Commissioned by Maurice Casey, Music Director, Worthington (Ohio) United Methodist Church

Christmas Joy

for SATB Chorus, Audience / Congregation, Brass Quintet, Organ and optional Percussion

































Vancouver, August 6, 2005 Duration: 13-14 minutes

Program Notes

Commissioned by Maurice Casey (Music Director of the Worthington [Ohio] United Methodist Church), Christmas Joy was premiered in Worthington on December 18, 2005. This fourteen-minute set of continuous carol arrangements may be performed by SATB chorus and audience/ congregation accompanied by piano or brass quintet, organ, and optional percussion. The festive instrumental introduction features snippets of favorite carols and the joyful choral declaration, "Noel, noel, Sing Christmas joy." This "Christmas joy" motif is a unifying ritornello that connects and juxtaposes the merry verses of Good King Wenceslas, Here We Come A-wassailing and Nouveau Nouvelet, and the reflective lines of O Come, O Come Emmanuel and Lo How a Rose. After a reprise of the opening section that appears before the stirringly triumphant and penultimate Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, the "Christmas joy" motive reappears in the final joyful and climactic phrases.

Publisher's Note

The full score (Catalog No. 7.0513) and parts (Catalog No. 7.0514) are available from the publisher.

Stephen Chatman

Stephen Chatman (b. 1950) is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory (B.M.) and the University of Michigan (D.M.A.). He is the recipient of numerous awards in composition including a Fulbright Grant, three BMI Awards, Western Canadian Music Awards, an M. B. Rockefeller Fund grant, and the Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has received many commissions through the Canada Council and the CBC, including works for the Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver symphonies, CBC Radio Orchestra, Montreal's SMCQ, Vancouver New Music, Verdehr Trio, pianists Jane Coop and Marc-André Hamelin, contralto Maureen Forrester, the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition, Vancouver Chamber Choir, Vancouver Cantata Singers, Vancouver Phoenix Chamber Choir, Vancouver Bach Choir, Toronto Elmer Iseler Singers, Calgary Kantorei, Karen Jamieson Dance Company and the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors. Selections of his music are recorded on CRI, Globe, Crystal, Centrediscs, and CBC Records. Mr. Chatman's more than seventy published choral works are widely performed and his orchestral compositions have been performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Radio Orchestra, Seoul, Sydney, San Francisco, Winnipeg, St. Louis, Montreal, Calgary, Detroit, Dallas, and New World symphonies. Currently, he is Professor and Head of Composition at the University of British Columbia School of Music in Vancouver, Canada. More information is available from the composer's Web <www.drstephenchatman.com>



