SUITE FOR ORGAN AND VIOLIN

RUTH WATSON HENDERSON
Ruth Watson Henderson is considered to be one of Canada's foremost accompanists and composers. She has accompanied many fine choirs including the Toronto Children's Chorus and her choral music is performed internationally.

In 2004, the CRC released a CD, Sing All Ye Joyful, devoted to the works of Ruth Watson Henderson, featuring the Elmer Iseler Singers. This CD has found great favour with reviewers. William Littler, writing in the Toronto Star, refers to the recording as "long overdue", and states that Ruth's "years as an accompanist for Elmer Iseler contributed to an understanding of the expressive possibilities of choral sound that has given birth to some of the most singable choral music in the Canadian literature."

In recent years, she has written major works for such organizations as the American Guild of Organists (From Darkness to Light), the Bach Elgar Choir of Hamilton (The Magic of God's World), and Chorus Niagara (The Voice of Niagara). Recent performances in 2006 include a premiere by the Los Angeles Children's Chorus with the American Youth Symphony in the Walt Disney Concert Hall of Jubilate the Music, another premiere by the Syracuse (NY) Children's Chorus of Music Comes, and a concert of Henderson's organ music in the Spring Festival of Toronto, for which she wrote her Suite for Violin and Organ. That concert also included her Chromatic Fantasy and Variations on the Ode to Newfoundland.

Ms Watson Henderson has received many awards from her colleagues. In the 2002-2003 season alone, six different choirs presented concerts devoted entirely to her music. In 2003 she was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal Canadian College of Organists, for her lifetime of service as composer, organist, pianist and church musician.

Ruth Watson Henderson figure parmi les accompagneurs et compositrices les plus en vogue au Canada. Elle a accompagne plusieurs chœurs importants, dont le Toronto Children's Chorus. Ses compositions chœrales sont interprétées partout dans le monde.

En 2004, la CRC a publié un disque compact, Sing All Ye Joyful, consacré aux œuvres de Ruth Watson Henderson, et mettant en vedette les Elmer Iseler Singers. Ce disque a reçu les éloges des critiques dans le Toronto Star, William Littler écrit que l'ensemble est arrivé bien tard, et que "les années où Ruth a accompagné pour Elmer Iseler ont contribué à sa compréhension des qualités expressives possibles pour la compétence chorale, ce qui a donné naissance à la musique chorale la plus charmante de la lutte canadienne."

Ruth Watson Henderson a composé des œuvres importantes pour des organisations comme la Gileade américaine des organistes (From Darkness to Light), le Bach Elgar Choir de Hamilton (The Magic of God's World) et Chorus Niagara (The Voice of Niagara). Récemment, son Jubilate the Music a été créé à la suite de concerts Walt Disney par le Los Angeles Children's Chorus et le American Youth Symphony; le Children's Chorus de Syracuse (NY) a créé Music Comes; et le Festival Organix du Toronto a présenté un concert de musique d'orgue de Henderson pour lequel elle a écrit spécialement son Suite pour violon et orgue. Sa Chromatic Fantasy et ses variations sur Ode to Newfoundland étaient aussi au programme.

En 2003, le Collège royal canadien des organistes a décerné à Ruth Watson Henderson un "Fellows" honneur pour sa carrière de compositeur, organiste, pianiste et musicienne d'église.
Suite For Organ and Violin

Ruth Watson Henderson

1. Dialogue
2. Dreams
3. Dance

Dedicated to St. Basil's Church, Toronto, Canada

In celebration of its 150th Anniversary serving the people of God
Jubilate, Servite

Premiered on May 3, 2006 at ORGANIX 2006
1. Dialogue

Ruth Watson Henderson

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