

More About EASTER CAROL

Easter Carol had its origins in Beaverton, Oregon, back in 2003, as part of an Easter cantata that I co-wrote with the director of a choir I sang in. The trouble is, the text that I used for it--which I believed at the time to be public domain--turns out to be still held under U.S. copyright. So when I decided to publish the piece, I had to go through the ponderous process of first obtaining permission to use the text, then getting a license to publish it.

I won't send you running away by relating all the hassles involved with that, so jumping to the end of the story, I'll just tell you that the license to publish kept getting delayed and delayed. They wouldn't tell me what the delay was over, and I finally lost patience and withdrew my application...which left me with an anthem that had music but no words.

My first idea was to paraphrase the text I had originally set. I actually came up with a pretty workable alternative text that only resorted to cribbing a couple of rhyming words from the original. But I ultimately decided that, even though there were no direct quotes, the paraphrase was so obviously derived from the copyrighted text, I had better not risk it. So I went searching for a public domain text that fit the music, both metrically and stylistically.

Of several possibilities that I found, I quickly settled on **Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain**, a medieval Greek text with a 19th-century translation. It appears in hymnals set to several hymn-tunes, most commonly *St. Kevin*. But it fits my music so well, that I almost like it better than the text I had originally set!

So now I am pleased to finally be able to offer you **Easter Carol**. Why did I call it that instead of just using the text's hymn title? Well, first I think that is too long and cumbersome. The original title of my piece was "Spring Carol," but this text has little to do with spring, so I didn't want to keep that, although I did like the carol designation. But the kicker is, if you add two short words to the first three words in the hymn-title, you will see a connection to another very popular carol for a different season!