

Dismissal

- 18** O lorde, the maker of al thing
(John Joubert) • King Henry VIII's poem conveys some of the fearfulness that the darkness of night evokes in the human consciousness.
- 19** Grant us thy peace (Felix Mendelssohn) • Originally written for choir and orchestra, this motet represents a turn towards restfulness and peace.
- 20** Hymn: The day thou gavest • The tune is St. Clement by C.C. Scholefield, (1839-1904); the words are by J. Ellerton.
- 21** Preserve us, O Lord (C.M. Palmer) • The monastic service of compline, the final office before members of the community would go to their rest at the end of the day, included a plainsong antiphon of this text which preceded and followed the canticle, Nunc Dimittis. This setting is a fauxbourden (melody in the tenor).

*"Preserve us, O lord, while awaking,
And guard us while sleeping:
That awake we may be with Christ,
And in peace may take our rest. Amen"*

Producer: Barbara MacKenzie-Mahler
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Bless Ye The Lord

The Choir of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church
Catherine M. Palmer, director
Ronald S. Jordan, organ

The Choir of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church can also be heard on *THE JOY OF GOD: Great Hymns Across The Ages* (Marquis 81175)

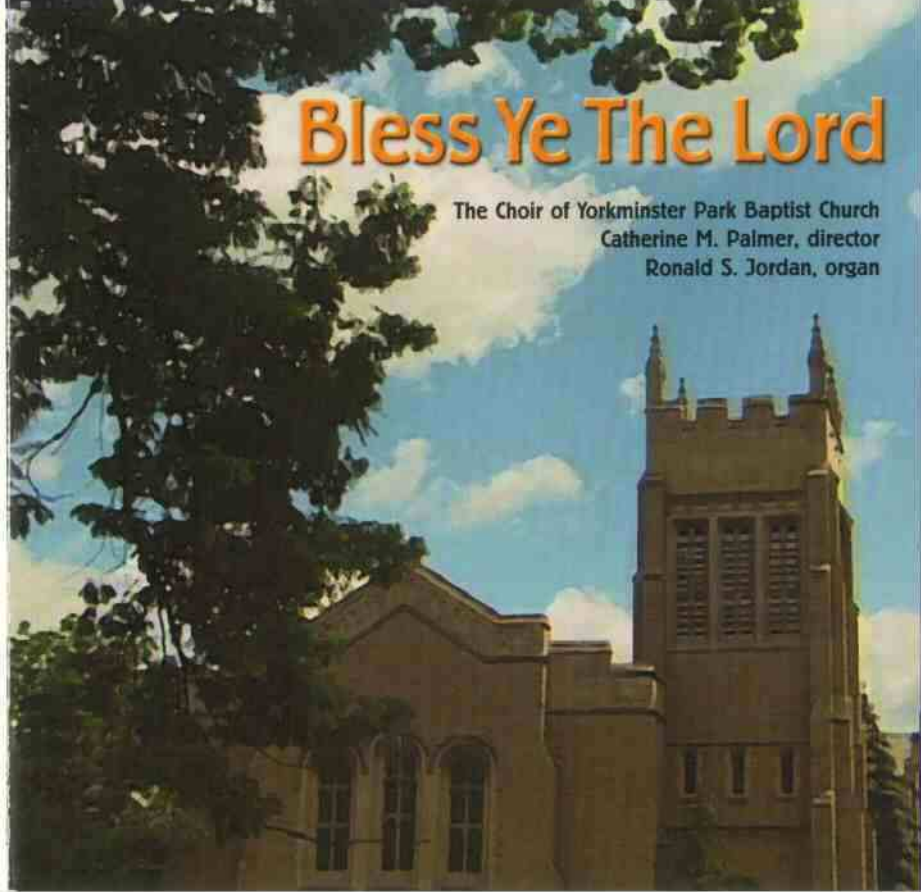
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Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto is the largest Baptist Church in Canada. Since its building in 1928, the church has established a custom of ordered worship in which preaching takes place within the context of fine music. Choral repertoire, drawn mainly from English, European and North American traditions, and accompanied by an excellent organ, has become an important feature of the two Sunday services.

Over the years, the choir has been able to recruit its members from the congregation. Nearly all of the 63 singers in the choir are unpaid volunteers.

The pipe organ was built by Casavant Frères in 1928, rebuilt in 1965, had a new console installed in 1975, and has undergone further renovations recently. It boasts 5670 pipes, 100 ranks, 85 stops, and is considered to be one of the finest organs in Canada.

Although the selections on this recording follow in uninterrupted sequence, they have been arranged according to a liturgical pattern.

The four parts, Approach, Invocation, Call To

Service, and Dismissal, are reminiscent of the ancient rhythms and archetypes of worship which have inspired the Christian church for twenty centuries.

Approach

- 1** The Organ Introduction is heraldic in style and is written and performed by Ronald S Jordan.
- 2** **Processional: Psalm 148** • This ancient, plainsong setting is sung antiphonally by the men and women as they proceed to the choir stalls.
- 3** **Hymn: Ye servants of God** • Charles Wesley's splendid words are set to music by C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918). The elaborate version of the tune for the last verse is also Parry's composition.
- 4** **My song shall be alway** (Godfrey Sampson) • This setting of Psalm 89, verse 1 is delicate and serene.
- 5** **Sing Joyfully** • Listening to the jaunty rhythms and catchy organ accompaniment in this setting of Psalm 81: vs. 1-4 by Grayston Ives might help to explain the fact that Ives' version of the Te Deum performed at the enthronement service for the new Archbishop of Canterbury aroused a storm of controversy. His approach is fresh and imaginative.
- 6** **Sanctus** • Schubert's beautiful composition

of this hymn shows that great music can be both brief and uncomplicated.

- 7** **The Spirit of the Lord** • The opening chorus of Elgar's great oratorio, The Apostles.

Invocation

- 8** **Hymn: Be Thou my vision** • This ancient Irish poem is set here to a traditional Irish melody.
- 9** **Gloria** • The first chorus of the Gloria movement from Mozart's 12th Mass.
- 10** **Set me as a Seal** (Robin King) • This lovely setting of words from The Song of Solomon was commissioned for a wedding ceremony in 1985. Robin King is a Canadian organist and composer.
- 11** **God be in my head** • This simple anthem by H. Walford Davies, often used as an introit at baptismal services, was written in 1910 to words from the old Sarum Psalter of 1558.
- 12** **Brother James' Air** (arranged by Gordon Jacobs) • For many, this spontaneous melody represents their favorite version of Psalm 23. It was written by James Leith Macbeth Bain, d.1925), better known as "Brother James", a "lover of all men and all creatures."

Call to Service

- 13** **Psalm 46: God is our hope and strength** • Appropriately, the chant chosen for the singing of this militant psalm is based upon Luther's great hymn, Ein'feste Burg, (A Mighty Fortress).
- 14** **Hymn: Who would true valour see** • The sense of boldness and freedom captured by the tune, Monk's Gate, is a fitting setting for the words sung here as they were originally written by John Bunyan in Pilgrim's Progress.
- 15** **Fight the good fight:** (John Gardner) • This fresh setting of the well known hymn is No 5 of Five Hymns in Popular Style, commissioned for the 1963 Farnham Festival, England.
- 16** **Erschallet ihr Lieder** (Johann Sebastian Bach) • from Cantata 172, written for Pentecost when the composer was at Leipzig. *"Let your voices exult and your praises ring out; O blest is the moment. God prepares his souls for the temple."*
- 17** **O how glorious is the kingdom** • In 1899, when Basil Harwood was organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, he composed this fine anthem for the Feast of all Saints.