

The Beatitudes

This work for SATB and piano, along with its companion piece *Ecclesiastes I*, was commissioned by the Saskatchewan Choral Federation for the 1988 Festival of Canadian Music which was held in Kindersley, SK. The premiere was conducted by Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff with the composer at the piano. The challenge in setting this timeless text from the Gospel of Matthew was the repetition of the words “blessed are the”. It could easily sound like a shopping list. But the profound truths conveyed call for emotional engagement and conviction. The chorus and the piano are equal partners here and the dialogue between them attempts to heighten the intention of the text.

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