

and GOD REST YE MERRY to my practice list as preludes using a college trumpet major I know. Quieter, less-technical pieces include "What Child is This?" (GREENSLEEVES) and "What Is This Lovely Fragrance?" (QUELL EST). ED

Fall/General

MIT FREUDEN ZART, Andrew Peters, MorningStar Music Publishers MSM-20-614, 2017. For congregation, brass quartet, handbells and organ with optional descant and tympani.

Peters, organist and music director at Second Presbyterian in St. Louis, has created a powerful arrangement of "With High Delight" (or "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above") uniting congregation, handbells (4 octaves), organ and brass. The layout is fairly straightforward, with good support for the congregation, and a logical interlude and key changes. Reproducible parts for all the instruments are bound with the score, including C trumpet and timpani parts. Most interestingly, a separate organ part may also be reproduced from the booklet or played from the score. A great hymn concertato with which to celebrate Christ the King and end the liturgical year! ED

Fantasia on EIN FESTE BURG for Brass Quartet, Charles Evans, GIA Publications G-6799, 2008.

Any very good high school brass quartet (two trumpets, two trombones, with F horn substitute for trombone I) could play this quartet by Reformation Sunday. As I review from a partial sample score, I note that the instruments enter from high to low (the second trombone needs to be able to balance the others with a secure low range) in a fughetta style using rhythms of the original "Mighty Fortress" tune by Luther. From there, it is a matter of careful counting to the end. A great prelude for moderately-experienced players. ED

Books

In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals, Eileen Guenther, MorningStar Music Publishers 978-0-944529-71-3, 2016.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to lead a webinar on Guenther's new book. It is a large one, containing more than 492 pages of printed material; even so, the information contained in this book is worth every drop of ink. In addition to historical contexts, Guenther explores the different types of spirituals as they related to the everyday lives of those working in the bondage of slavery. Each chapter title is named after a spiritual. For example, "Hold On, Keep Your Hand on the Plow," is a chapter about slave labor. Another chapter, "Steal Away," deals with slave religion and the visible and invisible churches that existed. And my favorite, "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel," is a chapter about ways people escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad. I learned a lot reading through this book and it will occupy a prominent place in my personal library. Whether you are a part-time church musician or a full-time tenured college professor, this book is a must-have. It contains information that will answer any questions the reader might have about the history of the spiritual. I highly recommend it! DD

Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?: Christian Identity In A Multi-Faith World, Brian D. McLaren, Jericho Books 978-1-4555-1395-6, 2012.

Several years ago I was in an interview and was asked a question that boiled down to: "How would you attempt to convert a person of the Hindu faith?" To say I offered an inadequate response and did not think well "off the cuff" would be an understatement! That question, and the topic it presents, has caused me a great deal of soul-searching, thought, and prayer, and has led to doors opening in the area of inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, and community building.

McLaren's book is for individuals who wish to grow in their Christian identity while being open and welcoming to interaction with those of other faiths. McLaren offers what he calls a "strong-benevolent"

approach to Christianity that shows an alternate path from the strong-hostile approach that is prevailing, both in the Christian faith and in the society in which we live. Chapters 10 and 11 address why the latter approach dominates, particularly in the Western Church shaped by Constantinian Christianity.

Examining scriptural interpretation, our doctrines and creeds, and even our hymns, McLaren offers a new lens to look through, examining "us-them" thinking. Such thinking leads to separation, dehumanization, and, potentially, violence against those who are not "like us." Does this sound anything like our current political climate on both sides of the aisle? That is part of what makes this book transformational: it addresses issues that impact both faith and life. Indeed, that is one of his topics: there is no separation between "sacred" and "secular."

Part III of the book may be of special interest to musicians, religious educators, and worship artists. McLaren re-presents the Christian Year, baptism, songs/prayers/sermons/Sunday School classes, and the altar and table with his new benevolent framework of thinking. Did you know, for instance, that there is another, extremely subversive, verse to "All Things Bright and Beautiful" that was cut from the hymnals? Maybe, McLaren postulates, it would have been better to leave it in to give us an opportunity to examine our inherent prejudices and biases ingrained through years of conditioning.

Re-conditioning is far from easy, and may be painful, but it may well be necessary for relevant survival of the Christian faith and respectful interaction and learning from those of other faiths. For me, when I am planning Unity in Diversity and other community-building events, I will think about this book and how I can portray my Christian faith authentically that still leaves the door open for respectful dialogue and understanding. *That* is the answer I wish I had given when asked several years ago! MP