

Knox Anthem and Hymn Commissions since 1995

Composer, Title, Text Source, Commission, Occasion, Date

(Updated April 2025)

Ēriks Ešenvalds *God, You Made All Things for Singing*

SATB, Organ

Text: Thomas H. Troeger

“Commissioned by the Helms Family in honor of the 90th birthdays of Howard and Mary Helms, lifelong choristers. Dedicated to the Knox Choir of Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, Earl Rivers, Director of Music.”

Premiere: Knox worship service, April 27, 2025



The Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds is at the forefront of contemporary choral composing. He has won multiple awards for his work, including the Latvian Great Music Prize, had his music performed at numerous international festivals, and has been frequently featured on recordings. Ēriks is a popular public speaker, which he often combines with leading masterclasses and conducting.

B.E. Boykin *Sing for Joy*

SATB, Piano

Text: Psalm 5:11

Commissioned by Christy and Scott Holland in memory of Rose K. and J. Kent Holland, two loving parents who loved God, loved each other, loved music, and passed that love along to posterity.

Premiere: Knox worship service, May 21, 2023



B. E. Boykin's commissions and collaborations include a number of ACDA divisions, the Minnesota Opera and the Kennedy Center. With degrees from Spelman College and Westminster Choir College, Boykin's choral piece, "We Sing as One," was commissioned to celebrate Spelman's 133rd Anniversary. Boykin says, "When I think of diversity within the classical music world, there is diversity within sound, within ensembles, within colors."

Errollyn Wallen *I heard a voice*

SATB, Piano

Text: Revelation 14: 2-3, 7 King James Version

In honor of Dr. Christina Haan's 20th anniversary as the Knox Church Organist, commissioned by Christy and Scott Holland.

Premiere: Knox worship service, February 19, 2023



Errollyn Wallen has been called the “renaissance woman of contemporary British music” (The Observer). She is as respected a singer-songwriter of pop influenced songs as she is a composer of contemporary new music. The motto of Errollyn’s Ensemble X, “we don’t break down barriers in music... we don’t see any”, reflects her genuine, free-spirited approach. Wallen has composed operas, orchestral, chamber and vocal works performed throughout the world.

Kile Smith

Go Forth into the World in Peace

SATB, Piano

Text: Book of Common Prayer, 1892, alt.

Commissioned by the Gieseke family. Dedicated to honor the faithful leadership of the Knox Youth Group, Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Premiere: Knox online worship service, October 18, 2020
Live premiere: Knox worship service, September 11, 2022



Kile Smith is the recipient of three Grammy nominations. His music is hailed nationally and internationally for its strong voice, sheer beauty, and “profoundly direct emotional appeal.” Smith writes of this composition, “The text is powerful and moving on its own but felt quite apt for our time. The music, with its gently descending line and undulating triads, suggests peacefulness and perhaps the descending Holy Spirit”.

To listen to the online premiere of this anthem, click here:

<https://vimeo.com/469457632>

Dale Warland – (born April 14, 1932 in Fort Dodge, Iowa)

Make Me New - A Sonnet for Knox Church

SATB Chorus, Violin, and 2 Violoncelli

Text: Words by John Donne (1572-1631)

Commissioned by Christy and Scott Holland for the Knox Choir, Earl Rivers, Director of Music, to celebrate the 125th Anniversary

of Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, January 26, 2020.

Premiere: Knox worship service, January 26, 2020



To listen to a sample recording of an arrangement by Dale Warland, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgU8a8nQsu8>

Dominick DiOrio *Psalm 105* (for SATB chorus and organ)

Text: adapted from Psalm 105, vs. 1-6

Commissioned by Knox Presbyterian Church Choir, Earl Rivers, Director of Music, and dedicated with gratitude to Christy and Scott Holland.

Premiere: Knox worship service, Sept. 24, 2017



Dominick DiOrio is a conductor and composer who has won widespread acclaim for his contributions to American music. He has been recognized with The American Prizes in both Choral Composition and Choral Performance. DiOrio has been hailed for a keenly intelligent, evocative style, which shows “a tour de force of inventive thinking and unique colour” (Gramophone).

To listen to the premiere of this anthem, click here:

<https://d33qn9bpqkprpc.cloudfront.net/audio/06-Psalm-105-Dominick-DiOrio.mp3>

Daniel Elder

With Tongues of Angels

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 7 (paraphrased)

Commission: Dedicated to the Knox Choir, Dr. Earl Rivers, and the Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, from Scott and Christy Holland and members of the Knox Choir.

Premiere: Knox worship service, Jan. 24, 2016



Daniel Elder creates forms and aesthetics that are at once lyrical and textural, sacred and secular, drawing roots particularly from the impressionist movement. He creates “the kind of immediately ingratiating melody-centered, harmony-gilded works that no choir director or singer—or listener—can resist.” (ClassicsToday.com) He says, “I attempt to tap the emotions a poet once put into words... Through the pursuit of emotion I chase truth. The notes are merely the language.” Elder has won prizes in national and international competitions by organizations including The American Prize, Abbey Road Studios, CANTUS, and many others.

To listen to the premiere of this anthem, click here:



With Tongues of
Angels.mp3

Robert Beaser

Song of the Ascents – Psalm 121

Commission: Soli Deo Gloria *Psalms Project*

Premiere: Knox worship service, Feb. 1, 2015; composer present



Robert Beaser's music has been characterized as a synthesis of "spatial clarity and epic sweep," and is known for its fusion of European traditions with "American musical vernacular." In his evocation of American hymn styles, critics have drawn comparisons to Copland and Barber. The Baltimore Sun writes "Beaser is one of this country's huge composing talents, with a gift for vocal writing that is perhaps unequaled." He has received a Grammy nomination, numerous commissions, fellowships, and awards, including an Academy Award in Music. Beaser is chair of the Composition Department at Juilliard.

To listen to a sample recording of a work by Robert Beaser, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xdz9F8dkTTY>

Dale Warland – (born April 14, 1932 in Fort Dodge, Iowa)

Ubi Caritas

SATB choir and solo oboe

Text: Hymn

Commission: *Commissioned by Christy and Scott Holland and members of the Knox Choir, Earl Rivers, Director of Music. To*

*celebrate the installation of Adam Howard Fronczek as Pastor of
Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 19, 2014.*

Premiere: Service of Installation, October 19, 2014



For a complete biography about this composer see [Dale Warland](#).

To listen to a sample recording of the Dale Warland Singers, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ws-Hv16o-5k>

Stephen Cleobury (December 31, 1948 – November 22, 2019)

When in our music God is glorified

Text: Fred Pratt Green

*Commissioned by Louise Mary Landen in honor of Dr. Earl G.
Rivers to celebrate his fortieth anniversary as Director of Music at
Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

Knox premiere: Knox worship service, October 5, 2014



To listen to a sample recording of a work by Stephen Cleobury that has been presented as an anthem in Knox worship services, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCQYL4nJxtA>

Dale Warland – (born April 14, 1932 in Fort Dodge, Iowa)

The Voices

Text: Michael Dennis Brown

Commission: *Generously commissioned by a consortium of 21 choruses to benefit Chorus America—the advocacy, research, and leadership development organization that advances the choral field.*

Knox premiere: Knox worship service, April 21, 2013



For a complete biography about this composer see [Dale Warland](#).

To listen to a recording of this work, click here:

<https://youtu.be/YIdatNJTfvg>

Salt Lake Vocal Artists & SLCA Youth Honor Choir

Ola Gjeilo – (born May 5, 1978 in Skui, Norway)

Blessed

Text Anonymous

Commission: Dedicated to the Knox Choir, Dr. Earl Rivers, and the Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, from Scott and Christy Holland.

Premiere: Knox worship service, January 8, 2012



For a complete biography about this composer see [Ola Gjeilo](#).

To listen to a sample recording of a work by Ola Gjeilo that has been presented as an anthem in Knox worship services, click here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZpQv_EZipQ

John Rutter - (born September 24, 1945 in London, England)

A Dedication and An Amen

Text: John Rutter

Commission: Chorus America Consortium

Knox premiere: Knox worship service, May 22, 2011



For a complete biography about this composer see [John Rutter](#).

To listen to a sample recording of a work by John Rutter that has been presented as an anthem in Knox worship services, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu7tJFCzAMI>

Imant Raminsh – (born September 19, 1943 in Ventspils, Latvia)

Two Temples

Text: Hattie Vose Hall

Commissioned by David and Sue Conrad

Dedicated to Ruthabeth Krueger Marsh (mother) and Ruth Krueger Miller (grandmother) for “Loving and Infinite Care....”

Premiere: Knox worship service, Mother’s Day, May 12, 2002



For a complete biography about this composer see [Imant_Raminsh](#).

To listen to a sample recording of a work by Imant Raminsh, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzh-62l6jdE>

Gerre Hancock – (February 21, 1934 – January 21, 2012)

O Lord Our Governor (published by Oxford University Press)

Text: Psalm 8

Commissioned by Knox Presbyterian Church in honor of its one hundredth anniversary.

Premiere: Knox worship service, October 15, 1995



For a complete biography about this composer see [Gerre Hancock](#).

To listen to a sample recording of a work by Gerre Hancock that has been presented as an anthem in Knox worship services, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fmmUuLaG0k> - St Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Stephen Paulus – (August 24, 1949 – October 19, 2014)

The Elixir

Text: George Herbert (from *The Temple*, 1633)

Commissioned by the Knox Choir honoring Earl Rivers for his 20th year of service to the music ministry of Knox Church.

Premiere: Knox worship service, June 4, 1995



For a complete biography about this composer see stephenpaulus.com.

To listen to a sample recording of a work by Stephen Paulus that has been presented as an anthem in Knox worship services, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQqNwWjKHds> – Dale Warland Singers

Alice Parker - (b. December 16, 1925; d. December 24, 2023)

(Hymn): *The House of Faith Has Many Rooms*

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr.

Commissioned by the Knox Choir: *In honor of the one-hundredth anniversary of Knox Church.*

Premiere: Knox worship service, January 22, 1995



For a complete biography about this composer see [Alice Parker](#).

To listen to a recording of this hymn setting, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQq1k8zto9Q>