

## Music Notes for April 7, 2024

The service music during the Easter season includes the Presentation Hymn (Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord), the Sanctus by William Mathias (1934-1992) and the Fraction Anthem ("The disciples knew the Lord Jesus") by Mark Sedio (b. 1954). Mathias was born in Wales and was a musical prodigy who began playing the piano at age 3 and composing at age 5. He has an extraordinarily large musical output has written works for choir, organ, and orchestra, including symphonies and operas. His anthem "Let the people praise thee" was written for the wedding of Charles and Diana in 1981 and was televised to an audience of over 1 billion people. The Sanctus is from the "Communion Service Series III, published in 1976. Sedio is Director of Music at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and also serves on the music staff at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul.

The Psalms during Easter will be sung using settings that were composed by Peter Hallock, longtime organist and music director of St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, WA.

Today's prelude is a set of variations on the Easter hymn "O filii et filiae" (O sons and daughters), a hymn particularly appropriate to the Second Sunday of Easter. It tells the story of Jesus' appearance to the disciples, including "doubting" Thomas. We'll sing that hymn as the processional today. The variations were written by French composer Jean-François Dandrieu (c. 1682 – 1738).

In place of a sequence hymn, this Easter season we will be singing the "Festival Alleluia," by James Chepponis (b. 1956). Chepponis is a priest of the Roman Catholic Pittsburgh Diocese, ordained in 1985. The Festival Alleluia was commissioned for the 1999 Papal mass of John-Paul II in St. Louis.

Today's anthem is "Alleluia, Christ is Risen" by James Kirkby. Kirkby was born in 1949 and is a retired English teacher who received his musical training at the University of Edinburgh and now resides in Aberdeen. This composition pairs an Easter text with the hymn tune "Stuttgart," often used for the Advent hymn "Come, thou long-expected Jesus." This tune was composed around 1715 by Christian Witt, and is one of about 100 hymn melodies composed by him.

The postlude today is entitled "Easter Jubilation," and was composed by Gilbert M. Martin. Martin is currently a free lance composer and an editor of choral music. For more than 30 years, organists, pianists, schools and churches have performed and enjoyed his many and varied original compositions and arrangements. He often travels throughout the country to teach and conduct musical ensembles. Born in Southbridge, Massachusetts, in 1941, Martin now lives in Dayton, Ohio.