

SING FOR JOY

February 2003

The Reverend
W. Bruce Benson,
host of *Sing For Joy*



From the Host

All of February 2003 falls within the season of Epiphany. That doesn't help poor February very much — Epiphany has no reputation for excitement or progress. It tends to feel neither here nor there.

Advent, on the other hand, moves steadily and quickly toward Christmas. At least it moves that way for busy adults. Children, I admit, feel Advent's pace quite differently; four Sundays is about three too many for little ones. Lent also moves steadily, though perhaps not quickly enough for many of us (adults as well as children) toward Easter.

And what about Epiphany? Does it have any motion at all, or is it just ecclesiastical "filler" tucked into the weeks between Christmas and Lent? Fluff time. It's true that nothing much seems to happen during the Epiphany season — except in climate zones seven and eight, where camellias bloom as harbingers of floral explosions to come. Nativity sets and Christmas trees come down, but nothing takes their places until the cross and crown of thorns appear in Lent. In those churches that use colored altar and pulpit hangings to mark the seasons of the church year, the color during Epiphany is the same basic green or tapestry of the long summer and Pentecost season.

Ho hum. Even on the musical scene, church and world seem to take a break. Choirs and orchestras and solo performers crowd the Advent calendar. Special concerts are scheduled for Lent and Easter. But who wants a concert during Epiphany? Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are seasons with distinctive, recognizable "faces." They help life in the Church stand out from life in the world. Epiphany suffers from lack of distinctiveness. Unless we look harder.

Just as each identical twin is distinctive to those who know him or her best, so Epiphany has an identity of its own that deserves to be recognized and celebrated. I hope **Sing For Joy** helps you appreciate the Epiphany season. The motion of Epiphany is not like an Advent boat churning its way toward the harbor of Christmas, it is like the rings that spread from a stone dropped into water. Jesus is that rock, that stone.

When Jesus enters the world, he causes ripples. Christmas is the celebration of the Incarnation, the Rock of our salvation come among us; Epiphany notices the ripples that result from "the Word made flesh." First, Christ is made known to just a few, then a few more, then the crowds. Made known in signs and wonders, then in teaching, then in healing. The ripples spread.

The presence of Christ creates ripples. I hope some of the music you hear on **Sing For Joy** during February creates ripples in you. Whenever the Spirit of God blows across the waters, the ripples bring recreation, repentance, refreshment, renewal. May you experience them all this season!

Bruce Benson

Letters from Listeners

"The selections of music are always beautiful, fitting so well into the church year and the rotation of readings for the liturgical year. **Sing For Joy** is a very meaningful way to start our Sunday morning." *Pittsboro, North Carolina*

"Thank you, Dr. Benson and Dr. Ferguson, for finding your way to **Sing For Joy**. You are doing a great job."
A grateful listener

"**Sing For Joy** has started our morning worship for years. Both my husband and I not only enjoy the music but use the commentary to begin our journey with God each Lord's day." *Smithfield, North Carolina*

"I have appreciated your giving us a Sunday morning program of worshipful music, with comments that add immeasurably to the impact of the music's words and tie them to the lesson of the day. I think having chosen Pastor Benson and musician Ferguson to carry on **Sing For Joy** after the Reverend Alvin Rueter's retirement is an ideal choice." *Northfield, Minnesota*

"Pastor Benson, congratulations on your additional position as host of **Sing For Joy**. Your dad, along with my father, performed our wedding at Chisago Lake more than 43 years ago. God go with you in this new venture."
Alexandria, MN

Listings

February 2

Open Now Your Ears, O Faithful People (YISRAEL V'ORAITA) – Arr. John Ferguson (1R)
Oberlin College Choir & Combined Ohio Church Choirs / John Ferguson, Organ.
(CD) *Songs for the Journey: A Festival of Hymns* / OBERLIN COLLEGE RECORDINGS / NOT FOR RESALE
© 2002 Oberlin Conservatory of Music

“A New Created World Springs Up at God’s Command” from The Creation – Franz Joseph Haydn (G)
Jon Humphrey – Tenor, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra & Chorus / Robert Shaw.
(CD) *The Creation* / TELARC / CD-80298 (2CD)
© 1992 Telarc International Corp, 23307 Commerce Park Rd, Cleveland, OH 44122

Verbum patris hodie (Today the Word of the Father Has Been Born) (1R, G)
Purcell Consort of Voices / Frank L. Harrison & Eric J. Dobson.
(CD) *Now Make We Merthe* / BOSTON SKYLINE / BSD 121
© 1994 Boston Skyline Records, A Division of Polygram Records

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah (CWM RHONDDA) – Arr. J. Glyn Williams
Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir & Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir / Ieuan Davies & J. Glyn Williams.
(CD) *The Voice of Wales* / CHANDOS / CHAN 6540
© 1991 Chandos Records, Ltd.

“Nine Otpushchayeshi” (Lord, Now Lettest Thou Thy Servant Depart) from All-night Vigil – Sergei Rachmaninoff (PR)
Karl Dent – Tenor, Robert Shaw Festival Singers / Robert Shaw.
(CD) *Vespers (All Night Vigil)* / TELARC / CD-80172
© 1990 Telarc International Corp, 23307 Commerce Park Rd, Cleveland, OH 44122

LECTIONARY

1R-First Reading 2R-Second Reading PS-Psalms G-Gospel

February 2	February 16
(1R) 2 K 2:1-12	(1R) 2 K 5:1-14
(PS) PS 50:1-6	(PS) PS 30
(2R) 2 CO 4:3-6	(2R) 1 CO 9:24-27
(G) MK 9:2-9	(G) MK 1:40-45

February 9	February 23
(1R) GN 9:8-17	(1R) IS 43:18-25
(PS) PS 25:1-9	(PS) PS 41
(2R) 1 P 3:18-22	(2R) 2 CO 1:18-22
(G) MK 1:9-15	(G) MK 2:1-12
(L) Lent	

“How Beautiful Are the Feet” from Messiah – George Frederic Handel (1R)
Sylvia McNair – Soprano, Academy & Chorus of St. Martin in the Fields / Sir Neville Marriner.
(CD) *Handel’s Messiah: The 250th Anniversary Performance* / PHILIPS / 434 695-2
© 1992 Philips Classics Productions

“How Lovely Are the Messengers” from St. Paul – Felix Mendelssohn (G)
The Westminster Choir / Joseph Flummerfelt.
(CD) *Favorite Hymns and Anthems* / GOTHIC / G 49044
© 1990 Gothic Records, PO Box 1576, Tustin, CA 92681

Thou Whose Almighty Word (MOSCOW) – Arr. Richard Marlow (G)
Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge / Richard Marlow.
(CD) *Descants from Trinity* / CONIFER 75605 51281 2
© 1996 Conifer Records Ltd.

February 9

O Worship the King (HANOVER) (1R)
Huddersfield Choral Society, England / Owain Arwel Hughes.
(CD) *Hymns Album* / EMI / CDP 7 46202 2
© 1986 EMI Records Ltd; In the USA: Inheritance Publications, Box 366, Pella, IA 50219

How Great Thou Art (OSTORE GUD) – Arr. Stuart K. Hine (1R)
The Augustana Choir, Rock Island, IL / John Hurty.
(CD) *Favorite Hymns from Augustana* / DELTA / DRCD98-85454
© Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61201-2210

The Lord Is the Everlasting God – Kenneth Jennings (1R)
The St. Olaf Choir / Anton Armstrong.
(CD) *My Soul’s Been Anchored in the Lord* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2396
© 2001 St. Olaf Choir, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057

We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations (MESSAGE) – Arr. H.E. Nichol (2R, G)
Holland Chorale, Holland MI / Calvin P. Langejans.
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith* / DELTA / DRCD96-63434
© Holland Chorale, PO Box 1513, Holland, MI 49422

Come, Ye Disconsolate – Arr. Alice Parker (G)
Musicians of Melodious Accord / Alice Parker.
(CD) *Transformations* / MUSICAL HERITAGE SOCIETY / MHS 512895F
© 1991 Musical Heritage Society, Inc, 1710 Highway 35, Ocean, NJ 07712

You Can Tell the World – Traditional (2R, G)
Jessye Norman / James Levine.
(CD) *Spirituals in Concert* / DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON / DG 429 790-2
© 1991 Deutsche Grammophon, GmbH, Hamburg, Germany

Listings

February 16

Fight the Good Fight – John Gardner (2R)
Yorkminster Park Baptist Choir, Toronto / Catherine M. Palmer.
(CD) *Bless Ye the Lord* / MARQUIS CLASSICS / 77471-81243-26
© 1999 Marquis Classics, 30 Kenilworth Ave, Toronto, Canada M4L 3S3

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (ST. EDMUND) – Arr. Richard Marlow (G)
Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge / Richard Marlow
(CD) *Descants from Trinity* / CONIFER / 75605 51281 2
© 1996 Conifer Records Ltd.

There Is a Balm in Gilead (BALM IN GILEAD) – Arr. William L. Dawson (G)
The Trinity Choir, Boston, MA / Brian Jones.
(CD) *With Heart & Voice* / GOTHIC / G 49071
© 1994 Gothic Records, Inc. PO Box 6406, Anaheim, CA 92806

Nobody Knows de Trouble I've Seen – Traditional (G)
Barbara Hendricks – Soprano, Dmitri Alexeev – Piano.
(CD) *Negro Spirituals* / EMI / 7470262
© 1983 EMI Records Ltd

Healer of Our Every Ill (HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL) – Marty Haugen (1R, G)
Holy Trinity Bach Choir, New York / Richard Erickson.
(CD) *Joining Hearts & Voices* / AUGSBURG FORTRESS / 3-308 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Thee We Adore (ADORO TE DEVOTE) – Arr. T. Frederick H. Candlyn (G)
Memphis Boychoir & Memphis Chamber Choir / John Ayer.
(CD) *Great Cathedral Music: A Memphis Choral Tour* / PROORGANO / CD 7053
© 1994 Zarex Corporation, South Bend, IN

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And for many, many
gifts in honor of Pastor
Alvin Rueter

February 23

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (PRAISE, MY SOUL) – Desc. Stephen Cleobury (G)
The Choir of King's College, Cambridge / Stephen Cleobury.
(CD) *Best Loved Hymns* / EMI CLASSICS / 7243 5 57026 2 3
© 2001 EMI Records, Ltd.

Amazing Grace (NEW BRITAIN) – Arr. Robert Shaw (G)
The Robert Shaw Festival Singers, Christopher Cock - Tenor / Robert Shaw.
(CD) *Amazing Grace: American Hymns and Spirituals* / Telarc / CD-80325
© 1993 Telarc International Corporation, 23307 Commerce Park Road, Cleveland, OH 44122

Great Is Thy Faithfulness (FAITHFULNESS) – William H. Runyan (1R)
The St. Olaf Choir / Anton Armstrong.
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2294
© 1999 St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057

O For a Closer Walk With God (CAITHNESS) – Arr. Charles Villiers Stanford (1R, G)
Saint Clement's Choir, Philadelphia PA / Peter Richard Conte.
(CD) *Hymns of Heaven and Earth* / DORIAN RECORDINGS / DOR-90259
© 1998 Dorian Recordings, 8 Brunswick Road, Troy, NY 12180.

"Dignare Domine die isto" from Te Deum – Dominick Argento (1R, G)
Los Angeles Master Chorale & Sinfonia Orchestra / Paul Salamunovich.
(CD) *Argento & Duruflé* / RCM / RCM 12002
© 2001 Rubido Canis Musica,

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (DEDICATION ANTHEM) – Mennonite Hymnal No. 606 (G)
Goshen College Chamber Choir, Goshen, IN / Doyle Preheim
(CD) *Hallelujah! Amen!* / GOSHEN COLLEGE
© 1999 Goshen College, 1700 S Main St, Goshen, IN 46526





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