

Music Exploration Series # 3 – 9/27/20

20th Century Music

Join the Zoom Coffee Hour discussion at 10:00 am here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82801190646>

We have noticed that it is sometimes easier to hear differences in musical style than to describe them. Here is the same hymn text, “There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,” from the 19th c, in 470 set to a 19th c tune, and in 469 to a 20th c tune. How differently does the music match the words in each?

Hymnal 1982 # 470 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ti_3-cSqdPc

Hymnal 1982 # 469 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDvxeSNR9-w>

We talked in our first session about the prevalence of 19th century hymns in our hymnal, and their prevalence among what many people consider their favorites hymns. Often what makes a hymn a favorite is simply familiarity. Recognize that music has always been written by people who lived in a certain time period for people who lived in that same time period. As the life experiences of people and of the church changes from century to century, it is important that much of our music reflect the world we now live in.

“Morning glory, starlit sky” *Hymnal 1982 # 585*; words by a British parish priest, theologian, and RAF veteran of WW II; music by Dorothy Howell Sheets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avpD7NVxgOk> text in comments

“King of glory, king of peace” *Hymnal 1982 # 382*; words 17th c George Herbert; 20th c tune <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1-DYFC77hg> text in comments

“Now the silence, now the peace” *Hymnal 1982 # 333*, often used as a Fraction Anthem <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfJ4dbYsdyw> text in comments

“A stable lamp is lighted” *Hymnal 1982 # 104*; a deeply thoughtful take on Christmas, which includes a wider emotional range than most Christmas music, and follows into the rest of Jesus’ life; words by poet Richard Wilbur.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHuq5ungxUI>

“All my hope on God is founded” *Hymnal 1982 # 665*; tune named *Michael* after the composer’s son, who died tragically at a young age; based on 17th c text

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew>

“Creating God your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space” *Hymnal 1982*
395 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6xJCnXM5jo>

“My song is love unknown” *Hymnal 1982* # 458; 17 c words with 20 c tune
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsI0> text in comments

“Earth and all Stars” *Hymnal 1982* # 412; Herbert Brokering & David Johnson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waYR7Vw0bZc>

“The first one ever” *Hymnal 1982* # 673; Linda Egan; focus on women in Bible
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGyEP9lWKk0>

Wonder, Love, and Praise: A Supplement to the Hymnal 1982 (WLP) contains a wide variety of 20th century music. See more information about it here, including the texts of some *WLP* hymns <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/WLP1997>.

“O wheat whose crushing was for bread” *WLP* # 760; Shirley W. McRae
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_rWvQORIiA

“Gracious Spirit, give your servants” *WLP* # 782; Carl Daw Jr & Cyril Taylor
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dCZ4Ur_szw
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HasP8gRzMuQ> to see text

“With awe approach the mysteries” *WLP* # 759; Jane Manton Marshall
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZT8YUv_51s

“Give thanks for life” *WLP* # 775; Shirley Erena Murray & Vaughan Williams
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1KXstvmNf4>

Bonus, not from *WLP*: “A Simple Song” from Leonard Bernstein’s *Mas*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEcg5vUtHI&index=2&list=PLXNC8_wyTr-9oSd-4zfhdzbz9IKyl94IW

Discussion questions: How does 20th c music speak to you differently from older music through its texts and music styles?

What more can you offer about this style from your experience as a singer, musician, or listener?

How often do we use this style at GHTC? Recent examples that come to mind?

How well do you like it? Would you like us to use more or less of it?