

GOD WHO BLESSES US, HIS NAME BE PRAISED

For Organ and Choir
Music by Lucas Richman

Commissioned by The Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh, *God Who Blesses Us*, traces its origins to the story of the Pentecost. With my own background being steeped in Judaism, I found it intriguing to explore the significance of the moment when the Holy Spirit was received by the apostles of Jesus who were, at that moment, observing the Jewish Festival of Shavuot. Ultimately, I decided to draw from the text of Psalm 67 (traditionally chanted during Shavuot) and the depiction of the actual happening as recounted in the Book of Joel. These writings became the basis for an Anthem, which leads into a musical interpretation of the receiving of the Pentecost, followed by a celebratory Toccata and coda. While the Anthem is sung in English, a setting of declamation of a phrase from the original Hebrew (67:3) is used as a basis for themes throughout the work:

“Yoducha amim Elohim; Yoducha amim kulam”

(Let the people praise you, God; Let all the people praise you!)

The Anthem and the Toccata may each be performed separately from the larger work; the Toccata was created with the intention of it serving specifically as an appropriate postlude in religious services.

Notes by Lucas Richman

ANTHEM REFRAIN:

LET THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE, LORD, OUR GOD
LET THE PEOPLE JOIN WITH VOICES RAISED
ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH SHALL KNEEL IN AWE
GOD WHO BLESSES US, HIS NAME BE PRAISED.

AND GOD SAID, “IT SHALL COME TO PASS”
GOD SAID “IN THE LAST OF DAYS”
I SHALL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH,”
GOD SAID, “IN THE LAST OF DAYS”

BLOW YE THE TRUMPET IN ZION
HEAR YE THROUGHOUT THE LAND
SOUND THE ALARM IN HIS HOLY MOUNT
THE DAY OF GOD IS NIGH AT HAND.

ANTHEM REFRAIN

AND GOD SAID, “IT SHALL COME TO PASS
WHOSOEVER CALLS MY NAME
SHALL IN ZION AND HOLY JERUSALEM
BE DELIVERED ONE AND THE SAME.”

GLAD BE THE NATIONS OF PEOPLE
SING YE A SONG OF JOY
GOD GOVERNS JUSTLY O’ER ALL THE EARTH
WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS IN HIS EMPLOY.

ANTHEM REFRAIN

*Commissioned by The Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh
Dedicated to Gail Henry with much appreciation for her artistry and guidance*

God Who Blesses Us, His Name Be Praised

1. Anthem

Music by Lucas Richman

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Organ

f

5

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

Let the people praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the people join with voices raised!

Let the people praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the people join with voices raised!

Let the people praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the people join with voices raised!

Let the people praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the people join with voices raised!

9

Soprano (S.)

All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

Alto (A.)

All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe;— God, who bless-es us, His name be

Tenor (T.)

All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

Bass (B.)

All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

Organ (Org.)

All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

13

Soprano (S.)

praised!

Alto (A.)

praised!

Tenor (T.)

praised!

Bass (B.)

praised!

Organ (Org.)

praised!

16

Org.

19

S.

Org.

Sop. Solo (or Tutti)

And God said,

22

S.

Org.

"It shall come to pass," God said, "In the last of days, I shall

26

S.

Org.

pour out my spirit upon all flesh," God

30

S. said, "In the last of days."

Org.

Ten. Solo (or Tutti)

34

T. Blow ye the trum-pet in Zi - on! Hear, ye, through-out the

Org. *mf*

37

T. land! Sound the a-larm in his ho - ly mount: the

Org.

40

T. day of God is nigh at hand.

Org.

42

S. Let the peo-ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo-ple join with voic-es raised!

A. Let the peo-ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo-ple join with voic-es raised!

T. Let the peo-ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo-ple join with voic-es raised!

B. Let the peo-ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo-ple join with voic-es raised!

Org. *f*

46

S. All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

A. All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

T. All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

B. All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

Org.

50

S. praised!

A. praised!

T. praised!

B. praised!

Org.

54

Sop. Solo (or Tutti)

And God said, "It shall come to pass," Who-so - ev - er calls my name, Shall in

mp

Org.

59

Zi - on and Ho - ly Je - ru - sa - lem be de -

Org.

63

S. li - vered one and the same."

Org.

T. *Ten. Solo (or Tutti)* 3 Glad be the na-tions of peo - ple; Sing ye a song of

67 Org. *mf*

T. joy! God gov-erns just ly o'er all the earth with

70 Org.

T. right - eous-ness in his em - ploy.

73 Org. b8:

75

S. Let the peo-ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo-ple join with voic - es raised!

A. Let the peo-ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo-ple join with voic - es raised!

T. Let the peo-ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo-ple join with voic - es raised!

B. Let the peo-ple praise thee, Lord, our God;— Let the peo-ple join with voic - es raised!

Org. *f*

79

S. All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

A. All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe;— God, who bless-es us, His name be

T. All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe; God, who bless-es us, His name be

B. All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe;— God, who bless-es us, His name be

Org.

83

Soprano (S.)

A. Alto (A.)

Tenor (T.)

Bass (B.)

Organ (Org.)

praised!

praised!

praised!

praised!

The musical score for page 83 consists of five staves. The top four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) have lyrics "praised!" repeated three times. The Organ staff has a continuous bass line. Large, stylized letters "PRAISE" and "Hallelujah" are overlaid on the music, with "PRAISE" appearing above the first two measures and "Hallelujah" appearing below the second two measures.

86

Soprano (S.)

A. Alto (A.)

Tenor (T.)

Bass (B.)

Organ (Org.)

The musical score for page 86 consists of five staves. The top four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) have a sustained note followed by a rest. The Organ staff features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Large, stylized letters "PRAISE" and "Hallelujah" are overlaid on the music, with "PRAISE" appearing above the first two measures and "Hallelujah" appearing below the second two measures.

89

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

God, who bless - es us, His name be
 God, who bless - es us, His name be
 God, who bless - es us, His name be
 God, who bless - es us, His name be
 God, who bless - es us, His name be



cresc.

91

S.

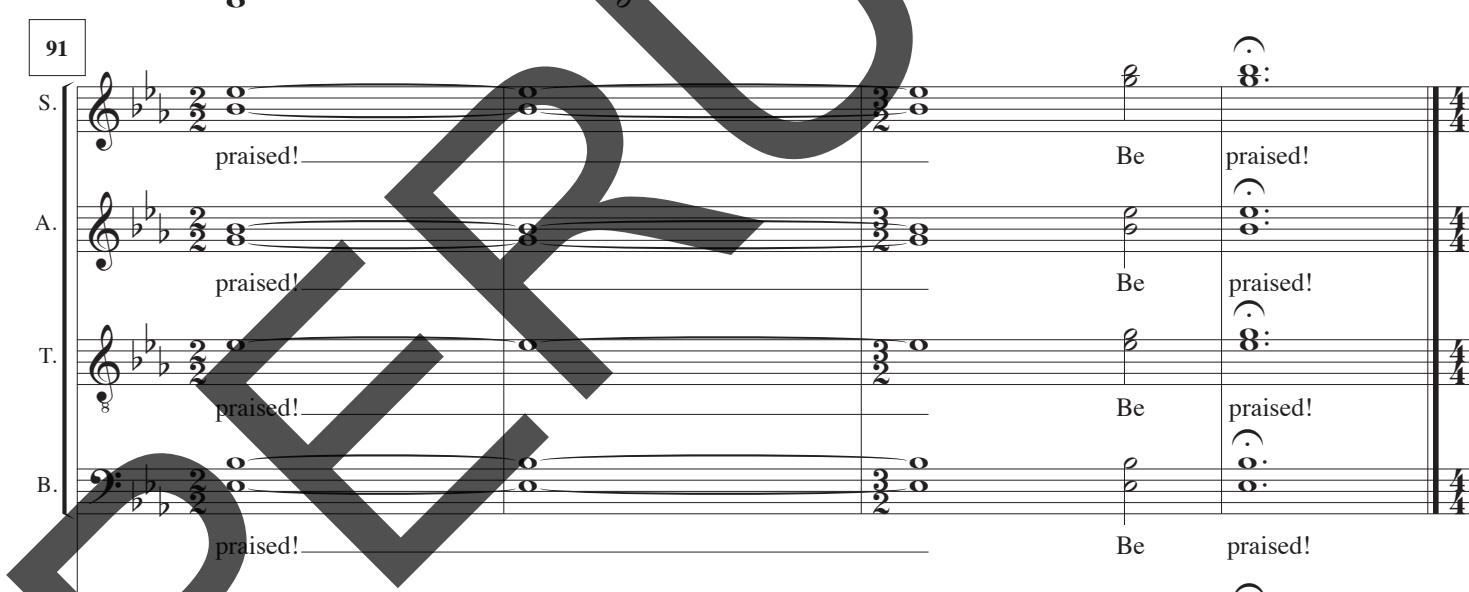
A.

T.

B.

Org.

praised! Be praised!
 praised! Be praised!
 praised! Be praised!
 praised! Be praised!



ff

2. The Receiving

95

$\text{♩} = 60$ With Reverence

Org.

101

Org.

107

Org.

poso a poco cresc.

mp

113

Org.

118

Org.

120

Org.

121

Org.

123

Org.

125

Org.

127

Org.

Full Chorus with Mixtures

3. Toccata

133

f

d = 60

3

Org.

139

Reduce Organ

d = 120

mf

non legato

143

147

151

Org.

Org.

Org.

The musical score consists of five systems of organ music. System 1 (measures 133-138) features a mix of chords and single-note patterns in 3/2 time, with dynamics like *f* and *d=60*. System 2 (measures 139-143) shows a transition with *Reduce Organ* and *mf*, followed by *non legato* markings. Systems 3 (measures 143-147) and 4 (measures 147-151) continue the organ parts with various note heads and stems. The score is set against a white background with a large, flowing black ribbon graphic that cuts through the staves.

155

Org.

159

Org.

163

Org.

167

Org.

171

Org.

SOON

175

Org.

3 3 3 3 3

179

Solo

fp

cresc.

Org.

3 3 3 3

183

f 3 3 3

3 3 Solo fp 3

Org.

3 3 3 3

187

cresc. 3

p 3 3 3

3 3 3 3

Org.

3 3 3 3

191

mp 3 3 3

3 3 3 3

Org.

3 3 3 3

195

Org.

200

Org.

mf

Solo

204

Org.

f p

208

Org.

mp

212

Org.

mf

216

Org.

220

Org.

224

Org.

228

Org.

232

Org.

236

Org.

240

Org.

f p

3

cresc.

3

244

Org.

mf

>

>.

>.

>.

248

Org.

cresc.

>

>.

>.

>.

252

Org.

f

>.

>.

Ritard.

3

3

256

d = 60

S. Let the peo - ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo - ple join with

A. Let the peo - ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo - ple join with

T. Let the peo - ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo - ple join with

B. Let the peo - ple praise thee, Lord, our God; Let the peo - ple join with

Full Organ

ff

Org.

259

S. voic - es raised! All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe;

A. voic - es raised! All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe;

T. voic - es raised! All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe;

B. voic - es raised! All the ends of earth shall kneel in awe;

Org.

**Inclusion of the choir from m.256 to the end is optional.*

262

S. God, who bless - es us, His name be praised!

A. God, who bless - es us, His name be praised!

T. God, who bless - es us, His name be praised!

B. God, who bless - es us, His name be praised!

Org.

This musical score page features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and an organ part. The vocal parts sing a three-measure phrase in common time, with lyrics: "God, who bless - es us, His name be praised!". The organ part provides harmonic support. The page number 262 is in the top left corner. A large, dark gray 'C' and 'A' are overlaid on the music, with the 'C' spanning from the first measure to the end of the page and the 'A' appearing in the middle of the page.

265

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

This musical score page features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and an organ part. The vocal parts sing a three-measure phrase in common time, with lyrics: "God, who bless - es us, His name be praised!". The organ part provides harmonic support. The page number 265 is in the top left corner. A large, dark gray 'P' and 'E' are overlaid on the music, with the 'P' appearing in the first measure and the 'E' appearing in the middle of the page.

268

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

God, who bless - es us, His
God, who bless - es us, His
God, who bless - es us, His
God, who bless - es us, His

271

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

name be praised! Be praised!
name be praised! Be praised!
name be praised! Be praised!
name be praised! Be praised!