

COMPOSTIONS  
BY  
RICHARD ROBERSON

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**Tuesday, March 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**

*Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship  
and Performing Arts, Parmer Hall*



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DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

# PROGRAM

Fanfare for an Uncommon President (2004)

The President's Brass  
Timothy Dixon, Conductor

Jeremiah Songs (1974)

Cursed be the day  
The heart

Damian Savarino, Bass-Baritone  
Patrice Ewoldt, Piano

Blake Songs (1977/1980)

The Piper  
The Lamb

Tara Savarino, Soprano  
Patrice Ewoldt, Piano

Concertante, for Bassoon and Chamber Ensemble (1983)

Todd Goranson, Bassoon  
Timothy Dixon, Conductor

Victimae paschali laudes (1994)

Messiah University Chamber Singers  
Joy Meade, Conductor

Piano Trio, Movement I (2021)

Peter Sirotin, Violin  
Ai-Lin Hsieh, Cello  
Ya-Ting Chang, Piano

# TEXTS

## Jeremiah Songs

Cursed be the day

Cursed be the day wherein I was born:

let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed.

Cursed be the man who brought tidings to my father, saying,

A man child is born unto thee;

making him very glad.

And let that man be as the cities which the LORD overthrew, and repented not:

and let him hear the cry in the morning, and the shouting at noontide;

Because he slew me not from the womb;

or that my mother might have been my grave,

and her womb to be always great with me.

Wherefore came I forth out of the womb

to see labour and sorrow,

that my days should be consumed with shame?

(Jeremiah 20:14-18)

## The heart

The heart is deceitful above all things,

and desperately wicked:

who can know it?

I the LORD search the heart,

I try the reins,

even to give every man according to his ways,

and according to the fruit of his doings.

As the partridge sitteth on eggs,

and hatcheth them not;

so he that getteth riches, and not by right,

shall leave them in the midst of his days,

and at his end shall be a fool.

(Jeremiah 17:9-11)

## Blake Songs

### From Songs of Innocence, William Blake

#### The Piper

Piping down the valleys wild  
Piping songs of pleasant glee  
On a cloud I saw a child.  
And he laughing said to me.

Pipe a song about a Lamb;  
So I piped with merry cheer,  
Piper pipe that song again—  
So I piped, he wept to hear.

Drop thy pipe thy happy pipe  
Sing thy songs of happy cheer,  
So I sung the same again  
While he wept with joy to hear

Piper sit thee down and write  
In a book that all may read—  
So he vanish'd from my sight.  
And I pluck'd a hollow reed.

And I made a rural pen,  
And I stain'd the water clear,  
And I wrote my happy songs  
Every child may joy to hear

#### The Lamb

Little Lamb who made thee  
Dost thou know who made thee  
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.  
By the stream & o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing wooly bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice!

Little Lamb who made thee  
Dost thou know who made thee  
Little Lamb I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!

He is called by thy name,  
For he calls himself a Lamb:  
He is meek & he is mild,  
He became a little child:  
I a child & thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name.  
    Little Lamb God bless thee.  
    Little Lamb God bless thee.

### **Victimae paschali laudes**

Victimae paschali laudes  
immolent Christiani.  
Agnus redemit oves,  
Christus innocens Patri  
reconciliavit peccatores.  
Confluxere mirando  
mors et vita duello.  
Dux vitae mortuus  
regnat vivus.  
Dic nobis Maria,  
quid vidisti in via?  
Sepulchrum Christi viventis  
et gloriam vidi resurgentis.  
Angelicos testes  
sudarium et vestes.  
Surrexit Christus spes mea,  
praecedet vos in Gallileam.  
Scimus Christus surrexisse a mortuis  
vere.  
Tu nobis, Victor Rex, miserere.  
Amen. Alleluia.

Christians, offer praises  
To the paschal victim.  
The Lamb has redeemed the sheep,  
the innocent Christ has reconciled  
sinners to the Father.  
Life and death have fought  
in an amazing battle.  
The dead Captain of Life  
reigns alive.  
Tell us, Mary,  
what have you seen in the way?  
I have seen the grave of the living Christ,  
and the glory of the risen one,  
angelic witnesses,  
the napkin and the clothing.  
Christ my hope has risen,  
He will go before you to Gallilee.  
We know that Christ has truly risen from the  
dead.  
You, Victorious King, have mercy on us.  
Amen. Alleluia.

## THE PRESIDENT'S BRASS

### **Trumpet:**

Bill Stowman  
Melanie Miller  
Madison Sinan

### **Horn:**

Michael Harcrow  
Mary Grace Friedell  
Charlie George  
Jacob Fleury

### **Trombone:**

Jon Moyer  
Austin Donat  
Sarah Hartman  
Justin Myers, Tuba

### **Percussion:**

Erik Forst, Snare  
Will Labossiere, Timpani  
Josh Davis, Bass Drum  
Gabi Marin, Tam-Tam

## CONCERTANTE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Jocelyn Goranson, Flute I  
Skylar Diehl, Flute II  
Stephanie Cramer, Clarinet I  
Hannah Weller, Clarinet II  
Mike Harcrow, Horn I  
Mary Grace Friedell, Horn II  
Elizabeth Asmus, Harp

Erik Forst, Marimba  
Will Labossiere, Percussion  
Peter Sirotin, Violin I  
Kirsten Del Gaudio, Violin II  
Adam Paul Cordle, Viola  
Ai-Lin Hsieh, Cello

# NOTES

## **Fanfare for an Uncommon President**

This piece was first performed at the inauguration of Kim Phipps as President of Messiah College, now University. The Messiah Brass Choir performed under the direction of William Stowman. The name references both the Fanfare for the Common Man by Aaron Copland, and the series of fanfares by Joan Tower, all of them titled Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman.

## **Jeremiah Songs**

I no longer remember why I wrote these songs, but they were written when I was an undergraduate student, and I have never shown them to anyone until this year, perhaps because of the nature of the texts. The texts can be read in various ways, but the songs themselves are angry and bitter. This is their first performance.

## **Blake Songs**

These songs were written a few years after the Jeremiah Songs, again for no external reason. The child-like quality of the poetry gave me an opportunity to write in a more simple and natural style. These songs were performed once before, by Elaine Henderson in a 1989 performance that I accompanied at the piano.

## **Concertante**

This piece was written the spring before I came to Messiah. At the time I was teaching piano lessons in a local school in Dallas, and had ample time between lessons for composition. I wrote the piece for a competition, and enjoyed writing for the bassoon, an instrument I had played in high school. After mailing the score to the competition I never heard back, so I am pleased that it will receive its first performance almost forty years later.

## **Victimae paschali**

This text is one of the most familiar of the medieval sequences, a form of chant. I had known the text, the chant, and many settings of the text by other composers since my student days, but when I listened to a setting by William Byrd I was suddenly compelled to write a setting of my own. I was drawn by the vivid drama of the conflict between life and death, and the stark contrast of the dead but living Christ. This is the first performance.

## Piano Trio

I have wanted to write a Trio for the Mendelssohn Piano Trio since they began their residency here at Messiah many years ago. This piece has been in the making for many years, and it is not complete, as I have plans for two more movements. It is an homage to Beethoven, as many ideas are developed from his fourth piano concerto. It is perhaps fitting, then, that I finished the first movement only a few weeks after the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth.

I am deeply grateful to all of the friends, colleagues, and students who are bringing these pieces to life. This concert would have no purpose or meaning without the community that surrounds it. Words are inadequate, but many,  
many thanks to all involved.



2020-2021 School of the Arts Performances and Concerts are scheduled but not guaranteed pending COVID-19 protocols. For details visit [arts.messiah.edu](http://arts.messiah.edu).

## SCHOOL OF THE ARTS PERFORMANCES

### ***Mendelssohn Piano Trio***

March 31 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 4:00 p.m.

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## CONCERTS

### ***Messiah University Concert Choir***

*Joy Meade, conductor*

March 26 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### ***Messiah University Percussion Ensemble***

*Erik Forst, conductor*

March 27 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### ***Messiah University Jazz Combos***

*Todd Goranson, director*

April 6 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### ***Messiah University Symphonic Winds***

*Travis Weller, conductor*

### ***Messiah University Brass Choir***

*Mike Harcrow and William Stowman, director*

April 15 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### ***Messiah University Chamber Ensembles***

April 19 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### ***Messiah University Wind Ensemble***

*James Colonna, conductor*

April 22 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### ***Messiah University Symphony Orchestra***

*Timothy Dixon, conductor*

April 23 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### ***Messiah University United Voices of Praise***

*Eric Byrd, director*

April 25 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Messiah University Spring Choral Showcase**

*Rachel Cornacchio and Joy Meade, conductors*

April 28 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Musica Nova: Student Compositions**

April 29 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Messiah University Jazz Ensemble**

*William Stowman and Mark Hunsberger, conductors*

April 30 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Messiah University Guitar Ensemble**

*Randall Zwally, director*

May 1 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 1:00 p.m.

**Messiah University Handbell Choir**

*Shawn Gingrich, director*

May 1 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

*School of the Arts performances require tickets • To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Ticket Office at 717-691-6036 or online at [messiah.edu/tickets](http://messiah.edu/tickets).*

**FOR THOSE IN ATTENDANCE**

Please respect Social Distancing Guidelines and protocol regarding the wearing of masks.

**WE ASK YOUR COOPERATION**

Please silence or turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices. Video and audio recording and/or broadcasting is strictly prohibited by copyright laws. Devices used in this manner will be confiscated until after the performance.

**A WORD ABOUT CHILDREN**

Families with children are always welcome at Messiah University Music Department events. For the courtesy of our performers and other patrons, we ask that you exit quickly and for as long as necessary with unsettled children. Everyone, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY**

Please take a minute now to locate the exist closest to your seat. During an emergency evacuation, an alarm will sound. If this happens, proceed calmly to that exit. Once you are out of the building, move to a location that is out of the path of emergency response vehicles.