

October 23, 2021

CONSOLATION FOR THE SUFFERING

Deo Cantamus of Minnesota

We are not requiring audience members or performers to wear masks for this event, but we do respect everyone's choice to do whatever allows for individual comfort and safety. In addition, the performance venue offers ample opportunity for social distancing. Thank you in advance for your gracious understanding of others during these challenging times.

a WORD FROM THE
CONDUCTOR

I remember very clearly my first conversation with Ed Willmington. In the fall of 2014 we were making plans to be part of a consortium that would commission Dan Forrest to write a chamber orchestra accompaniment

to his *Te Deum*. Ed took the initiative to connect as he had been involved in the original commissioning of the piece through his association with the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology, and the Arts. It struck me that Ed was an especially kind, thoughtful, and supportive man.

In subsequent years Ed has become a good friend and supporter of the organization. His influence has allowed us to present the world premiere performances of *Remember* by Josh Hummel, *The Five Solas of the Reformation* by Josh Bauder, and *The Hallel* by Lloyd Larson. He has given to us in so many significant ways and now it is our turn to return the favor by presenting his most recent major work.

It goes without saying that 2020 was a challenging year. We are thrilled to once again be singing, and are especially grateful that we can offer this very special event. Christian persecution has been a part of this world for centuries, but the message of this work has never been more timely. We trust that the music, video, and spoken word presented this evening will move your hearts. Thank you for allowing us to share...

Al Hawkins, conductor

One Sunday I was sitting in church, rather routinely listening to the sermon. In the course of the discourse, the pastor raised concerns about the rising persecution of Christians in the world. It piqued my attention, but my immediate thoughts were that, of course, I knew about persecution. I had seen and heard some stories, and knew it was bad. I treated the information a little dismissively at that moment, and life went on. A few weeks later, however, I realized that I was still pondering the information I had heard in that sermon. As I thought further about it, I had to admit that I really didn't know much about Christian persecution issues. I determined to dig more deeply into the topic.

a WORD FROM THE
COMPOSER

As I processed my thoughts and feelings, I wondered what I could do to raise awareness of the issues of Christian persecution. After all, I couldn't physically go to most of these places. I could give money, and my wife and I did, but that didn't particularly raise awareness. Finally, I looked perhaps at the obvious thing I could contribute: I could tell some of the stories I had heard, and write music to allow reflection moments around the stories. I could write music that allowed for the expression of sadness and sorrow, which we often gloss over. The resulting work after two years of writing was *Consolation for the Suffering*. The music uses the main texts of a standard requiem, but adds music for prayer and hope. Romans 8 became the culminating textual material of hope and consolation. Beyond the rightful sadness for those who live in persecution, the hope of all Christians is that "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

I will never be the same after my study and writing *Consolation for the Suffering*. I pray that all who perform and hear the music will also be compelled to not forget and pray for those who suffer for their faith.

Ed Willmington, composer

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PROGRAM

Meditation and Opening Prayer

I. Overture For the Suffering

II. Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12).....

III. Lux aeterna/Kyrie.....

*Lord, grant Your gracious rest, rest for those who suffer
May Your eternal light shine on them in peace*

*Hymns rise in Zion's walls,
Vows heard in Jerusalem*

*Hear now our earnest prayer
As we kneel before Your throne.*

*Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy*

Lord have mercy

*Hear now our earnest prayer
As we kneel before Your throne.*

Flight To India

IV. Sanctus.....

Lauren Masters, soloist

*Holy, holy Lord God
Lord God of Hosts*

*Heaven and earth are full of Your glory
Hosanna in the highest*

*Holy, holy Lord God
Lord God of Hosts*

*Holy, holy Lord God
Lord God of Hosts*

Jahru's Story

V. Agnus Dei

*Lamb of God
Who takes away the sin of the world
Grant us rest*

*Lamb of God
Who takes away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us, Grant us rest*

Lamb of God

*Who takes away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us, Grant us rest*

*Lamb of God
Who takes away the sin of the world
Grant us rest*

Lamb of God

Sayid's Story

VI. Father, In This Suffering

*Father in this suffering,
This deep and desperate darkness*

*Though I cannot feel You
I know You walk beside me*

*Broken and defenseless,
Awash in waves of sorrow*

*Reason now is helpless,
But faith is calmly resting in Christ,
With Christ in You*

*Through this loss so bitter
You give a gift more precious:
Deeper, sweeter union
With Christ, the Man of Sorrows.*

*All is false and fleeting
But You, my love, my Father!*

*Suffering always passes,
But joy is full forever in Christ*

With Christ in You.

VII. Psalm 142 (To God I Make My Sorrows Known).....

To God I make my sorrows known,
From God I sought relief.
In long complaints before His throne
I poured out all my grief.

Then did I raise a louder cry,
And called Thy mercy near,
"Thou art my portion when I die;
Be Thou my refuge here."

My soul was overwhelmed with woes,
My heart began to break.
My God, who all my burden knows,
He knows the way I take.

Lord, I am brought exceeding low,
Now let Thine ear attend,
And make my foes who vex me know
I have a mighty Friend.

On every side I cast my eye,
And found my helpers gone
While friends and strangers passed me by,
Neglected and unknown

From my sad prison set me free,
Then shall I praise Thy name,
And holy men shall join with me
Thy kindness to proclaim.

FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Opening Prayer

I. Kyrie Response

Raymond Graybar, cantor

Cantor: Kyrie eleison
All Respond: Kyrie eleison
Cantor: Christe eleison
All Respond: Christe eleison
Cantor: Kyrie eleison
All Respond: Kyrie eleison

All Respond: Christe eleison
Cantor: Kyrie eleison
All Respond: Kyrie eleison

Cantor: Kyrie eleison
All Respond: Kyrie eleison
Cantor: Christe eleison
All Respond: Christe eleison
Cantor: Kyrie eleison
All Respond: Kyrie eleison

Johnny's Story

II. The Lord's Prayer

Our Father Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, and Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.

Lead us not into temptation
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever and ever, amen!

Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors

Amen.

III. Revelation 7:9-12

IV. In paradisum (John 14:1-3)

May the angels guide you to paradise
Let not your heart, your heart be troubled
Believe in God, believe also in me
In my Father's house are many dwellings,
If it were not so, I would have told you
May the angels guide you to paradise
And if I go to prepare a place for you,

I will come again and receive you unto myself
That where I am, you shall also be!
May the chorus of angels receive you
Welcome you with open arms.
May you find rest, eternal rest
May the angels guide you to paradise
Amen.

V. *What Then Shall We Say? (Romans 8:31-35)*

Richard Joseph, soloist

*What then shall we say in response to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?*

*He who did not spare His Son, but gave Him up for all,
How will He not also graciously give us all things?*

*Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?
It is God who justifies!*

Who then is the one who condemns? No one!

*Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who has raised to life
Is at the right hand of God interceding for us*

*Who shall separate us from the love of God?
Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

VI. *No! In All These Things (Romans 8:37-39)*

No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor demons, nor things that are present,
not things to come, nor any powers!*

No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us

*That neither height nor depth, nor anything in all creation will be able to separate us.
Nothing will separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord!*

No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ!

Our Lord!

Closing Prayer

VII. *God of Justice, Love, and Mercy*

*God of justice, love, and mercy, pour Your wisdom on our souls
By Your all-sustaining power keep our spirits strong and whole*

*Lift our eyes to see Your vision of a world in urgent need;
Grant us courage, then, to follow, bringing comfort with each deed*

*God of justice, love, and mercy, with compassion, let us care;
As we come in humble weakness, may Your strength be ours to share*

*Press our hearts to know the struggle of the ones we cannot see;
Brothers, sisters, all who suffer, may Your kindness set them free.*

Audience stand and sing *God of justice, love, and mercy, send us out and make us bold
As we strive for Your high calling, let our hands Your mercies hold.*

*You have blessed us with abundance, gifts to share with those in need;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, may we follow as You lead.*

Amen, amen!

VIII. *Amens*

PARTICIPANTS

Chorale

Soprano I

Leah Barnett
Carmelita Guse
Aleta Jackson
Elysia Larson
Samantha Jenee Laumann

Alto I

Jody Blauw
Leah Danielson
Annelies Harmon
Debbie Isaacs
Tabitha Magnuson

Tenor I

Nathan Bird
Matthew Bruffey
Richard Joseph
Brad Smith

Bass I

Jacob Farrell
Raymond Graybar
Jeff Raehl
Caleb Siefkes

Soprano II

Jeni Houser
Sarah Leitzke
Bonnie Oberg
Lila Olson
Diane Ryden

Alto II

Sarah Jacobs
Ingrid Johnson
Lauren Masters
Kathy Tschida
Lora Tverberg

Tenor II

Will Nething
Jerry Schwenke
Ian Trosen
Gary Whiteford

Bass II

Dan Johnson
Peter Magnuson
Tom Oberg
Eric Patenaude

Orchestra

Violin I

Angela Hanson
David Kozamchak
Mikki Johnston

Violin II

Jennifer Thomas
Marissa Frye
Heidi Sawyer

Viola

Charles Gray
Stephanie Allen

Cello

Charles Asch
Joel Albright

Bass

Jason Hagelie

Handbells

Carmen Allen
Eric Fredericksen
Marissa Fredericksen
Jay French
Beth Hank
Robbie Hank
Ruth Peal
Kris Riley

Oboe

Caroline Schmitter

Trombone

Sam Charlton
Zach Gingerich

Horn

Teresa Herbert
Becky Jyrkas
Laura Kozamchak

Tuba

Trygve Skaar

Percussion

Joel Alexander
Kelly Grill
Paul McKenzie
John Povolny

Organ

Carol Kilian

Piano

Kay Hawkins

Youth Choir

Grace Eads
River High
Audrey Houser
Luke Houser

Natalie Houser
Elissa Johnson
Emily Johnson
Ethan Johnson

Elena McKeen
Serea McKeen
Elianna Morris
Isabelle Morris

Sophie Morris
Amelia Nyberg
Anna Preston
Greta Siefkes

Josiah Siefkes
Donovan Stertz
Annika Stertz
Eliana Wenzel

Faith Wilcox
Rachel Wilcox
Anya Worthington



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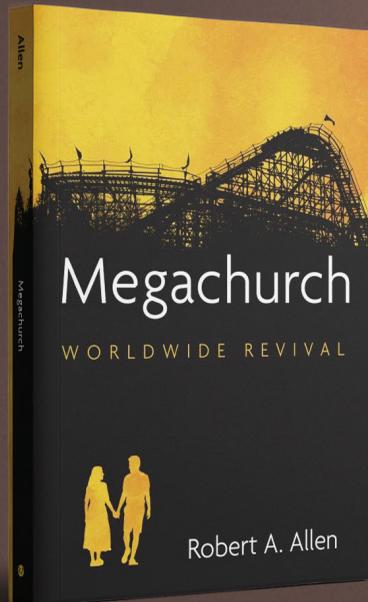
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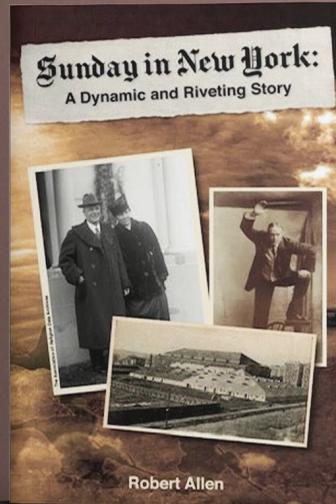
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~ Shawn

"...Time and time again you've programmed my music, prepared it carefully, and interpreted it faithfully. Additionally, many of the most important career opportunities I've had can be traced directly back to my involvement with this organization. I'm so grateful and I hope when I'm older I can help influence and establish young artists as selflessly as you have me."

~ Josh

"...What an inspiration it is to add my voice to the Deo Cantamus choir. Each concert I have been a part of offers a glimpse of the eternal gift of music and the joy of joining with others to offer that gift back to our Creator..."

~ Ingrid

"...What a great joy to sing with other believers for the faith that we commonly share! Thinking back on *Abraham*, *Remember*, and *Jubilate Deo*, every single piece has helped me to deepen my faith with my Savior..."

~ Ben

"...Annika & I went to see Hannah, we know that her days on this earth are quickly coming to a close. She asked Annika to sing to her and she (Annika) said "can I sing 'Goin' Up Yonder?' which she learned with "Let the Children Praise." It was an incredibly precious moment as Hannah held Annika's hand and said "oh yes, thank you, thank you!!" I sat there stunned by the beauty in this moment. As we were driving home Annika said "Mom, singing that for Hannah was even better than singing it for the entire crowd at the concert!"

~ Doreen

...partner with us.



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