Celebration

Ruth Watson Henderson
Ruth Watson Henderson has an international reputation as one of Canada's leading composers and as an admired pianist and organist. Known especially as a composer of choral works, she has done much to promote the artistry of children through her wealth of compositions for treble voices, using the expertise gleaned over the 28 years she served as the accompanist of the Toronto Children’s Chorus until she retired in 2007. She has at the same time written a wide spectrum of works for adult choirs – an activity started while she was the accompanist of the Festival Singers under Dr Elmer Iseler.

Her works are acclaimed, performed and recorded worldwide. Favourable reviews of her work include the following comments about her Cantata From Darkness to Light: “Impressionistic harmonies, a constant sense of forward motion, and deft handling of the orchestral voices all combined to make this a most appealing work, worthy of repeated hearings.” - Larry Palmer, The Diapason; “...a downright ravishing work!” - Timothy Howard, The American Organist.

Although most widely known for her prolific output of choral works, Ms Watson Henderson has also written numerous instrumental compositions. In July 2009, her piece, Celebration, was chosen by the Annual Festival of New Organ Music in London as the winning piece in a competition to honour the Royal Canadian College of Organist's Centennial and was premiered at the opening of an organ recital in Westminster Abbey. As well as her solo organ pieces, other works include her Fantasia for Trumpet and Organ, her Fantasia for Saxophone and Organ, and Suite for Violin and Organ. Ms Watson Henderson has received many tributes from her colleagues. In 2003 she was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal Canadian College of Organists for her lifetime of services as composer, organist, pianist and church musician.

La distinguée organiste et pianiste Ruth Watson Henderson figure parmi les accompagnateurs et compositeurs les plus en vue au Canada. Si elle est connue pour ses œuvres chorales, elle a contribué beaucoup à la pédagogie et au développement artistique des enfants par ses nombreuses compositions pour voix agées, lesquelles traitent sa connaissance de telles voix accumulées au cours de ses 28 ans comme accompagnatrice du Toronto Children’s Chorus, un poste qu'elle a d'ailleurs laissé en 2007. Elle a également écrit beaucoup d'œuvres pour choeurs d'adultes au cours de ses années comme accompagnatrice des Fêtes d'orgues sous la direction de Elmer Iseler.

Sa musique est acclamée, interprétée et enregistrée dans le monde entier. Au sujet de son cantate From Darkness to Light, on a écrit: “Des harmonies impressionnistes, un mouvement toujours allant, et un contrôle habile des voix instrumentales ont contribué à l'attrait de cette œuvre, qui mérite plusieurs auditions” - Larry Palmer, The Diapason; “...une œuvre tout à fait ravissante!” - Timothy Howard, The American Organist.

Quoique surtout pour ses compositions pour choeur, Madame Watson Henderson a aussi écrit de nombreuses compositions instrumentales. En juillet 2009, le Festival annuel de Nouvelle Musique pour Orgue a choisi son morceau intitulé Celebration comme gagnant d'un concours à l'honneur du centenaire du Collège royal canadien des organistes. La création de ce morceau a eu lieu au débat d'un récital d'orgue présenté par Madame Thévenard à la Westminster Abbey. En plus de ces morceaux pour orgue solo, elle a composé Fantasia for Trumpet and Organ, Fantasia for Saxophone and Organ, et Suite for Violin and Organ. L'apport de Madame Watson Henderson à la musique a souvent été signalé par ses collègues. En 2003, le Collège royal canadien des organistes a décerné à Ruth Watson Henderson un «Fellowship» en reconnaissance de sa carrière de compositeur, d'organiste, de pianiste et de musicienne d'église.
Celebration

Ruth Watson Henderson

Allegretto (J. c. 184)

Manual

Pedal

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Music for Organ

Giles Bryant
Variations on the Huron Carol Jesus Abatonha

Eleazar Dailey

Phenomena

Four Pieces for Organ

Gilles Leduc

Rhapsodie sur ‘Lassi uns eiferter’

John S. McIntosh

Thou My Soul’s Shelter

Heather Spry

Three Pieces for Organ

Ruth Wattson Henderson

Sinfonie for Organ & Violin

Celebration

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Gerald Bates

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Barnie Calma

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For Organ and Brass

Sonata Academica for Continuo Organ

(or Harpsichord) and Strings (or String Quartet)

Phenomena

Fantasia for Organ and Strings (or String Quartet)

(or String Quartet)

John Cook

Concerto for Organ and Strings

Thomas Crawford

Introduction and Toccata for Organ and Strings

Raymond Daveluy

Acantho for Organ and Strings

Eric Dowling

Introduction and Allegro for Organ and Strings

Derek Hickey

Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani

‘Romany’ Variations for Organ, Strings and Percussion

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David Cameron

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Michael Capson

Love, Joy, and Peace

Morning Prayer

P. R. C. Clarke

Three Easy Anthems

To My Humble Supplication

Eleazar Dailey

Come to My Heart

Nicholas Fairbank

O Sing Mirthfully

Psalm 126

William Crotch

O Love, How Deep

Donald R. Johnson

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Robin John King

Breathe on me, Breath of God

Lead Me, Lord

Morning Has Broken

Psalm 51

Frances Macdonnell

Bow Down Thine Ear

Stephanie Martin

Children of the Heavenly Father

Mark Smit

Jesus, Your Boundless Love

Bert Van der Hoes

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Ruth Wattson Henderson

O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath

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