

friends of MUSIC

AT  CTK

December 22, 2020



Holy Trinity Parish, Dunoon, Scotland

As We Wait "for the Glory of His Coming"

Dear Friends of Music,

I never would have believed, after last year's electrical fire at the beginning of November, followed by a global pandemic, that we still would not be able to hold regularly planned services, more than a year later--and with quite a way to go before things begin to resemble what we'd call "normal."

Planning and replanning for the ever-changing landscape, time and again, has been quite tiresome. The challenges have provided some unique opportunities though; while I despondently scrolled through searches for "Advent songs," I came across the most sublime piece of music.

I clicked the play arrow for a piece entitled just that, *Advent Song*. I was riveted, and, while constantly replaying in the background, started to search for the sheet music. I couldn't find it anywhere. I dropped a line to a friend whose knowledge of all things music publishing is encyclopedic. He couldn't find it either. However, he did locate the blog of the author of the text. Next thing I knew, I was corresponding with Christine McIntosh from Dunoon, near the south of the Cowal peninsula in Argyll, Scotland.

Advent Song is the result of the collaboration of husband and wife duo, John and Christine McIntosh. Christine wrote the poem, and John set it to music. Of the piece, Christine wrote, in December 2011:

I wrote these words six years ago. Advent for me, as I've probably blogged before, is a wonderfully Celtic experience born out of darkness and tiny lights and being out

on the edge of the hugeness of what to the ancients must have seemed a limitless sea...

Andrew's brief homily today reminded us in no uncertain terms that Advent is not Christmas. I don't think anyone there this evening was in any doubt about the magic of the season: the exquisite tension of the waiting, the longing.

(Read the entire post [HERE](#)).

This beautiful piece was paired with the First Reading for our Lessons and Carols service, albeit with the tiny chamber choir we were able to swing during the necessary but extraordinary restrictions. I wanted to highlight it for you for a couple reasons.

First, Advent is indeed a time of waiting. This seems especially unglamorous after so many months of waiting already: waiting for building repairs, waiting to worship together, waiting to sing together, waiting to hug and socialize normally and without concern. As someone to whom patience does not come naturally, I've learned that there can be beauty in waiting. *Advent Song* illustrates this in such an ethereally beautiful and visceral way, with the tension and release of its suspensions and pregnant pauses.

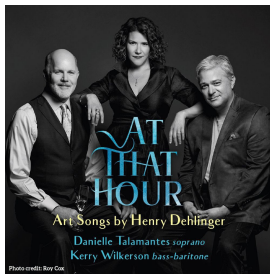
Second, the droning lower voices, along with the references to vastness, darkness, and the desire for God to hold us in love, create the pang of loneliness we all feel until "the glory of [His] coming." It has been a lonely year, isolated from one another; profoundly so, for some. But God does not leave us alone as we wait. And when we least expect it, sometimes He grants unexpected connections and gifts. The generosity and willing collaboration of the McIntoshes is one such gift. With special thanks to them, to the singers, and to all of you, ***may God hold you, waiting, as you wait for Him to be born*** (paraphr. McIntosh, 2005).

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO ADVENT SONG](#)

by John and Christine McIntosh, © 2005

Judy Chirino, soprano; Michele Currenti, mezzo-soprano; Charles Calotta, tenor; and Jesse Neace, bass-baritone.

NEED A LAST MINUTE GIFT?



CtK Friends of Music *Danielle Talamantes* and *Kerry Wilkerson* recently released "At That Hour," a collaboration with composer and pianist, *Henry Dehlinger*. All pieces were composed by Dehlinger specifically for Talamantes' and Wilkerson's voices. The music is stunning, artful, a cultural box of exquisite candies. A quick search will yield many sterling reviews!

[Click here to purchase a CD or mp3 copy.](#)



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CHRIST THE KING

CHRISTMAS EVE: Thursday, December 24 at 3:00 p.m. (limited in-person attendance) and 5:00 p.m. (limited in-person attendance and livestream)

CHRISTMAS DAY: Friday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. (limited in-person attendance)

To check availability, sign up, find the livestream, and for more details, click *HERE*.

Resources During COVID-19

During this extraordinary time of isolation and virtual worship, we offer these resources for your devotion, meditation, and encouragement.

SPECIAL MUSIC: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE JOURNEY: Music of comfort and encouragement from the archives of Christ the King.

SING FOR JOY!: Music selections that support every Sunday of the liturgical calendar with pastoral commentary.

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