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Program Notes

After a short but serious illness last year, I felt the need to work with a spiritual and inspirational text. Having received a request from ECS Publishing to complete something for their *Psalm Song* series, I began looking at the Psalms and almost immediately came upon the 23rd Psalm. My mother having passed away within the last year, the Psalm touched me in a deep way, and I quickly arranged the text and sketched the three movements.

Although the pieces touch upon various moods, the underlying feeling is one of hope and optimism; its musical language is tonal and direct, and intended to express clearly the beauty of the text.

Henry Mollicone, December, 2000

I.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He leads me to lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside the still waters.

II.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for God is with me,
And the power of the Lord shall comfort me.
Hallelujah.

III.

The Lord restores my soul and leads me to the path of goodness for the sake of the name of the Lord.
Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever and ever.
Hallelujah.

Translation by Henry Mollicone, December, 2000

Henry Mollicone

“...One of the most distinctive American opera composers” —The Washington Post

Henry Mollicone is no stranger to the world of vocal composition. His three-act opera, *Hotel Eden*, premiered at Opera San José, and has had various productions, including a successful eastern premier in New York City. His two-act opera, *Coyote Tales*, was published by ECS Publishing in 1999, and premiered by The Lyric Opera of Kansas City in 1998. A CD is currently available on the Newport Classic label. This opera is scheduled for a second production at Oberlin Conservatory in the fall of 2000 and will be conducted by the composer. His one-act opera, *The Face on the Barroom Floor*, was the recipient of the American Composers' Recording Award and is performed annually both at the Central City Opera Festival (where it was commissioned), and the Utah Festival Opera.

Mr. Mollicone has written music in various forms (including orchestral and choral), and actively conducts symphonies and operas. In 1976, he was musical assistant to Leonard Bernstein for the show *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, and is currently a Woodrow Wilson National Fellow.

A former student of Donald Martino, Gunther Schuller, Seymour Shifrin, Daniel Pinkham, and Ron Nelson, he recently completed a song cycle for tenor Jerry Hadley, and is planning a new opera with Tony award-winning playwright William Luce.

To the memory of Henry and Mary Mollicone

Psalm 23

(The Lord Is My Shepherd)

for SATB Chorus and Piano

H. M., tr.

Henry Mollicone

I. The Lord Is My Shepherd

Moderato ♩ = c. 138

Piano*

mf (optional introduction)

The piano introduction consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The music is marked *mf* and is labeled as an optional introduction.

5 *mf* *espressivo*

S A

The Lord is my shep - herd; I shall not want. He

T B

mf *espressivo*

The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment are shown for measures 5 through 10. The vocal parts are in 3/4 time, and the piano accompaniment is in 3/4 time. The music is marked *mf* and *espressivo*. The piano accompaniment is labeled as optional.

10 *poco riten.* *p* *a tempo* *mf*

leads me to lie down in green pas - tures. The

p *mf* *a tempo*

poco riten. *p* *mf*

The vocal parts and piano accompaniment are shown for measures 10 through 14. The vocal parts are in 3/4 time, and the piano accompaniment is in 3/4 time. The music is marked *poco riten.*, *p*, *a tempo*, and *mf*. The piano accompaniment is labeled as optional.

* (The first piece may be sung unaccompanied and exclude the piano introduction.)

14

Lord is my shep - herd; I shall not want. He

p

p

18

S leads me be - side the still wa - ters. He

A leads me, He leads me, He

T leads me, He leads me be - side the still

B leads me, He leads me, He

mf

mf

mf

mf

p

mf

22 *mf*

leads me be - side the still wa - ters, _____ be - side the still

mf

leads me be - side the still wa - ters, still wa - ters, _____ be -

mf

wa - ters, be - side the still wa - ters, still wa - ters, _____ be -

mf

leads me be - side the still wa - ters, still wa - ters, be - side the still

27 *p* *cresc.*

wa - ters, be - side, _____

p *cresc.*

side the still wa - ters, be - side _____

p *cresc.*

side the still wa - ters, be - side _____

p *cresc.*

wa - ters, be - side, _____ be -

32 *mf cresc.* *f*

be - side, be - side

mf cresc. *div.* *unis.* *f*

the still wa - ters, the still wa - ters, be - side

mf cresc. *f*

the still wa - ters, the still wa - ters, be - side

mf cresc. *f*

side, be - side, be - side

mf cresc. *f*

37 *dim.* *rit.* *p* **Poco meno mosso**

the still wa - ters.

dim. *p*

the still wa - ters.

dim. *p* *p dolce*

the still wa - ters. The

dim. *p*

the still wa - ters.

Poco meno mosso

dim. *rit.* *p* *p dolce*

42 *p dolce*

The Lord is my shep - herd; I shall not want.____

p dolce

The Lord is my shep - herd; I shall not want.____

⁸ Lord is my shep - herd, my shep - herd; I shall not want.____

p dolce

The Lord is my shep - herd; I shall not want.____

47 **Tempo I** ♩ = c. 138

mf espress.

S
A
T
B

The Lord is my shep - herd; I shall not want.____ He

mf espress.

Tempo I ♩ = c. 138

mf

II. I Will Fear No Evil

Adagio $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 69$ *p* tranquillo, legato

S
A
T
B

Though I walk through the

Adagio $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 69$
tranquillo
p

4

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I walk through the

p tranquillo, legato

I will fear no e - vil,

7

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, _____ though I walk through the

p *tranquillo, legato*

Though I walk through the

I will fear no e - vil, the

8th-----

10

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear, I will fear no

mp

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear, I will fear no

mp

val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no e - vil, _____ no

mp

I will fear no e - vil, _____ no

mp

(8th)----- | *loco*

13

cresc. *mf*
 e - vil, for God is with me, And the po - wer of the Lord shall
cresc. *mf*
 e - vil, for God, for God is with me, And the po - wer of the Lord shall
cresc. *mf*
 e - vil, for God is with me, And the po - wer of the Lord shall
cresc. *mf*
 e - vil, for God is with me, And the po - wer of the Lord shall

cresc. *mf*

16

p *rit.*
 com - fort me.
(mf)
 com - fort me. Though I walk through the val - ley of the sha - dow of
p
 com - fort me.
p
 com - fort me.
mp *rit.*

19 *a tempo*
p

Though I walk through the val-ley of the sha - dow of death, _____
 death, _____ the sha - dow of death, _____
 I will fear no
 I will fear no

a tempo
p

r.h.

22

— I walk through the val-ley of the sha-dow of death, _____
 — I walk... _____ the sha-dow of death, _____
 e - vil, _____ I will fear no
 e - vil, _____ I will fear no

r.h.

25

— though I walk through the val-ley of the sha-dow of death, I will fear, —
 — though I walk through the val-ley of the sha-dow of death, I will fear, —
 e - vil, the val-ley of the sha-dow of death, I will fear no
 e - vil, I will fear no

loco
8^{vb}

28

I will fear no e - vil, for God is with me, And the
 I will fear no e - vil, for God, for God is with me, And the
 e - vil, no e - vil, for God is with me, And the
 e - vil, no e - vil, for God is with me, And the

cresc.

III. The Lord Restores My Soul

Allegro ♩ = c. 120

joyfully f

S
A

The Lord re-

T
B

Allegro ♩ = c. 120

f

f

f

3

stores my soul and leads me to the path of good-ness for the sake of the name of the

♩ = ♩

♩ = ♩

The musical score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Allegro' with a quarter note equal to approximately 120 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'joyfully f' for the vocal parts and 'f' for the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'The Lord re- stores my soul and leads me to the path of good-ness for the sake of the name of the'. The score includes a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' and a fermata. There are also two instances of a quarter note followed by an eighth note, marked with a '♩ = ♩' symbol.

7

Lord. The Lord re-

f *sf*

This musical system covers measures 7 and 8. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'Lord.' followed by a long note, and 'The Lord re-' followed by a long note. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two sharps and a 2/4 time signature. The piano part features a series of chords and melodic lines, with dynamic markings *f* and *sf*.

9

stores my soul_ and leads me to the path of good-ness for the sake of the name of the

f *sf*

This musical system covers measures 9, 10, 11, and 12. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'stores my soul_ and leads me to the path of good-ness for the sake of the name of the'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and melodic lines, maintaining the key signature of two sharps and the 2/4 time signature. Dynamic markings *f* and *sf* are present.

13

mp Lord. Good-ness and mer-cy shall fol-low me, fol-low me, fol-low me

mp Good-ness and mer-cy shall fol-low me, fol-low me, fol-low me

mp

16

S *mp* Good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me, fol - low me, fol - low me,

A all the days of my life.

T *mp* Good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me, fol - low me, fol - low me,

B all the days of my life.

18 *f*

good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me, fol - low me, fol - low me

f

Good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me, fol - low me, fol - low me

f

good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me, fol - low me, fol - low me

f

Good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low me, fol - low me, fol - low me

20

S
A

all the days_ of my life, _____

T
B

all the days_ of my life, _____

good-ness and mer-cy shall fol-low me, fol-low me, fol-low me, fol-low me... and I shall

dwell in the house of the Lord for - ev - er_ and