

Keyboard Reviews Plus One for Flute or Alto Recorder and Keyboard

Phyllis Warner

All prices are in U.S. dollars

Snow on snow: Piano Settings. Anne Marie David.

Augsburg Fortress EVO26585, 2014. ISBN 978-4514-8610-0. \$18.00.

The use of *rubato* for six of the eight Christmas hymn settings describes the reflective tone of this collection. The use of parallel fifths, repetition of motives and ostinatos provide a contemporary style. In five settings when the hymn tune is quoted, the accompaniment could add interest for singers. Changing CRANHAM from the key of G flat to G would keep it in the Easy-Medium level of difficulty. Other tunes include COVENTRY CAROL, CRADLE SONG, DIX, KREMSER, SCHONSTER HERR JESU, STILLE NACHT, ST. LOUIS. Three original pieces of similar style by the composer are included.

Suite on "For Builders Bold, Whose Vision Pure." Flute or alto recorder and keyboard.

Lynn L. Petersen. Tune: FLIGHT OF THE EARLS (Traditional Irish).

Northwestern Publishing House 2700060E, 2014. (PDF available at www.nph.net.) \$12.50.

The keyboard accompaniments for the *Suite* could be played by a late intermediate or early advanced player. While the solo part is simple for the first three movements, the fourth movement requires the skill of at least a proficient high school solo player. *I. Song.* The tune is presented boldly by the solo instrument. The accompaniment supports it in a modified "oom-pah" style with the Scottish influence of parallel fifths in the bass and chords in the treble. *II. Reflection.* The tune appears in the bass of the keyboard. The solo provides a few "filler" sounds during long notes at tune phrase endings. *III. Interlude.* At its slow tempo with half notes, the accompaniment provides a lush sound with the use of ninths and Mixolydian chords. The solo adds fragments of the tune. *IV. Dance.* While notated in 4/4, the feel is 3+3+2 eighth notes. Yes, it dances! Total time: Approximately 5 minutes.

The following three Northwestern publications include tune and text indices with texts coordinated with hymn page numbers as found in *Christian Worship* or the *Christian Worship Supplement*. Northwestern is the publishing house for the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Hymn Improvisations: For Piano. Dale A. Witte.

Northwestern Publishing House 2700058, 2014. ISBN 978-0-81100-2634-6. \$21.00.

The thirteen hymns in this collection incorporate original themes (A) and the hymn tunes (B) in a variety of settings. In CHRISTE SANCTORUM, A with its major/minor alternation is followed by chords that provide both an introduction and coda to surround the tune. In GETHSEMANE and AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE, A and B phrases alternate. In these two and several other settings, following the composer's directions may keep the many repetitions of A sections from

sounding over-used. The tune is presented once in most of the settings. JESUS LOVES ME contains three presentations with a short introduction and coda.

Versatile Hymn-Based Settings: For Organ. Donald Rotermund.

Northwestern Publishing House 2700057, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8100-2631-5. \$20.00.

By the numbers, this collection uses a variety of compositional devices to provide interest for both listener and performer in easy to medium levels of difficulty.

CONSOLATION: Partita with 5 settings of the tune plus an introduction and a hymn accompaniment coda. VOM HIMMEL HOCH: 4 mini settings of the first and last three verses of the text. (The *Flourish* shows why you learned to play the C scale with your left hand.)

SCHMUCKE DICH: 3 settings of the tune: Handel's Prelude and choral settings from *Brockes Passion* provide the most challenging pedal parts; the third setting is Roterman's hymn accompaniment. DER AM KREUZ: A Trio in the style of Bach's *Ich ruf zu Dir*. BACHOFEN and LIEBSTER JESU: A duet with pedal on two staves. MIT FREUDEN ZART: One tune with pedal on two staves.

22 Hymn Preludes for Organ

Settings by eleven Lutheran composers: Six settings by Paul Kanzenbach, seven by Jacob Weber and one each by Ronald Besemer, Matthew Manthe, Carl Nolte, Cheryl Nolte, Lynn Petersen, Karen Phipps, John Reim, Kathy Smith and Jim Vyhanek.

Northwestern Publishing House 2700059, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8100-2635-3. \$22.00.

Thirteen of the tunes are traditional hymns. The nine newer ones include ARK, DOUSMAN, FOX VALLEY, NEW ULM, PREPARATION, ST. LUKE, SPEAK, O LORD, SUANTRAI and WEDDING GLORY.

This is an ideal collection for both the beginning and seasoned organist. A sensitive instructor will be able to lead the learner from manuals only through reading three staves with pedal points to independent pedal lines. While most of the pieces suggest registration, there are opportunities for students to experiment with adapting their own. The seasoned organist will find prelude introductions and accompaniments in the many one-two page settings. Both can enjoy the challenge of key changes in DOUSMAN and the meters in EBENEZER. WEDDING GLORY has a sturdy contemporary feel with its syncopated tune and marching pedal quarter notes for four pages. Fun!

AN OLD FAVORITE: *Carol Rhapsody* by Richard Purvis. In *Organ Music of Richard Purvis: Vol. 1*. H.T. FitzSimons Co. (H.L. 8739793). ISBN 063408433X. \$12.95.

This medley uses the organ in all its glory and challenges the performer. Purvis died on Christmas Day 1994 at the age of 81.

Phyllis Warner, MSM, has taught organ, piano and keyboard pedagogy at the university level for over 25 years. Chosen for *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, she has been a featured clinician in local and international settings for organists and piano teachers.