

More About WHERE WOULD WE BE

In the summer of 2014, after more than 10 years of absence from any kind of a singing organization, I started to get the itch to find a church choir to join. Several years earlier, I had done some substitute hand bell ringing with Edmonds UMC (Edmonds, WA--about 25 minutes from my home in South Everett), so I already had some connection there and knew they had a good choir and a real pipe organ. After attending a few services, I contacted the new choir director, Henry Lebedinsky, and asked if he could use a rusty tenor who hadn't sung in a choir in 10 years.

I soon discovered that Henry is very talented in several disciplines. He not only masterfully directed our choir, but enjoys a successful career as a harpsichordist, organist, and Celtic guitarist, both at home in Seattle and abroad. And in addition to all that, he is a highly skilled composer, arranger, and poet.

Keeping very busy with all of these activities, Henry does not always have time to write musical settings for all of his poetry, so when he found out that I am a fellow composer, he offered to provide me with some of his texts and let me have a go at setting them. **Where Would We Be** was the first product of our collaboration

A few months later, we sang this anthem at a service with the theme of the poor and homeless, which is an ideal setting for it. Henry's thought-provoking words, while they contain some imagery that some might find a bit disturbing, carry a very powerful message.