

ROBERT EDWARD SMITH, Composer, Harpsichordist, Liturgical Musician

Mailing address: PO Box 992, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0992

Telephone: (860) 525-3585

E-mail: robertedwardsmith@att.net

COMPOSER

-Commissions from Trinity College, Hartford, Valparaiso University, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark, the American Harp Society, et al.

-Commissioned by Delos Records to arrange the music from the film Star Wars for organ.

-Commissioned by Towerhill Records to compose The King of Instruments, an introduction to the tonal resources of the organ.

-Commissioned by Towerhill Records to compose and arrange Christmas music for organ, two harps and percussion.

-Appointed Composer in Residence, Trinity College Chapel, Hartford, 1979-present.

-Appointed Composer in Residence, St. John's Memorial Chapel at Episcopal Divinity School, 2002-2003.

PUBLISHED WORKS, (partial list)

CHORAL WORKS:

Plymouth Music

O Sacrum Convivium

The Eyes of All Wait upon Thee

Puer Natus in Bethlehem

Brightest and Best

Hosanna to the Son of David

Where are All Thy Beauties Now

Saw You Never in the Twilight

G.I.A. Publications

Six Hymns to Our Lady

Canonic Anthems for Advent

Canonic Anthems for Lent and Passiontide

Te Deum

Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

Drop Down Ye Heavens From Above

Creator of the Stars of Night

Good Christians All With Joyful Mirth

Thomas House Publications, (now Theodore Presser)

O Mortal Man

The Day is Past and Gone

Blessed City, Heav'nly Salem

Songs for Spring:

The First Spring Day / Man's Fancy / May Morning

WORKS FOR ORGAN:

World Library Publications

Hymn Preludes for the Seasons
Hymn Preludes for the Christmas Season

Plymouth Music

Partita
Carol Preludes
Six Preludes on Traditional Hymn Tunes

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS

“Robert Edward Smith has a sense of melody in about any style you can name. This irresistible music can begin to fill the need in liturgical churches everywhere. It is always musical, even at its most utilitarian moments.” – The American Organist

“...Very creditable...full of light and air...warm. Comfortable and humorous. Mr. Smith is one of those gifted and unpretentious composers who just think naturally in “old fashioned” musical idioms, making no pretence at conscious modernity. Mr. Smith writes at leisure, spinning out some really delightful musical ideas.” – Audio Magazine

This is attractive music, and the composer is very good at capturing the playfulness of the second poem, “Pied Beauty,” and the majesty and depth of the sonnet “God’s Grandeur.” - Fanfare “

HARPSICHORDIST

Associate faculty, Hartt School of Music 1994 – present.

Associate faculty, Trinity College, Hartford, 1979 – present.

Adjunct faculty, Music Department, St. Elizabeth’s College, Convent Station, New Jersey, 1977-1979.

Provided incidental music for performances of The Illusion by Corneille at the Hartford Stage Company, Dec. 1989 – Feb. 1990.

Recorded several LP and CD recordings for the Towerhill and Wildboar labels.

1985, organized a concert series, Harpsichord in Company, at Trinity College, Hartford, presenting the harpsichord as a vehicle for Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Twentieth Century music, in ensemble with voice, doublebass, oboe, saxophone, timpani and other instruments. Concerts were broadcast on Connecticut Public Radio.

First harpsichordist to perform the complete harpsichord literature of Francois Couperin, 1972-76, at Carnegie Recital Hall, New York.

Workshops and masterclasses presented on college campuses and for national and regional musical organizations.

Concert tours across the United States and abroad: 1976 – present.

New York debut, Carnegie Recital Hall, April 1, 1970.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS

“An immensely skillful musician. Technically everything was spotlessly played...never gimmicky or unmusical...impeccable playing”. –The New York Times

“Clearly in the front rank of world harpsichordists.” – Music Journal

“A marvel of subtlety and grace...a powerful virtuoso with aristocratic assurance.”

- The Newark Star-Ledger

“Unfaltering fluency and assurance. He is a highly accomplished player, and has magnificent technique.”
- The Herald, Melbourne

“Proved his complete mastery of the instrument, and demonstrated excellent technique and the ability to master difficult musical statements. “ – Reider Volkszeitung (Austria)

“The Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue smolders with shattering juxtapositions of rage and tenderness. This is playing in the grand manner. “ – Stereo Review

In 1985, both Stereo Review and Ovation recommended Mr. Smith’s recordings of Bach’s music as essential to the serious collector’s library.

In 1997 The American Record Guide named Mr. Smith’s CD, J.S. Bach: Harpsichord Music in the Grand Manner as one of the best recordings of 1996.

AVAILABLE RECORDINGS

J. S. Bach: Harpsichord Music in the Grand Manner – Wildboar Recordings

J. S. Bach: Goldberg Variations – Towerhill Recordings

LITURGICAL MUSICIAN

1998–present - Director of Music Ministries, Grace Episcopal Church, Windsor, CT

1983-1995 - Director of Music, Sacred Heart Church, Wethersfield, CT

1982-1983 - Organist, Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Hartford, CT

1979-present - Composer in Residence, Trinity College Chapel, Hartford

1974-1977 - Associate Music Director, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark, NJ

1970-1974 - Director of Music, Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Elizabeth, NJ

1965-1970 - Director of Music, Wesley United Methodist Church, Bayonne, NJ

1963-1965 - Organist, Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne, NJ

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Organ studies with Bronson Ragan, Juilliard School of Music, N.Y.

Studied harpsichord at the Mannes College of Music with Sylvia Marlowe, on scholarships from the Harpsichord Music Society, 1963-68. B.S. with major in harpsichord, 1968.