

More About KYRIE ELEISON

In the fall of 1967, I was a junior at Central College and had been struggling to find my “voice” as a composer. There was no composition class offered at Central, but I was taking informal lessons with my advisor, who was also the theory teacher and had a background in composition.

As a member of the college's very fine A Cappella Choir, I wanted to write something for them and decided on a 6-word traditional liturgical text, the *Kyrie Eleison*. The modal setting for divided *a cappella* choir that I produced turned out to be, in my teacher's words, my first “mature 20th Century composition.” It was accepted for the choir and taken on the 1968 spring tour, from which the audio track on its website listing originated (the 45-year-old mono recording is just a touch fuzzy, but doesn't sound too bad for its age).