

Some Things Old, All Things New: Miscellaneous Collections and Anthologies



Judith Carman

ABBREVIATION KEY: **Diff** = difficulty level; **V** = voice; **P** = piano; **E** = easy; **mE** = moderately easy; **M** = medium; **mD** = moderately difficult; **D** = difficult; **DD** = very difficult; **Tess** = tessitura; **LL** = very low; **L** = low; **mL** = moderately low; **M** = medium; **mH** = moderately high; **H** = high; **HH** = very high; **CR** = covers range; **CS** = covers staff; **X** = no clear key center.

AMERICAN

AMERICAN ART SONG FOR THE SACRED SERVICE. Medium high voice, piano or organ. Compiled and edited by Dr. Karen Leigh-Post. Classical Vocal Reprints, 2004. CD: *Be Still My Soul*. Selections from

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American Art Song for the Sacred Service. Karen Leigh, mezzo soprano. Classical Vocal Reprints, 2005.

New collections of songs for use in sacred settings are always welcome, and there have been numerous recent publications that present well known sacred songs in various combinations. What has been lacking is a collection of new works composed specifically for sacred use by professional singers who are seeking songs of quality. *American Art Song for the Sacred Service* presents a collection of twenty-four new songs by twenty-one composers that have the added attraction of being the work of American composers. The musical style of these songs bridges the gap between older classical styles and contemporary worship and praise music. Dr. Leigh-Post states that this anthology includes a number of unpublished songs from the personal libraries of various American composers. A panel of judges with the following standards reviewed compositions submitted: “Each song had to satisfy the needs of the composer, poet and performer to assure its endorsement by classically trained musicians. Furthermore, in keeping with today’s global awareness, the anthology has embraced a truly ecumenical spirit” (From the Editor). Only three of the songs have been previously published.

Some of the composers represented are well known (Libby Larsen, Stephen Paulus, Judith Lang Zaimont, Alan Hovhaness, Lori Laitman, Emma Lou Diemer), and others are

not familiar names. Text sources include biblical passages, the Jewish Sabbath Service, *The Union Prayerbook for Jewish Worship*, the *Chinook Psalter*, poems of Emily Dickinson, William Shakespeare, Walt Whitman, George Herbert, William Blake, some traditional texts, and some texts by the various composers. The musical language ranges from very accessible arrangements of traditional tunes (“Finlandia”) to quite challenging twentieth century styles. The keys of all the songs are in the medium high category, and some call for two voices or voice and an obbligato instrument. Several are composed for voice and organ. “Going Back” for voice, B-flat clarinet, and piano by Allen Gimbel, composed for the fiftieth anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, is especially beautiful.

The volume contains, in addition to the songs, notes from the editor, two tables of contents, one of which gives suggested use (Christmas/Epiphany, General, Meditation, Memorial, Spiritual Healing, Wedding) and range of each song, and a section containing information about each composer. The volume is cleanly printed, easy to read, and bound so that it opens flat for the convenience of the performers. This would be a valuable addition to all music libraries and personal collections.

IVES, CHARLES (1874–1954). **129 SONGS.** Music of the United States of America, Volume 12, edited