

Fall, 2017

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News & New Publications!

Congratulations to Kelly-Marie Murphy



Alan Dean Photography

Kelly-Marie Murphy

Congratulations to Composer Kelly-Marie Murphy who has just been awarded the prestigious 2018 Azrieli Commission for Jewish Music. Worth \$50,000--the largest of its kind in Canada--this commission is granted to a Canadian composer based on a proposal for a new work which expresses an aspect of the Jewish experience with the utmost creativity, artistry and musical excellence. This work will be premiered at a Gala concert on October 15, 2018 at Maison symphonique in Montreal with the McGill Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Yoav Talmi. This new work will be a concerto for cello and harp and will draw from Sephardic folk and liturgical melodies for the new concerto, "to build on the use of source material as a respectful attendant and contributor to a vibrant, living culture. The Azrieli Foundation has created a wonderful opportunity to encourage Canadian composers to write significant works on a grand scale. This tremendous award means an acknowledgement of the work that I have done and trust in the work that I have yet to do. It is both an honour and a renewal.", Ms. Murphy expressed on receiving this award.

The Azrieli Foundation was established in 1989 to realize and extend the philanthropic goals of the late David J. Azrieli, C.M., C.Q., M.Arch. The mission of the Foundation is to empower individuals, facilitate innovation outcomes for institutions and increase knowledge and understanding in the search of practical and novel solutions. It encourages creativity and artistry, and ensures Jewish heritage, memory and a vibrant Jewish future in Israel and the diaspora. (From the Azrieli Foundation website www.azrielifoundation.org)

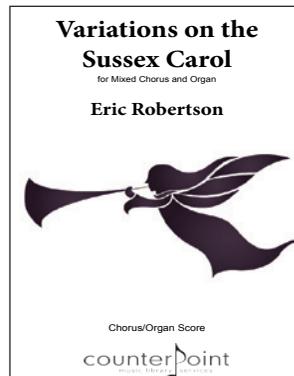
Counterpoint is very pleased to be Kelly-Marie Murphy's publisher. We are also pleased to release a new printing of her lovely Christmas choral work, *The Darkest Midnight in December*. This work was commissioned by the Toronto Children's Chorus for S.S.A. Treble Voices and Harp. This work was just released on CD late last year, recorded by the Ottawa Bach Choir with Caroline Léonardelli on harp. This is for sale on our website, or it can be ordered through your local retailer. You can hear this work

on the link through our online store, on the purchase page for this score. The harp part is also on sale.

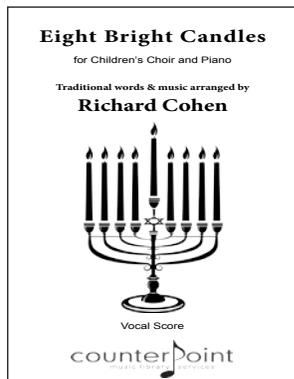
Some other works that we represent for Ms. Murphy are: *Through the Unknown, Unremembered Gate*, for orchestra, which will be performed by the Wilfrid Laurier University Orchestra on March 23, 2018, in Waterloo. Another winter season themed work is her *Huron Carol Interlude* which is for string quartet or string orchestra. Please request a perusal score for these or any other works we represent.

Please visit the composer's website to learn more about her and her work. www.kellymariemurphy.com

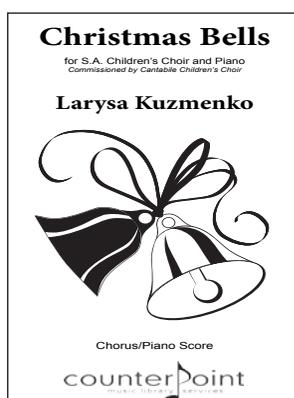
New Seasonal Choral Works



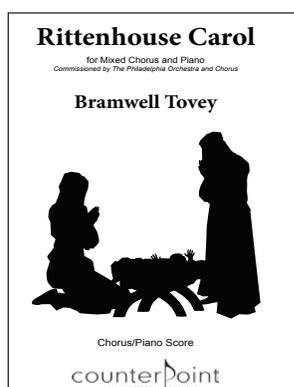
Variations on a Sussex Carol is one of Eric Robertson's most performed works at Christmas. It has been a favourite of many choirs and often choirs perform it annually. This has been recorded by the Elmer Iseler Singers on their *Welcome Yule* Disc on CBC records. It is a delightful arrangement of the traditional carol. This is a new engraving of the work.



Eight Bright Candles is another piece which has arranged traditional songs, from the Jewish Hanukkah tradition. It includes the work of the main title, *Hanukkah, O Hanukkah*, and *S'Vivon*. This new arrangement for children's choir and piano is arranged by Richard Cohen, formerly a long-time member of the Toronto Symphony horn section, and a talented composer/arranger. This was originally arranged by Mr. Cohen for orchestra, for a Seasonal concert in 1993. This new arrangement has been created so that it can be done only with piano accompaniment. The orchestral version is scored for: 2.2.2.2./2.2.2.0./timp. 1 perc (tgl.cym.tamb.).hp./sts It is available on rental. The chorus score is on sale.

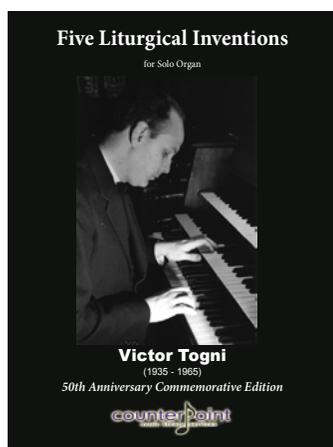


Christmas Bells was commissioned from Larysa Kuzmenko by the Cantabile Children's Choir of Kingston. It is scored for S.A. choir and piano. It uses the poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow of the same name, the story of how hearing the Christmas Bells brings the feeling of "peace on earth, good will to men". This is being performed on December 16, 2017 by the Toronto Children's Chorus.



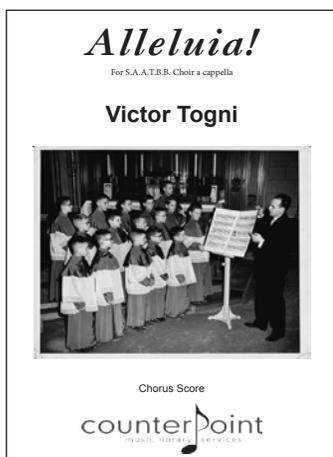
Bramwell Tovey conducts Christmas/Holiday concerts in Philadelphia each year. In 2015 he was asked by the orchestra and chorus to write a carol for them. The *Rittenhouse Carol* is the result. Rittenhouse Square is a famous park in Philadelphia and it was while walking through the square that Mr. Tovey composed this piece.





Victor Togni was a very talented organist, composer, choral director, and a co-founder of the international organ festival, Festival internazionale di musica organistica, in Magadino, Switzerland. He also was a producer for CBC. He died far too young and 2015 was the 50th anniversary of his death. For that occasion, Counterpoint issued a commemorative edition of his *Five Liturgical Inventions*. Improvisation was one of his specialties, so much so that he won first prize in an Improvisation competition held at the Convention of the American Guild of Organists. For the last few years of his life he was the organist and choir master at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto.

Both his a cappella choral work, *Alleluia!* and the *Five Liturgical Inventions* were



created out of his improvisations. The *Alleluia!* was out of print for a number of years. We are pleased to again make it available.



Gary Kulesha

The Orchestre symphonique de Montreal has commissioned Gary Kulesha to write a piece for the orchestra in collaboration with the renowned writer, Michel Tremblay. It will be conducted by their Music Director, Kent Nagano, premiering December 19, 20, 21, 2017 and it will be broadcast on television.

Also, the OSM Manulife 2017 competition is focusing on voice, brass and woodwinds. The required piece for trombone has been named as Gary Kulesha's *Sonata for Trombone*, written for the principal trombonist of the Toronto Symphony, Gordon Wolfe. Congratulations on this new project, and for having a work chosen for this prestigious competition. This

piece is for sale through the online store on our website. The piece has been recorded on Gordon Wolfe's debut CD and available for sale through his website www.gordwolfe.com

The *Blue Heron Near the Old Mill Bridge* was a commission by Stephen Ralls and the Aldeburgh Connection, in 2000. It was part of a series of commissions on texts from Canadian authors about different parts of Toronto. The poem is by the poet, Raymond Souster from his *Collected Poems, Volume 6*, published by Oberon Press. The composer was drawn to this poem because he was familiar and likes the work of Mr. Souster, and the poem immediately suggested images that he could write for the piano. The premiere was done by Monica Whicher and Bruce Ubukata.

Earlier this year, the work has had a revival and was one of the pieces featured at the concert series called Classical Context, a series that runs in east Scarborough. The Founder and Artistic Director, Andrew James Clark, is also a composer, pianist and a student of Mr. Kulesha's. He and the soprano Jessica Goldberg gave an excellent performance of it. This revival, has prompted the creation of this new edition in hopes that more performers will discover and come to love it.

www.classicalcontext.ca



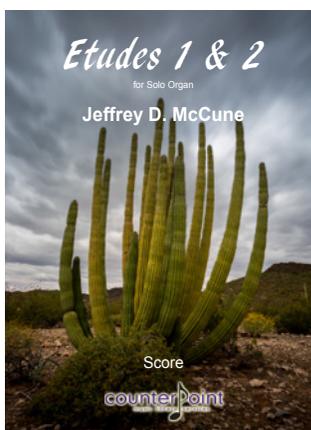
Lincoln Tunnel Cabaret was written by Bramwell Tovey for Joseph Alessi, the principal trombonist of the New York Philharmonic. It is a fun piece which imagines Mr. Alessi on his way to work from New Jersey to Manhattan. It features getting stuck in the tunnel and a trombone solo to entertain the stuck motorists. Mr. Tovey later learned that Mr. Alessi does not take that route to work, but he liked the scenario, even if imagined. This piece was originally written for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, but it has since been arranged for brass band and concert band accompaniments. The orchestral version is on rental, and the band versions are on sale, as is the solo trombone part, through the online store of our website, or by ordering through your local store.

Bramwell Tovey has a number of commissions this year, being his last as Music Director at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. He is to write a piece for them, and he is also writing a piece for the Regina Symphony and their new Music Director, Gordon Gerrard, who was assistant to Mr. Tovey for a number of years at the Vancouver Symphony.



The second new choral work recently published of Larysa Kuzmenko's is *Dreams*, for mixed chorus and piano trio. It was commissioned by the Elora Festival and the Gryphon Trio, using text from Tennyson, Coleridge and Shakespeare. The three movements are: *The Lotos-eaters*, *I know 'tis but a Dream, yet feel more anguish* for soprano and violin, *Nightmare* for piano trio only, and *Caliban*. The choir only sings in movements 1 and 4.

Ms. Kuzmenko's work *Golden Harvest*, continues to get enthusiastic response from audiences who have heard this new work. It was commissioned by Laurence Ewasko in commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the settlement of Ukrainians in Canada. It premiered in Winnipeg with the Winnipeg Symphony and since then has had a number of performances across Canada. Each one has been received with great enthusiasm. As there are many Ukrainians all over Canada, more orchestras should consider doing this piece. It is written for soprano and baritone soloists, mixed chorus and orchestra. 2.2.2.2./4.2.2.bass tmb.1./timp, 2 perc.hp./strings 30'



Edmonton composer Jeffrey McCune, is a composer, pianist, organist, teacher, as well as a visual artist (painter). His *Etudes 1 & 2* for solo organ were created for himself to play at his Master's recital. They are a set of two short contrasting works, the first Etude explores the Grand Organ in all its rafter-shaking glory. The second Etude is slower in style and explores layers of harmony that constantly change and subtly evolve over the course of

the piece, ending in a soft, meditative coda.

The cacti on the cover are called Organ Pipe Cacti.

Mr. McCune's organ work for organ and orchestra, *Aquamarine*, originally commissioned by the Edmonton Symphony was performed again by them in June, 2017--a very wonderful and favourite piece.

Counterpoint Highlights available in PDF

Download the PDF version of this newsletter from our website, as well as the link to sound clips, on this page:

www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights