Musical Reflections for Holy Week

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys

Scott Bosscher – Director of Music
Andrew Nethsingha – Guest Director
Kenneth Bos - Organ

Sunday, March 13, 2011 7:00 P.M.
All Saint’s Episcopal Church, Saugatuck

Thursday, March 31, 2011 7:00 P.M.
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Muskegon

Friday, April 1, 2004 7:30 P.M.
Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew, Grand Rapids

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys
Musical Reflections for Holy Week

~ Organ Prelude: Voluntary in C ~  
John Stanley (1712 - 1786)

~ Introit ~

~ Of the Father's Love Begotten ~

Aurelius Prudentius (b. 348)  
Divinum Mysterium (10th Century Plainsong)

J.M. Neal (1818-1866) Translation  
Harmonization Reconstruction – Dr. Carol VanRandwyk

Of the Father's Love begotten, ere the world began to be.  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending, He.  
Of the things that are that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.

At His word they were created He commanded, it was done;  
Heav'n and earth and depths of ocean in there threefold order one;  
All that grows between the shining of the light of morn and son,  
Evermore and evermore.

V3  
V3  
V3  
V3

V4  
V4  
V4  
V4

~ Silent Procession of the Choir ~
~ Introit II ~
~ Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence ~

Liturgy of St. James (4th Century)  
Edward C. Bairstow (1874-1946)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and stand with fear and trembling,  
and lift itself above all earthly thought.

For the King of kings and Lord of Lord’s, Christ our God,  
Cometh forth to be our oblation and to be giv’n for food to the faithful.

Before him come the choirs of angels with ev’ry principality and pow’r;  
The Cherubim with many eyes, and winged Seraphim, who veil their faces,  
As they shout exultingly the hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

And stand with fear and trembling.

~ Stations of the Cross: Surrender ~

Jesus Surrenders to the Authorities…David O’Connell (1898-1976)

Jesus surrenders to the temporal authority,  
signified by Pontius Pilate washing his hands in the basin;  
he surrenders as well to the will of the Father,  
signified by the Torah Scroll.  
He kneels, stripped and bleeding from his scourging…  
remaining silent as a lamb before his shearers.
Matthew Chapter 27

But the chief priests and the leaders convinced the crowds to ask for Barabbas to be set free and for Jesus to be killed. Pilate asked the crowd again, "Which of these two men do you want me to set free?"
"Barabbas!" they replied.
Pilate asked them, "What am I to do with Jesus, who is called the Messiah?"
They all yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"
Pilate answered, "But what crime has he done?"
"Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder.
Pilate saw that there was nothing he could do and that the people were starting to riot. So he took some water and washed his hands in front of them and said, "I won't have anything to do with killing this man. You are the ones doing it!"
Everyone answered, "We and our own families will take the blame for his death!"
Pilate set Barabbas free.
Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross.

Parent: I can use words to support and encourage my friends and family. With words I can also hurt them, pull them down. I can even condemn them to lives of lost promise. Pontius Pilate spoke the words, “Shall I crucify your King?” People answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” At this station, I confront myself with the power of words.

Child: Sometimes I tease and make fun of others at home and at school. I can help my family and friends by saying kind words to them, or I can hurt them by calling them names. I am able to use words too.

Parent: Let us pray.

All: O Lord, help us choose words with care when we speak to each other. Help us remember that words can tear down or build up. Words have the power to bring us life or to kill the life that is inside us. Words condemned Jesus to die!

~ There is a Balm in Gilead ~

Written for Andrew Nethsingha and the Men of Wells Cathedral Choir 1993

American Spiritual
Arranged R. Benjamin Dobey

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and I think my work’s in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
Oh, there is a balm in Gilead…
If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the Love of Jesus, and say, “He died for all.”
Oh, there is a balm in Gilead…
Jesus embraces his Cross. He accepts it openly, freely.
The cross-beam is offered and it is accepted.
Hands that brought healing and expressed care now clasp a Tree.
As a carpenter, he would have valued the quality of timber.
As one condemned, he measures value again,
in unexpected, redemptive ways.

**Matthew Chapter 27**

The governor's soldiers led Jesus into the fortress and brought together the rest of the troops.
They stripped off Jesus' clothes and put a scarlet robe on him.
They made a crown out of thorn branches and placed it on his head,
they put a stick in his right hand. The soldiers knelt down and pretended to worship him.
They made fun of him and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!" Then they spit on him.
They took the stick from him and beat him on the head with it.
When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the robe.
They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross.

**Parent:** Everyone in our family has a cross to carry. That cross is the difficulty we have in following Jesus. The cross I carry is doing work I do not like, it is disciplining my children, it is disciplining myself and my desire for money, power, and pleasure.
It is not easy to carry the cross.

**Child:** Many times I do not see the cross I have to carry. I have to obey my parents and teachers. I have to do my homework and chores at home. Jesus, help me to be like you and carry my cross.

**Parent:** Let us pray.
All: Jesus, help us see each other carrying our crosses with you. Help us be aware of the burden that each member of the family is carrying in our daily life. Help us follow your example.

~ There is a Green Hill far Away ~

Cecil Alexander (1818-1895)          William Horsley (1774 - 1858)
~ Thy Perfect Love ~

Anonymous 15th Century

Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest, Thy perfect love close in my breast
That I Thee love and never rest; And make me love Thee of all thinge best,
And wounde my heart in Thy love free, That I may reign in joy evermore with Thee.

~ Stations of the Cross: Obedience! ~

Christ Falls a Second Time...David O'Connell (1898-1976)

Jesus collapses in the early morning hours.
It is nearly the third hour. Deprived of sleep and liquid,
the weight of the cross-beam is too much.
The weight of obedience presses down upon him.
He is spent.

1 Peter Chapter 2

Christ did not sin or ever tell a lie. Although he was abused, he never tried to get even.
And when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he had faith in God, who judges fairly.
Christ carried the burden of our sins.
He was nailed to the cross, so that we would stop sinning and start living right.
By his cuts and bruises you are healed.
Parent: My family is the body of Christ. We are His hands and His heart, His feet and His mind. When we harm each other, we harm Jesus. When we speak with sarcasm or ignore the pain someone is suffering, we mock Jesus and ignore Him, too. We are all the body of Christ. When we suffer, Jesus suffers, too.

Child: Jesus, by your death you teach us how to live. You teach us to love one another even when it is hard, even when we think things in life are not fair. Help me to remember this lesson always.

Parent: Let us pray.

All: Jesus, You were nailed to the cross for our sins. You suffered because of the bad choices we made and the ugly words we said. You were abandoned because we turned away from somebody who needed us. We are sorry for hurting your body, the body of Christ on earth.

~ Nolo Mortem Peccatoris ~

Ezekiel 33:11 (adapted) Thomas Morley (1557-1603)

Nolo mortem peccatoris, (I desire not the death of a sinner,) 
haec sunt verba salvatoris. (these are the words of the Saviour.)

Father, I am Thine only Son, sent down from heav’n mankind to save. 
Father all things fulfill’d and done according to Thy will, I have. 
Father, my will now all is this, Nolo mortem peccatoris.

Father, behold my painful smart, taken for man on every side. 
Ev’n from my birth to death most tart. 
No kind of pain I have denied, but suffered all, and all for this, 
Nolo mortem peccatoris.
~ A Hymn of Trust ~

St. Columba (Translated from the Latin)  Susan Perrin
Choir & Congregation

Paste Score PDF Here
Page 1 of 4
~ Stations of the Cross: Discipleship ~

Jesus’ yoke is easy to bear. The cross-beam is borne...
and in the closeness one bears up the other.
Refreshed, Simon renews resolve, discouragement dissolves away.
Responsive, Simon follows the determined path, watching for gestures.
Discipleship is not demonstrated alone nor is it lived in isolation

Matthew Chapter 27

On the way they met a man from Cyrene named Simon;
they forced him to carry Jesus’ cross.

Parent: We are a self-reliant and independent people. We get so used to doing everything for ourselves that when we run into difficulties we cannot overcome, we do not ask for help. But even Jesus needed help. The soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross because Jesus was too weak. No matter how talented ad strong we are, there will be times when we really need the help of others.

Child: I want to be independent. Sometimes I find it hard to ask my parents for help, especially when I have to make hard decisions.
Parent: Let us pray.

All: Jesus, you had to rely on the help of a stranger to carry your cross. Help us to learn that each of us needs the help of family and neighbors and church members to keep us from a false sense of independence. Guard us from the wrong kind of pride that keeps us from asking for help when we need it.

~ O For A Closer Walk With God ~

William Cowper (1731-1800)  
Scottish Psalter  
Arranged C.V. Stanford (1852 - 1924)

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav’n-ly frame;  
A light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Return, O Holy Dove, return! Sweet messenger of rest.  
I hate the sins that made Thee morn, and drove Thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;  
So purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the lamb.

~ Stations of the Cross: Nailed to the Cross ~

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross…David O’Connell (1898-1976)
Jesus approaches Golgotha in the company of others.  
In the company of two who would die on either side... thieves.  
Three cross-beams mount a dreadful hillside together.  
He strains with us under the burdens we know.  
He strains along with us... and each step... His and ours move together.

*Isaiah Chapter 53*

He was wounded and crushed because of our sins.  
By taking our punishment, He made us completely well.  
All of us were like sheep that had wandered off. We had each gone our own way.  
And the Lord gave Him the punishment we deserved.

**Parent:** Jesus shows us how to forgive. When the soldiers drove the nails into his hands he said,  
“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”  
Jesus your death is a sign of forgiveness.

**Child:** Jesus shows us how to forgive. One thief who was being crucified with him asked that Jesus remember him in heaven. Jesus said, “Today you will be with me in paradise.”  
Jesus your death is a sign of forgiveness.

**Parent:** Let us pray.

**All:** Jesus, you remembered the thief who repented.  
You forgave the soldiers who crucified you.  
Remember us when we crucify you with our sins.  
Help us to forgive and love again.

~ The Reproaches ~

Improperia (7th – 11th Centuries)  
John Sanders (b.1933)

**Refrain:** O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you? Answer me! Answer me!

**Verse 1:** I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom,  
But you led your Saviour to the cross.

**Refrain:** O My People…

**Refrain:** Holy is God! Holy and strong!  
Holy immortal One, have Mercy on us.

**Verse 2:** I opened the sea before you,  
but you opened my side with a spear.  
**Verse 3:** I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud,  
but you led me to Pilate’s court.
Refain: O My People…

Verse 4: I bore you up with manna in the dessert, but you struck me down and scourged me.

Verse 5: I gave you saving water from the rock, but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink.

Refain: O My People…

Verse 6: I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns.

Verse 7: I raised you to the height of majesty, but you have raised me high on a cross.

Refain: O My People…

~ Stations of the Cross: No Words ~

Jesus’ struggle elicits the response of his Mother. The weight of the cross-beam is shared... by the heart. His hand is caressed in acknowledgement, compassionate in its urgency. And an arm encourages, embraces, expressing Shalom in hidden relief. Nothing need be asked... Nothing need be said... It is a reciprocal moment.

Jesus and His Mother…David O’Connell (1898-1976)
Luke Chapter 1

Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The LORD God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Parent: Jesus, it is hard to be a parent. Especially when we see our children hurting. Just as Mary was always there for you, help us to always be there for our children.

Child: Our parents want us to learn and grow...to pray. Jesus help us to become persons' of faith.

Parent: Let us pray.

All: Jesus, you saw your mother’s pain when she saw you carry your cross. She did not want to see you suffer. We turn away from your pain because we know that we brought it upon you. Give us the Strength of Mary so that we will not turn our backs on you.

~ The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came ~

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)  
Basque Carol  
Arranged Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden, Mary,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!  
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria
~ Stations of the Cross: *Maternal Womb ~

Jesus is cradled again by Mary. Pieta.
Holding limbs that once played and prayed.
Holding hope that has in the twilight come to an end.
In the stench and filth, in the shrieks that cut the air
Mary is silent with her Son.

*Luke Chapter 23*

Around noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until the middle of the afternoon.
The sun stopped shining, and the curtain in the temple split down the middle.
Jesus shouted, "Father, I put myself into your hands!" Then he died.

**Parent:** The tomb is the symbol of death. It tells us that we have a short time here to love one another. We must use our time wisely to love and to forgive.

**Child:** I don’t like it when members of my family die, when friends die. I know that they are with God in heaven. This is why Jesus died...so that that the can live with Him forever.
Jesus, thank you for giving us eternal life.

**Parent:** Let us pray.

**All:** Jesus, your death gives us the path to true forgiveness on earth and new life after death. By your death and resurrection You reconcile us to your Father. Help us to forgive as you forgave the good thief, the soldiers who whipped you. Help us to heal and forgive when we break the bonds of love.
~ God So Loved The World (from The Crucifixion) ~

John 3:16

John Stainer (1840 – 1901)

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him, Should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

~ And God Shall Wipe Away All Tears ~

Revelation 21:4

Eleanor Daley (b.1955)

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying. Neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are pass’d away. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

~ Stations of the Cross: Chrysalis ~

Jesus is Placed in the Tomb…David O’Connell (1898-1976)

Jesus is placed in a tomb. His body is quickly wrapped. He is honored by the burial. He is not cursed by God. The Sabbath is honored and his body is buried.
John Chapter 19

The next day would be both a Sabbath and the Passover…
A special day for the Jewish people.
They did not want the bodies to stay on the crosses during that day.
They asked Pilate to take their bodies down.

Parent: On Easter you rose again to new life. You overcame death and sin.
Your dying and rising overcomes all my sins, all my bad choices, and all my failings.
Teach me to love with the hope that can make all things new.
Teach me a new song to sing…Canta Domino

Child: On Easter you rose to new life.
You can make all things new; you can turn around any situation.
Teach me to love with the hope that can make all things new.

Parent: Let us pray.

All: Jesus, you rose again to new life.
You show us the path we have to take to reach eternal life.
Your rising teaches us to live in hope and love with our family, our church, our world.

~ Pie Jesu (from Requiem) ~

10th Century Mass

Andrew Lloyd Webber (b. 1948)

Pie Jesu Domine Kind Lord Jesus
Qui tollis peccata mundi Who takes away the sins of the world, 
Dona eis requiem Grant them rest.

Agnus Dei Lamb of God
Qui tollis peccata mundi Who takes away the sins of the world,
Dona eis requiem Grant them rest
Sempiternam. Everlasting.

~ Cantate Domino ~

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino canticum novum. (Sing unto the Lord a new song.)
O sing unto the Lord, a new song: sing unto the Lord, the whole earth.
Sing unto the Lord and praise his Name:
Be telling of his salvation from day to day.
Cantate Domino canticum novum.

Declare his honor unto the heathen: and his wonder to all people.
For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised:
He is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols:
But it is the Lord that made the heavens.

Glory and worship are before him: power and honor are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe unto the Lord the honor due his name:
Bring presents, and come into his courts.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
Let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad:
For he cometh to judge the earth.

Veni Creator spiritus,  
Mentes tuorum visita:  
Imple superna gratia  
quae tu creasti pectora.

(Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest)  
(and in our hearts take up Thy rest)  
(Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid)  
(To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.)

Cantate Domino canticum novum.  
(Sing unto the Lord a new song.)

~ Silent Recession of the Choir ~

THE GRAND RAPIDS CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS

Decani  
1. Troy Andrews  
2. Victor Chemjor  
3. Dakota Clark  
4. Linus Guerra  
5. Aaron Hudock  
6. Ben Lehmann  
7. Lars Lindgren  
8. Isaac Mangione  
9. Joey Schimmelmann  
10. Christian Voetberg

Cantoris  
1. Frank Corona  
2. Judah Guerra  
3. Marcus Igo  
4. Jordan Malone  
5. Brenden Mercer  
6. Tom Ryskamp  
7. Ian Staves  
8. Cole Story  
9. Lucas Story  

Treble

Counter Tenors  
1. Daniel Becker  
2. John Mark Becker  
3. Jesse Fick  
4. John Hibma

Tenors  
1. Zach Kruyf  
2. Stephen Mitchell  
3. William Reed

Basses  
1. David Diephouse  
2. Eric Lindgren  
3. Gordon Stegink  
4. Dan Voetberg  
5. Chuck Witteveen

Counter Tenors

1. Mark Becker  
2. Noah Becker  
3. Keith Fredlund

Tenors

1. Joey Hidalgo  
2. Steve Igo  
3. Steve Johnson  
4. Dan Lehmann

Basses

1. David Boersma  
2. Doug DeVries  
3. Jerry Kruyf  
4. Norm Sneller  
5. Daniel Weinrick
Andrew Nethsingha – Director of Music at St John’s College, Cambridge. He has performed in the UK, North America, South Africa, China and many European countries. His concerts in recent months have been in Germany, Hungary and Holland.

Andrew’s early musical training was as a chorister in Exeter Cathedral, where his father was Organist for over quarter of a century. He later studied at the Royal College of Music, where he won seven prizes, and at St John’s College, Cambridge. He has held Organ Scholarships under Dr Christopher Robinson and Dr George Guest. He worked at Wells, Truro and Gloucester Cathedrals before taking up his present post in September 2007. Other recent positions have been as Artistic Director of the Gloucester Three Choirs Festival and Musical Director of Gloucester Choral Society. He has served as President of the Cathedral Organists’ Association.

Andrew has worked regularly with some of the UK’s leading orchestras. Performances with the Philharmonia have included Britten War Requiem, Mahler Symphony no. 8 and Elgar The Kingdom as well as a programme of Vaughan Williams and Finzi broadcast on BBC Radio 3. His most recent performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra have included Gershwin An American in Paris and Elgar Sea Pictures. He has also worked with the City of Birmingham Symphony and BBC Concert Orchestras and conducted a performance of Handel’s Messiah in Beijing.

GRCMB’s Director of Music, Scott Bosscher, had the great privilege to sing as a Choral Scholar at Wells Cathedral under the leadership of Mr. Nethsingha for several years, and is thrilled that Andrew has taken the time from his demanding schedule to work with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys.
Dr. Martin Neary has accepted the position as Musical Advisor and Principal Guest Conductor of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys. With two projects in the planning, Dr. Neary will return to Grand Rapids this coming June to direct and record the choir’s very first CD “Christmas with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys” to be released fall of 2011.

He returns again in November of this year to direct a follow up concert to Music for Royal Occasions. This time shifting focus from Princess Diana to music inspired from the reign of King James, this being the 400th anniversary year of the publishing of the King James Bible (1611-2011.) Mark your calendars now for this special concert at St. Andrew’s on Saturday, November 5.

Next year’s Lessons & Carols will take place at the Cathedral of St. Andrew’s at 7:00 PM on Friday December 16 and Saturday December 17. Mark your Calendars now.

~ St. Andrew’s Cathedral Concert Series Ad Goes Here ~
Donor Page Here