



The Dream of Now

The Newsletter of Composer Joelle Wallach

Summer 2009

Volume 2, Number 3

SPECIAL CHORAL ISSUE



Since 1980, when *On the Beach at Night Alone*, for unaccompanied choir and solo chant, published by C. F. Peters, won First Prize in the Inter-American Music Awards, composer Joelle Wallach has created a superb and varied library of choral music that is lyrical, moving, faithful to its text, often dramatic and always rewarding to sing.

Toward a Time of Renewal for mixed chorus, 4 soloist and chamber orchestra was commissioned by the New York Choral Society to commemorate their 35th Anniversary Season in Carnegie Hall.



The subject of **Toward a Time of Renewal** is one that is on many minds hearts right now: our responsibilities to one another and to our larger world.

Continuing to address personal and profound subject matter, Joelle is creating a series of **Spiritual Speculations**, for unaccompanied vocal quartet or chamber choir.

The first of these shorter works, **Therefore**, has just been published by G. Schirmer, and focuses on the eloquent words of the poet, William Dickey:

Nothing exists that is not marred, therefore
we are obliged to imagine how things might be:
the sea
at its green uttermost, the shore
white to exaggeration, white before
it was checked and clouded by its spent debris.

Nothing exists that does not end, and so
to knowledge we must deliberately be untrue:
you
murmuring that you will not go, when you will
go,
promising to do always what you cannot do:
hold the sun steady and the sky new.

No one exists who can be loved the same
by day as by dark; it is that sleeping place,
lame,
we attempt to follow into, and cannot trace,
that makes us lie, saying we know his face,
as if we knew even half of his true name.

Other **Spiritual Speculations**, so far, include:

The Clothes of Heaven, commissioned by the Manhattan Vocal Ensemble, as well as **When Lost in the Forest, Mere Dark is Not as Nightlike as it Seems, Pax and Return**, based on a simple Sufi prayer.

Among Wallach's most popular works is [Orison of Ste Theresa](#) for mixed choir with string orchestra and harp, string quartet and harp, or with piano only, is a setting of Longfellow's English translation of a prayer by 16th century mystic, Ste. Theresa of Avila.

Another favorite is [The Firefighter's Prayer](#) for SATB chorus with piano accompaniment is a short setting of a traditional prayer, dedicated to the firefighters who lost their lives and their colleagues on September 11, 2001. [The Firefighter's Prayer](#) is also available in solo and duet vocal versions, with piano or strings.

[Why the Caged Bird Sings](#) a third familiar Wallach favorite, is for two-part treble choir – women or children – accompanied by French horn and either piano or strings. E. C. Schirmer publishes this lyrical work, based on a poem by 19th Century African-American poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar.



Male choirs, too, have their own Wallach literature, including *Plaint for a Prince and King* for men's voices, brass and percussion [La musica, los muertos y las estrellas](#) is an evocative three movement *a cappella* setting in Spanish for mixed voices based on the mystical poems of Juan Ramon Jimenez.

Although a few of Joelle Wallach's choral works – like the very useful *30 Ecumenical Responses* – are specifically sacred, all can be performed as concert repertoire as well.

[Lo in a Manger](#), a Christmas carol, commissioned by the New York Virtuoso Singers' Youth Choir, is set for unison treble choir and organ.

[Three Short Sacred Anthems](#) is another of Joelle's Christmas works for treble choir. Without accompaniment, it is based on three Latin liturgical texts.

This Spring, Joelle's choral work was featured at the 9th Annual Women Composers Festival of Hartford, CT, which premiered her *Psalm CXXXVI* for chorus and dombek (Middle Eastern drum).

Your chorus or choir – whether professional or amateur - can premiere, perform or commission a new Wallach work too!

To find more Wallach choral works, go to <http://www.joellewallach.com/choral.html>.

To purchase or rent instrumental parts for [Orison of Ste Theresa](#) or [Why the Caged Bird Sings](#), contact E.C Schirmer at 617-236-1935, or <http://www.ecspublishing.com/>.

To purchase [Therefore](#), contact G.Schirmer, Inc. at 212-254-2100 or <http://www.schirmer.com/>.

To purchase *On the Beach at Night Alone*, contact C.F. Peters at 718-416-7800 or <http://www.edition-peters.com/home.php>.

For all other inquiries, contact Jeffrey James Arts Consulting at 516-586-3433 or jamesarts@worldnet.att.net.

JOELLE WALLACH ON THE WEB

For more information about Joelle Wallach, including bio, performances, list of CDs, press kit, visit <http://www.joellewallach.com> or contact Jeffrey James Arts Consulting at 516-586-3433 or jamesarts@worldnet.att.net.