

ETERNAL DAYSPRING

THREE PRELUDES *for* ORGAN
ON HYMN TUNES *of* DAVID ASHLEY WHITE

CARSON P. COOMAN

Opus 286

I. Father of Mercies

MESSNER NEW, 1982; Text by James Quinn, S.J.

II. We Who Wake in Hope

DOVE OF PEACE, 1993; Text by Fred Pratt Green, 1993

III. Blessed Be the God of Israel

ZECHARIAH'S SONG, 1985; Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985



Selah Publishing Co.

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Eternal Dayspring (2000–2001) is a set of three organ preludes based on hymn tunes by American composer David Ashley White.

I strongly feel that new hymn tunes should be a significant part of worship. However, one of the difficulties (for organists) with new hymn tunes is that, by virtue of their newness, there does not exist a body of organ literature on those tunes. All three hymn tunes used in these pieces may be found in *Sing, My Soul: The Hymns of David Ashley White*, an anthology (released 1996) of White hymn tunes published by Selah.

These pieces may be used as service voluntaries in a worship setting or as a set together for recital. They are especially intended for use in introducing these new hymn tunes to a congregation.

The first movement, *Father of Mercies*, was written in memory of American composer Alan Hovhaness, and is intended as a tribute to him and his work. Some stylistic elements of Hovhaness's work may be noted in this prelude.

The second movement, *We Who Wake in Hope*, was written in memory of British hymn text writer Fred Pratt Green. The movement presents a simple setting of the tune in a “quasi-trio” style. A special retrograde version of the tune is also presented, both on its own and in combination with the original tune. Many of the sounds are reminiscent of early American hymnody, providing a connection to the famous American folk hymn, also called Dove of Peace.

The third movement, *Blessed Be the God of Israel*, is an ecstatic and exciting prelude on the Song of Zechariah. It is filled with the exuberance that the text tells.

Carson P. Cooman
August 2001, Rochester, N.Y.

in memory of Alan Hovhaness

I. "Father of Mercies"

MESSNER NEW (tune by David Ashley White)

I: 8', 4' flutes

II: 8' flute

Ped: 8' flute (do not couple from II)

arr. Carson P. Cooman, Opus 286

I. *Simply, gently flowing* (♩=72)

sempre legato

II.

Ped. should sound like another manual,
independent but not muddy.

(I)

I.

in memory of Fred Pratt Green

II. "We Who Wake in Hope"

DOVE OF PEACE (tune by David Ashley White)

I: 8' principal
II: 8' flute
Ped.: 16' flute; II to Ped.

arr. Carson P. Cooman

Simply, gently flowing (♩=72)

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with three staves. The top staff is for the 8' principal, the middle for the 8' flute, and the bottom for the 16' flute and II to Ped. The piece is in 3/4 time and begins with a tempo marking of 72 beats per minute. The first system shows the initial entry of the melody in the 8' flute (II) and the accompaniment in the 16' flute and II to Ped. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The third system features a change in the 8' flute part, with the 16' flute and II to Ped. providing harmonic support. The fourth system concludes the piece with a final melodic phrase in the 8' flute and a sustained accompaniment in the 16' flute and II to Ped.

for David Ashley White

III. "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

ZACHARIAH'S SONG (tune by David Ashley White)

I: Full, with large reed
II: Full
Ped: Full

Carson P. Cooman

Slowly (♩=52)

The musical score is arranged in four systems. Each system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The first system is marked 'I. (both hands)' and includes a tempo marking 'Slowly (♩=52)'. The second system is marked 'II.' and features a first ending bracket in the bass staff. The third system continues the piece with a second ending bracket in the bass staff. The fourth system concludes the piece. The music is written in 6/8 time and features a mix of chords and melodic lines.

Tune from CGA590 "Zechariah's Song," © 1992 Choristers Guild. Used by permission.

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