



Praise the Spirit: Sacred Music of David Ashley White

The Choir of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, Houston, TX
Brady Knapp & Courtney Daniell-Knapp, directors

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David Ashley White is one of the most popular composers in the Episcopal Church today. From anthems to hymns, this recording offers a variety of music and texts. The Choir of Palmer Church has long been associated with White's music, and gives the program a polished performance in a reverberant setting. Recorded by the legendary John Proffitt.

Spirit, moving over chaos (Hymn: "Praise the Spirit")
Comfort, comfort, ye my people
The Apple Tree
Adam lay ybounden
Conceived in the autumn (Hymn: "Janet")
The Kingdom of Love
Come all my partners in distress (Hymn: "Wilma")
Are you weary of your burden (Hymn: "Wales")
God is One (Hymn: "Proffitt")
Love came down at Christmas
Sweet was the song
Alleluia, song of gladness
True Anointed One
No More a Stranger or a Guest
Memento, Domine
As the Father Has Loved Me
O hilarious light
So the day dawn (Hymn: "Wildridge, St. Charles")
Our holy tribute, this
A Fanfare for St. Anthony (organ solo)
Bread of heaven
O taste and see
Come, pure hearts
O Love divine
God so loved the world
Into the woods my Master went
King of glory, King of peace

Program Details

Like the works of many composers, my compositions run the gamut from instrumental music to art songs and choral pieces. However, working with words has always given me the greatest pleasure. *Praise the Spirit*, with its title taken from Patricia B. Clark's wonderful creation hymn, well reflects how various kinds of poetry can inspire the "making" of music. The texts I have set range from the ancient—Psalms of David and a hymn by Clement of Alexandria, first century—to some of the best hymns by today's active writers. The choir and congregation of Palmer Church have sung my music for 30 years. Over time, I have composed a number of works especially for Palmer, including three works heard on this recording, "Adam lay ybounden"; "Memento, Domine"; and "O Taste, and See." (The latter two were composed for the choir's trip to East Anglia in 2004.) Of the remaining anthems and motets, practically all were commissioned or composed for a particular group or purpose. "True Anointed One" was commissioned for the 1987 Mid-Winter Region VII conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians; "God So Loved the World," to honor John and Leona Schaefer and the Choir of Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, MO; "Our Holy Tribute, This," commissioned in 1995 to celebrate the reopening of the nave of Christ Church Cathedral, Houston; and "No More a Stranger or a Guest," to honor the staff of the Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy. The hymns included here come from my three hymn collections, all published by Selah Publishing Co.: *Sing, My Soul* (1996); *Songs for a New Creation* (2002); and *New Harmony: A Harp of Thousand Strings* (2006), a collaboration with hymn poet Richard Leach. These books represent a significant portion of my output since 1981, when I first began composing hymns.

--David Ashley White

Spirit, moving over chaos *text: Patricia B. Clark, 1997*

Spirit, moving over chaos,
bringing light where there was none,
be to us a light, revealing
where the work is to be done.
Praise to God, among us dwelling:
praise the Spirit giving light.
Breath, instilling animation,
giving life, informing soul,
breathe into this congregation
life that makes the Body whole.
Praise to God, among us dwelling:
praise the Spirit giving fire.

*[Wind, inflaming fear-filled bodies,
sending them to tell the News,
fire anew your church's spirit,
show the path we ought to choose.
Praise to God, among us dwelling:
praise the Spirit giving fire.]

Power, Life-force, Inspiration,
blowing, breathing, brooding here,
call, enliven, and empower
for your work, both far and near.
Praise to God, among us dwelling:
praise the Spirit giving strength.
**omitted*

Comfort, comfort ye my people *text: Isaiah 40:1-5*

vers. Johann G. Loearious, 1671, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
**Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.
Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
O let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.**

The Apple Tree *text: Anonymous, collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784*

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be
compared with Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see
in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see,
'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
here I can sit and rest awhile:
under the shadow I will be,
of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be

with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

† **Adam lay ybounden** *text: fifteenth century, Sloan MS*

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
as clerkès finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
ne had never our lady abeen heavene queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen: *Deo gracias!*