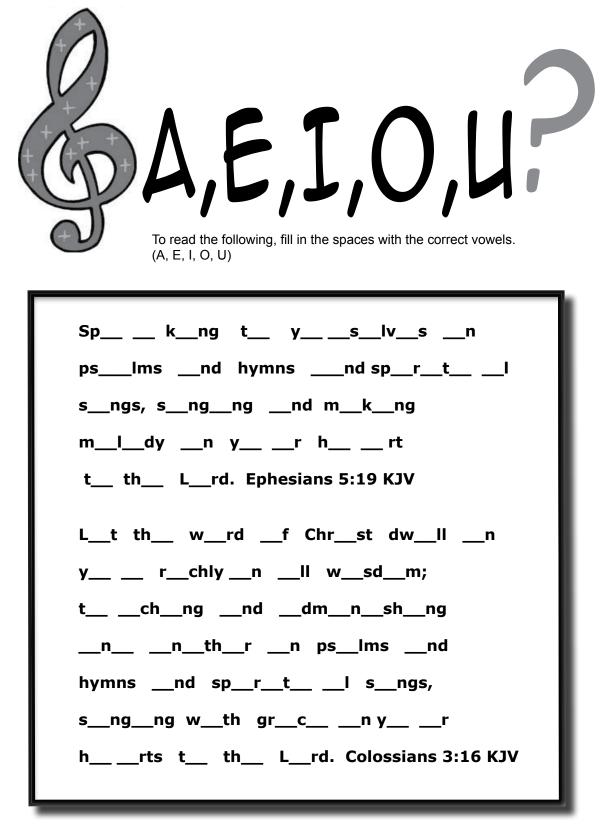
The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune R. Vaughan Williams

OXFORD ISBN 0-19-353508-4, SATB AND UNISON CHOIRS, TRUMPET



Karol Kimmell serves as Director of Youth and Children's Music at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where she directs six singing and ringing choirs, ages four through twelfth grade. Kimmell has served as co-director and clinician at Lutheridge Music Week for eighteen years, served on the task force and faculty for Young Lutherans Sing, and is a faculty member and co-director of the Choristers Guild Institute with Chris Nemec. karolkimmell@allsaintsatlanta.org

PUZZLE BY PAMELA VANDEWALKER



singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16 KJV

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in pealms and hymns and spirituals songs, PUZZLE SOLUTION: ZAK HAMBY, ILLUSTRATOR / ZACHARY.HAMBY@GMAIL.COM



Order the full curriculum and view additional sample pages at: choristersguild.org/gig.

# ACTIVITY TEACHING STEPS

### **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY**

"Little David, Play on Your Harp" gives children a hands-on opportunity to play instruments, read music, accompany a song, and learn a fun chant about a biblical personality.

## **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- "Little David, Play on Your Harp" Student Page
- Orff instruments (You may substitute combinations of Boomwhackers®, resonator bells, bells, hand chimes, etc.)
- Autoharp, keyboard, guitar for playing chords (optional)
- Little David Orff Visual

### PREPARATION

- Copy the "Little David, Play on Your Harp" Student Page for each child.
- Print and cut apart the Little David Orff Visuals.
- Gather the Orff instruments or substitutions to be used.
- Review the story of David from the Bible.

### Little David Orff Visual

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# "Little David, Play on Your Harp"

# 1. Sing the song and speak the chant.

• Distribute copies of "Little David, Play on Your Harp" Student Page.

GROWING

grace

- Echo sing the melody and then all sing together.
- Echo speak each stanza of the chant one phrase at a time until children are comfortable..
- Give a brief summary of the life of David from the Bible.

# Teaching Tip

This activity may take several weeks to complete. Begin with the song, one stanza of chant, and the bass xylophone part. Over the next few weeks, continue rehearsing all the stanzas of the chant and adding the other instrumental parts. Provide opportunities for the children to

learn all the instrumental parts, if possible.

# 2. Assign parts and rehearse.

- Assign the three instrumental parts to the children.
- Practice speaking the letter names of the pitches in rhythm while tapping the instrument bars with fingertips.
- Distribute mallets.
- Begin with the bass xylophone part and add the other instruments one at a time until all the parts are being played.

# 3. Sing the song with accompaniment.

- Sing the song with the instrumental accompaniment.
- Pause after the refrain, and speak the first stanza of the chant.
- Continue alternating the refrain with the stanzas of the chant, ending with the refrain.
- Allow children to rotate playing the instruments and singing so that all get a chance to play one or all of the instrument patterns.

"Little David, Play on Your Harp" Activity Teaching Steps

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# Choir Devotionals



Hosanna Choir–Palm Sunday at Bethlehem Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN. Submitted by Cindy Bergstrom, Twin Cities Chapter. Photo by Linda Spohr.

# WEEK OF APRIL 6

# SCRIPTURE:

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130:4

# **DEVOTIONAL:**

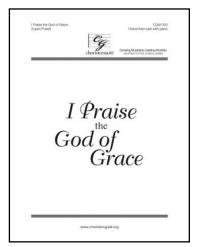
Has anyone ever done anything to hurt you? Was it difficult for you to forgive them? When we get our feelings hurt or are harmed in some way by others, our first reaction may be to get even with them. We want to make them pay for what they have done. God is able to forgive even the worst kind of sinner. Isn't it great to know that God doesn't hold grudges, but is ready to forgive all our mistakes? What a wonderful gift—a gift of grace!

# **PRAYER:**

Dear God, we know that we are in need of your forgiveness for many things. We ask that you forgive our selfish ways. We pray that you would teach us how to forgive others in the same way that you forgive us. Help us to quickly see when we have done wrong so that we can admit our mistakes, and change our behavior. Thank you for your loving grace. Amen.

# COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1300 | *I Praise the God of Grace* | By Susan Powell | Unison/two-part



# WEEK OF APRIL 13

# SCRIPTURE:

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Matthew 21:9

# **DEVOTIONAL:**

One day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The people made a soft pathway with their cloaks, and cheered loudly for Jesus. They treated him like royalty. Later that same week, Jesus was crucified. No one worshiped him then. No one cheered for him. He was treated like a criminal, not like a king. In spite of all that, Jesus loved each of them, and he still loves us today...when we worship him, and when we turn our backs on him.

# **PRAYER:**

Dear God, thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to save us, and to be the perfect example of how we should live our lives each day. Forgive us when we fail you. Help us to learn ways to honor you and worship you. Amen.

# COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1358 | *Look who's Coming!* | By Michael Bedford | Unison



# WEEK OF APRIL 20

# SCRIPTURE:

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid: I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." Matthew 28:5-6

# **DEVOTIONAL:**

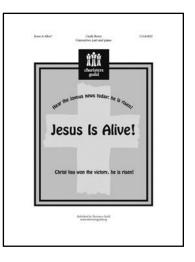
Imagine walking to the tomb with Mary Magdalene that Sunday morning after Jesus was buried. Your head and shoulders would be down. Your feet would feel verv heavy with every sad step. Then you would arrive at the tomb, and get the greatest news ever....Jesus is not there. He has risen just as he said he would! Wow! What would you do first? Who would you tell? Would you walk or run? Whisper or yell? Laugh or cry? You weren't there then, but you can still tell the good news today-Jesus has risen iust as he said.

# **PRAYER:**

Dear God, Hallelujah! Christ is risen. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your risen Son. On Easter, and every day, remind us of that good news—Jesus is alive. Show us ways to share the good news with others. Amen.

# COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1022 | *Jesus is Alive* | By Cindy Berry | Unison/two-part



# CHORISTERS' REPRODUCIBLE PAGE

Blessed (Assurance-Sounds and Feelings

As you listen quietly to the hymn, circle the words you think fit best with the music.



Use the space below to write words or phrases that come to mind while the music plays. If you prefer draw a picture including images that come to mind.

Complete the following phrase from the hymn using your own words where indicated.

This is my story, this is my song \_\_\_\_\_\_ all the day long.

Try singing your version using the melody of the hymn refrain.