FOREWORD

The two volumes of Seasonal Psalms for Organ contain original compositions that are free interpretations of Psalm verses. The Psalms were chosen from the Lectionary for the major festival days and seasons of the Church Year. Some of the settings are based on hymns and chorales that are commonly associated with those days. The organ registrations serve as guidelines, and they should be creatively changed to suit differing instruments. There are instances where synthesized MIDI sounds can be effectively employed.

These Psalm settings were suggested by and written for Dr. Joan DeVee Dixon, Professor of Music at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland. Dr. Dixon also serves as organist and director of music at the historic Emmanuel Parish in Cumberland, Maryland. The settings were commissioned by Dr. Alvin C. Broyles, retired senior research associate of Exxon Production Research Company. He is a dedicated supporter of the arts and a lifetime member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas.
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   Based on the tune PSALM 42 by Claude Goudimel
   Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou who leadest Joseph like a flock!

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   Based on the tune STILLE NACHT by Franz Gruber
   Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; for he comes to judge the earth.
   He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

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   Based on the tune PUEB NOBIS by Michael Praetorius
   Give the king thy justice, O God, and thy righteousness to the royal son!
   May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

Holy Week: Psalm 22 .................................. 16
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   My God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me?

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   Praise the Lord! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

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   Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love;
   Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Easter: Psalm 118 ....................................... 27
   Based on the tune EASTER HYMN from Lyra Davidica, 1708
   O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!
   I shall not die, but I shall live.
Sw.  Flute or String Celeste 8
Gt.  Flute 8

Very slowly  $\frac{b}{4} = c. 69$

Emma Lou Diemer