## **RDH Music Series**

# R. Douglas Helvering

# An Advent Alleluia

- 1. Creator the Stars
- 2. Out of the Depths
- 3. Dop Down, Ye Heavens
- 4. Foury Christ is Lorn

For Mixed Chorus with Brass Quintet, Timpani, Percussion, and Organ (optional SSA, Treble chorus, and Treble Solo)

conductor's score



www.rdouglashelvering.com

#### Instrumentation and Text

#### **Instrumentation:**

Brass Quintet (Trumpets in C, Horn in F, Trombone, Tuba)

Timpani (Standard Four-Drum arrangement)

Auxiliary Percussion (Glockenspiel, Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals)

Pipe Organ

Mixed Chorus (with the additional option for SSA choir, single-line treble choir, and treble solo)

#### **Movement 1 - Creator of the Stars**

Alleluia! Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,

O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy. (hrist, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word.

To the holy Trinity, praise we sing eternally! Alleluia!

#### Movement 2 - Out of the Depths

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis

(Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, we mercy upon us.)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Mark ar my voice!

O let your ears consider well the voice of my appeal

I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits for Thee; in your warm by hope.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, niserere nobis.

#### Movement 3 - Drop Down, Ye Heaves

O Morning Star, O cay-spring, Rising Sun, splen or bright, O Oriens!

O Morning Star, spleator of gernal light,

O Sun of Justice come shine on those seated in a kness and the shadow of death.

Drop down, vereavens, from above, and et the slies pour forth righteousness:

Let the each efficient. Drop down, ye be wens, and bring for a Savior!

Morning Stal, O Oriens!

#### Movemen 4 - Today Christ is Born

Hoo. Christus Natus Est! (1. lay Christ is born!)

Today Christ is born: today the avior has appeared:

Today the Angels sing Search, the Archangels rejoice:

Today the right out rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the Highest. Alleluia!

#### Composer - R. Douglas Helvering

Dr. Helvering is a highly active composer, conductor, and educator. His music has been featured at all of the major choral national and regional conventions as well as at prestigious venues worldwide including the historic Carnegie Hall in New York. He is an alum and adjunct professor of the famed Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Find more information about Dr. Helvering's work, including a full listing of compositions, audio, and video at www.rdouglashelvering.com.



#### AN ADVENT ALLELUIA

#### Composer's Notes

Commissioned by Sing Omaha in the summer of 2013 for their annual 'A Christmas Fanfare' concerts, Executive and Artistic Director Matt Hill desired a work that spoke to the themes of the Christian season of Advent, speaking of humanity's need for salvation, of prayerful waiting and watching, and of our joy as the promise of salvation is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ.

The work is divided into four movements. The performance time is between 17 and 18 minutes. *An Advent Alleluia* allows for multiple choral forces but can be performed by a single mixed choir if desired. The SSA passages are designed for a separate choir, but singers from the SATB choir may be used. The Treble passages are designed for a separate single-line treble choir, but a combination of soloists or small groups may be used. In all cases, the conductor's discretion must be used to best utilize the available force; for a balanced overall sound.

A combination of ancient and beloved Advent texts is used throughout the e. First, we hear a few lines from an anonymous 7th century Advent Vespers text. The movement's and ig lives are from the last verse of Luther's famous chorale, Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland. The chorale's ne is historically heard in the first Sunday of Advent. In this setting, the chorale tune is retained (the only on-original music in the entire work), in augmentation, and set against fast flowing major sonorities the middle section The *Hyrie,* a cry for n cy, for of the movement. The opening and ending Allelui are full and resonant bu .On offered amidst the context of our own human shortcomings.

The second movement takes the *Agnus Dei* to at and pairs it with a varaphras, of the opening verses of Psalm 130. Similar to the *Kyrie*, the *Agnus Dei* is a parter for mercy, a plea for salvation. Treble voices are featured in the *Agnus Dei* sections. The middle section is a parterful, repetitive laborit, coming to a climactic conclusion as the singers affirm hope in God.

In the third movement, text from the redvent prose and Priens are offered. Rorate Coeli, from Isaiah 45, forms the basis for the Advent Rose, and has been used for centuries in Advent imagery and liturgy. Shifting tonalities and Lydial mode fragments make for timistic and expectant sound. O Oriens is from a set of Advent antichon, calle "O Antiphons" be use of t he way each text begins. O Oriens historically has been nber 21. Descending, d used in ser ading lines in the choir mark the coming of Christ. The rices **y**on ludes with a majestic state hend er Ilding His arrival. movement co.

Finally, we hear the famous text in lie Christus Natus Est. This is the antiphon to the Magnificat. With its declaration of Christ's birth, it typically sung on Christmas Day. This setting makes use of ascending fourths to build a melodically mean table motive. The mixed choir and treble voices alternate in their phrases while the tonality shifts, forming a trinky of tonal centers. The work concludes with a final statement of Alleluia! The music from earlier Alleluia sections returns, but now the sound is more jubilant, being sung amidst the joy of God's promise fulfilled.

Throughout *An Advent Alleluia*, the music has been crafted with my personal reflection upon the text's deep meaning. Advent is a season that should not be overlooked. Its themes are central to the human experience. The music seeks to reflect the wide range of human circumstance, from desperation to delight, and from heartache to happiness. I offer it with humility and pride.

R. Voualus Helwaring

September 1, 2013

### An Advent Alleluia

#### 1. Creator of the Stars

R. Douglas Helvering ASCAP













































































CH: 8' flute SW: voix celeste PED: soft 16', 8'





## 3. Drop Down, Ye Heavens































## 4. Today Christ is Born









































