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



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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 styllistic 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.



MESSNER NEW (tune by David Ashley White)

I: 8',4' flutes II: 8' flute Ped: 8' flute (do not couple from II)

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arr. Carson P. Cooman, Opus 286



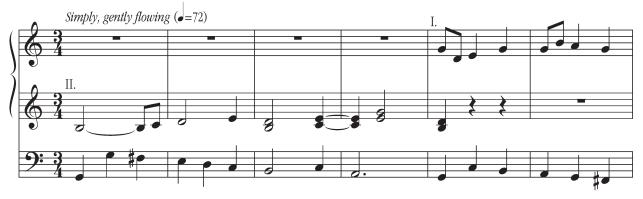
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in memory of Fred Pratt Green II. "We Who Wake in Hope"

DOVE OF PEACE (tune by David Ashley White)

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

arr. Carson P. Cooman









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III. "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

ZECHARIAH'S SONG (tune by David Ashley White)

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

Carson P. Cooman









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