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THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE
FOR THE PROTESTANT CHURCH

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

FOR THE PROTESTANT CHURCH

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School
Appalachian State University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

bу

Steven Lee Mowery

March 3, 1976

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AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS ENTITLED

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This study concerns itself with the development of the service of Tenebrae from the offices of matins and lauds. The theological and musical development is discussed in Chapter One, including texts and musical settings composed previously.

Chapter Two discusses the basic factors involved in composing a setting of the Tenebrae for the Protestant Churches of America. The texts, musical styles, melodic and harmonic characteristics, and required personnel are described. Manuscript techniques and abbreviations are stated.

The Third Chapter includes evaluation and information for application in performance of the Tenebrae Service which the author has composed. Results of performances during the development of the thesis are also discussed.

The Appendixes include the Tenebrae manuscript, composed for a Protestant choir of non-professional singers. The composition includes piano accompaniment. Numerous solos are required to portray the characters of the Gospel narratives. Scripture selections from Lamentations are used in each of the first six divisions. The gradual extinction of candles is described. The one remaining candle is removed from the sanctuary at the end of the service for one minute, after which it is returned and used to light other candles. Also included in the Appendixes are a sample bulletin and a list of the sources of texts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The writer wishes to express appreciation to the choirs and staff of the Waldensian Presbyterian Church, Valdese, North Carolina, for their patience, co-operation, and performances of this composition during its development. Gratitude is especially expressed to Mrs. Dianne Floyd for her assistance in preparing the type-written copy and to Mrs. Ann Garrou for her realization of and additions to the accompaniment of the first draft and her constant support and encouragement.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The Latin word Tenebrae, meaning "dark," is given to an impressive ceremony of music, scripture, and candles, derived from the materials used for the offices of matins and lauds on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Holy Week in the Roman Catholic Church. Through the evolution of the Roman Church and the Protestant denominations, this service is observed in contemporary America in variations and modifications of the ancient form. The popularity of this service depends on the psychological effects of increasing darkness, effective use of musical compositions, and participation of the clergy, choirs, and congregation.

Only a small number of twentieth century church musicians have composed settings of this service which are appropriate to the needs of the American Protestant Churches.

The basic psychological and philosophical belief in the relationship between light and darkness is the foundation of the service of
Tenebrae. References to this relationship are found throughout both
sacred and secular literature. Services in which candles are gradually
extinguished are found in the earliest Jewish literature, closely associating light with the goodness of the Hebrew Deity.

The Tenebrae service of the Roman Catholic Church is an adaptation from the matins and lauds of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Each of the three nocturnes (divisions) of matins includes three psalms and three lessons. Since at least the eighth century, the scripture for the lessons of these holy days has been taken from the Lamentations of Jeremiah, a book of the Jewish-Christian Bible. These scripture selections have become so closely related to the service that the terms Tenebrae and Lamentations are accepted synonymously. These scripture selections create a strong emphasis on the passionate emotions of Holy Week. The service is visually accented by a triangular candle stand with fifteen burning candles. After each of the nine Psalms of matins and each of the five Psalms of lauds is read, one candle is extinguished. The one remaining candle is then used symbolically, as will be explained later.

THEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

During the Reformation many special services, including Tenebrae, were removed by the new church organizations. Especially significant in the Episcopal Church was the change from matins and lauds to the service of Morning Prayer. The trend evolved in the 1930's - 1940's, however, to reinstate special services such as the blessings on Palm Sunday and the Tenebrae observance. In the publications of this period, Tenebrae was considered "an additional devotion particularly appropriate to the days in question," and descriptions of the services were given. In the

¹ Roman Catholic offices are services of the hours of the day, as distinct from the service of the mass.

Willi Apel, <u>Harvard Dictionary of Music</u> (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1966), p. 738.

³J. Gordon Davies, Holy Week: A Short History (Richmond, Va.: John Knox Press, 1963), p. 63.

Roman Catholic Church, due to reform decrees of 1951, 1955, and 1957, many of the services were anticipated (celebrated on the evening before the proper day); thus, Tenebrae was moved to Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, when it could be observed by larger congregations. 4

Many Roman churches and monasteries, however, still observe this service on Thursday morning.

Lamentations. The <u>Catholic Encyclopedia</u> suggests that fourteen of fifteen candles were extinguished, one at the conclusion of each Psalm.

When the <u>Benedictus</u> was sung, the six altar candles were also extinguished, leaving only one candle as the light for the entire church.

During the antiphon, <u>Traditor autem</u>, the candle was removed from the stand and hidden behind the altar, where it remained until the end of the service. After several prayers, noise was made by knocking on the choir stalls until the lighted candle reappeared from behind the altar. All persons present then retired in silence.

Other sources cite twenty-four candles being used during the Middle Ages, representing the twelve prophets and the twelve apostles. ⁶

The rubrics also refer, not very clearly, to an additional candle which was used in the manner described above to symbolize the apparent victory of the powers of darkness and the seeming failure of the divine plan of redemption at the crucifixion. These sources indicate that the candle

was not usually returned to the sanctuary. If the candle was returned, indications are evident of the symbolism of the resurrection. Also of interest in these early sources is the noise at the end of the service: originally caused by the participants' closing of the missals and later being interpreted as representing the shaking of the earth at Christ's death.

The structure of the texts of the Lamentations is as follows:

Thursday	Lam.	1:1-5	1:6-9	and	1:10-14
Friday	Lam.	2:3-11	2:12-15	and	3:1-9
Saturday	Lam.	3:22-30	4:1-6	and	5:1-11

With only small deviation, this form has been considered the proper text since 1568.

A unique characteristic applicable to the Lamentations is the actual singing of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, one before each verse of scripture. These are not indications of arrangements or editing marks, as in the Book of Psalms. They are used as part of the text to emphasize the movement of the service. A second characteristic of particular interest is the conclusion of each Lamentation with the refrain "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum," 10 a verse not drawn from the Book of Lamentations.

MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The first example of a setting of the Lamentations is the

⁴Ibid, p. 58.

⁵D. Stevens, "Tenebrae," <u>Catholic Encyclopedia</u> (1967), XX, pp. 1007-1009.

⁶Davies, op. cit., pp. 46-47.

⁷Stevens, op. cit., p. 1007. Stevens, op. cit., p. 1008.

Robert Stevenson, Spanish Cathedral Music in the Golden Age (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1961), p. 91.

^{10&}quot;Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord, your God." Hosea 14:1

composition by Ockeghem in 1474. In 1506, Petrucci published two volumes of music entitled LAMENTATIONES JEREMIE PROPHETE, which included settings by Johannes Tinctoris, de Orto, Tromboncino, and others. 11 The first setting to replace the ancient plainsong in the Papal Chapel was written by Carpentras (real name Elzear Genet) in 1532 and was used in the Chapel until 1587.

From the middle of the fifteenth century through the seventeenth century, many composers wrote polyphonic settings of the famous text to enhance the dramatic character of Tenebrae. The compositions of this period are in the "familiar" style, a primarily chordal structure necessitated by the nature of the texts. Some of the scores in the composers' revised manuscripts included more melodic and imitative passages, but they still brought personal and musical criticism for the lack of polyphony. 12

The most complete polyphonic setting of Tenebrae is that of Victoria, written in 1585 as part of his OFFICUM HEBDOMADAE SANCTAE.

This work enjoys the distinction of having been his only publication not dedicated to some prelate, prince, or king. Instead, it is dedicated to the "triune Deity." The importance of this work is also indicated by its being the only Victoria preliminary draft in the composer's handwriting to be bound in the Vatican Library (Cappella Sistina MS 186). 13 It was the primary music for the offices for three hundred years and has achieved greater distinction than any other polyphonic setting of the Latin texts.

Three years after Victoria's composition, Palestrina published his LAMENTATIONUM LIBER PRIMUS, which supplanted Carpentras' composition in the Papal Chapel. Other significant settings of the Tenebrae were composed by Tallis, Byrd, and Morales.

The reorganization of Holy Week by Pope Pius XIX in 1955 and the change to the vernacular made the continued use of these settings liturgically unfeasible in the Roman Catholic Church. They are performed only on special historical occasions, in recordings, and in choral concerts.

A renewed interest in the psychological and theological aspects of Tenebrae has caused several contemporary American composers, including Dale Wood and Paul Hamill, to write music for this service, intended primarily for the Protestant Church in America. Dale Wood composed a set of anthems in 1965 to be used with the Lamentations texts. The significant point of his work is his choice of English non-liturgical texts for the anthems. Paul Hamill published a work in 1967 in which he used the Silesian Melody and English translations of motets and chorales of Bach, Palestrina, Gibbons, Hassler, Tye, and Walther to imitate the Tenebrae service. Hamill deviated from the traditional form by substituting Gospel lessons for the Lamentations texts, placing more emphasis on the actual events of Christ's life during Holy Week. The relationship between Christ's suffering and Jeremiah's lamentations, which represent the entire Jewish nation, is not emphasized in Hamill's work.

¹¹Apel, op. cit., pp. 392-393.

^{12&}lt;sub>Stevenson</sub>, op. cit., p. 456.

¹³ Stevenson, op. cit., p. 454.

¹⁴Stevens, op. cit., p. 1009.

Dale Wood, A Service of Darkness (Delaware Water Gap, Pa: Shawnee Press, 1965).

Paul Hamill, Tenebrae - A Service of Narration and Music (Delaware Water Gap, Pa.: Shawnee Press, 1967).

NEED FOR STUDY .

From the review of previous literature, three areas of need are apparent. First, music to emphasize the Lamentation Texts should be written in the vernacular for use in the services of the American Protestant Churches in order to facilitate the use of the psychological and theological capabilities of this service. Second, the Gospel scriptures should also be used as texts in the observance of Tenebrae. Third, complete services, including pre- and post-service music and congregational participation, should be designed for the use of church musicians throughout the Protestant denominations. Such services should be of the difficulty, quality, and personal appeal necessary for the choral program of American church choirs.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The purpose of this project was to design and compose a musical setting of Tenebrae, incorporating those historical and psychological features which would be applicable and would use a compositional style appropriate both to the text and to the size, ability, and philosophy of the Protestant church choir of twenty-five to fifty non-professional voices. The primary source for the texts would be the Lamentations and the Gospels; the score would be written for four-part (SATB) choir with soloists; the accompaniment would be for the piano. The basic melodic and harmonic structures are defined in the chapter on preparation. Subjective compositional techniques, such as tone-painting, would be discussed. The chapter on Discussion and Conclusions would contain reviews and criticisms of the work.

Chapter 2

PREPARATION OF COMPOSITION

GENERAL TENDENCIES

The preparation of the composition was based on two outstanding principles, which usually complement but occasionally oppose each other. The first is the requirement of practicality and popularity: the compositional techniques must be within the performance skills of the choir and the accompanist and must be primarily within the styles which the choir members will enjoy. A careful balance of standard choral techniques and of novelty must be maintained throughout the composition. The second guiding principle is the professional ethics and knowledge of the composer and other professional musicians who will be involved in the performance of this work. The quality of the composition must be held to standards which avoid trite musical cliches, but which recognize significant historical precedents.

A four-section organization was established for each of the first six parts of the service. First, scripture selections from the Book of Lamentations are read. This text provides the continuity of the relationship between Tenebrae and the Lamentations as established in the historical offices. Second, a recitative, narrating the events of Holy Week as found in the Gospels, is sung by an evangelist and other soloists. This text provides the dramatic portion of the service. Third, one or more arias or choruses reflect on the actions of the recitatives. Finally,

the part is concluded by the extinction of one candle.

The seventh part differs in construction from the previous sections. The remaining candle is removed from the sanctuary for a brief period. The ancient tradition of knocking on the choir stalls is observed by the ringing of the handbell as the candle is returned.

Additional symbolization of the resurrection is the spreading of the light to the individual candles of the members of the choir as they form the escort line.

SELECTION OF TEXTS

The first lesson for each part was chosen from the Lamentation texts given in 1568, although the prescribed order is not observed. Each text is related to the Gospel lesson most appropriate. Emphasis is placed on the Lamentations by having them read instead of sung. These texts relate the sufferings of Jesus Christ, Jeremiah, and the nation of Israel.

The second lesson, sung in recitatives, was chosen from the Gospels. In addition to providing the narrative of the service, these texts also emphasize the sufferings of Christ and become the most outstanding texts.

The texts for the arias and choruses, excepting the first aria of part six, were taken from non-liturgical poetry. They have two purposes: first, they emphasize certain events in the Gospel narrative and allow opportunity for musical and theological meditation. Second, they exist to offer prayers or explanations on behalf of the congregation.

All the texts are in the vernacular. Biblical quotations from the King James Version are paraphrased to prevent dialect and stylistic

differences from detracting from the service.

SELECTION OF MUSICAL STYLES

Guided by the principle of practicality and appropriateness, the composer has written in a diatonic style, using a fairly limited vocal range. Keys, melodic patterns, modes, and rhythms which suggest more somber moods were employed. Phrase lengths and patterns were chosen to facilitate comfortable performances. A close relationship between the text and the musical patterns was maintained throughout the composition. A great amount of tone-painting was appropriate, due to the large amount of extra-musical connotations.

MELODIC AND HARMONIC CHARACTERISTICS

The melodic lines of the Tenebrae, composed primarily of step-wise movement, are restricted to a limited range. Characteristics of each voice timbre are used to establish particular moods. The arias are often modal and sometimes similar to the American folksong. Repetition is used for psychological effects and for the completion of musical form, as shown in the restatement of the aria in part three, occurring again in part six. Each melodic line was carefully constructed to portray the text, often chromatically altered to expose the textual change, as in the first aria of part three.

The melodic tone-painting is evident in the ascending lines in the aria of part six, as Christ is appealing to God. When the moment of acceptance, symbolized by the two measures of piano interlude, replaces the cry of desperation, the melodic line descends.

The harmonic structure was based primarily in keys which are

familiar to the non-professional accompanist. Modulations within each part are usually to relative or parallel keys, supplemented by other modulations of a third, and occasionally contrasted by a dominant or sub-dominant relationship.

Two specific harmonic characteristics are of particular importance. The first is the use of the sub-tonic chord in a major key. This compositional technique is first sung by Christ in part one and subsequently by the narrator to preface a solo by Christ. This progression becomes a significant characteristic of the entire composition. The second unusual harmonic progression is the key change at the word amen in part six. The ascending parallel chromatic motion is symbolic of the text; and the sudden key change indicates the profundity of this particular moment of the service.

Harmonic tone-painting occurs throughout the Tenebrae. Three examples include the accompaniment in part six regarding the temple veil being torn, the foreign key of D major being used only for the priests in part four, and the continuous use of the seventh chord in part five.

MANUSCRIPT FORM AND ABBREVIATIONS

Standard musical form and abbreviations are employed throughout the Tenebrae manuscript. Although a piano accompaniment is provided, other instruments may be used, utilizing the chord symbols given above the melodic line. The abbreviation <u>G.P.</u> indicates a "grand pause," which may be held at the discretion of the conductor. Additional accompaniment is to be improvised in the second aria and chorus of part three.

Chapter 3

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The setting of Tenebrae, prepared for use in the American Protestant Church, includes the devotional elements and successive degrees of darkness which are characteristic of Tenebrae services since the Middle Ages. The combination of texts from the Lamentations, the Gospels, and non-liturgical sources provide several concurrent lines of thought. The music can be sung effectively by a moderate-sized choir of non-professional training with an accompanist of moderate skill. Other instruments may be added as desired.

APPLICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

In the development of this composition, additional suggestions for improvement of the service have been realized. An effective control of the lighting facilities in the sanctuary or auditorium is necessary. The part-writing on each composition was dependent on the lighting available at that point in the service. The final composition is simple, to facilitate memorization.

If the area is large, the triangular candlestick should be duplicated by horizontal candelabra on each side of the auditorium, each containing six candles which are extinguished simultaneously with the principal candles. A well-rehearsed corps of acolytes is necessary.

The handbell notes may be played on other instruments if handbells are not available. The handbell players should remain out of sight during parts one through six. The handbell should be played while in procession with the Christ candle on the return in part seven.

As the choir members light individual candles at the end of part seven, they should process to the sides of the sanctuary to provide the only light for the dismissal of the congregation. If personal preference desires, the historical precedent may be used, ending the service with the removal of the Christ candle and dismissing the congregation.

IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND COMPOSITION

Additional settings of Tenebrae should be composed for other choirs, using other musical styles and traditions and other instrumentation. Compositions should be created using only texts from the scriptures, allowing denominations with textual restrictions the capability to use a Tenebrae service. Extra-musical effects, such as thunder and lightning, staging properties, and visual aids, may be designed to complement this setting of Tenebrae to add meaning and novelty.

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APPENDIX A

SOURCES OF TEXTS

Part 1

Lamentations 1:10-11 Now, When the Even Take This Bread

Matthew 26:20-25 Matthew 26:26-29

Part 2

Lamentations 2:11 They Went Out Peter's Song

Matthew 26:30-34

Felker

Part 3

Lamentations 1:1-2
And Jesus Said to Them, "Pray"
Is There a Road?

Matthew 26:41-42
Daczewitz

Part 4

Lamentations 3:22, 27-30 And Judas Came O Jesus, How They Hate You

Matthew 26:49, 62, 67

Mowery

Part 5

Lamentations 2:11
Then They Took Him
My God, How They Hurt You

Jesus, My Lord, Is Dead

Matthew 27:27-31

Mowery

Part 6

Lamentations 2:15
And It Was the Sixth Hour
My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

Luke 23:44-45 Mark 15:34 Luke 23:46 Mowery

Part 7

Luke 23:53
The Wind Blows Over the Stones

All texts have been adjusted for musical accents.

The Sanctuary 8:00 P.M.

People: Minister:

APPENDIX B

SAMPLE BULLETIN



APPENDIX C

A PROTESTANT TENEBRAE SERVICE FOR CHOIR AND SOLOISTS Pastor 2

CALL TO WORSHIP

"For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricked, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:2-5)

INVOCATION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister: Let us pray. O God, this is a night filled with memory and hope.

People: We remember that we are made of clay, molded in your image.

Minister: We think about yesterday and sigh as we remember, and we

are anxious about what tomorrow will bring.

People: We pray that your presence will fill this room and remove the guilt of yesterday and give us purpose for tomorrow.

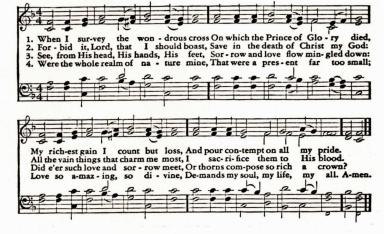
Remind us again that we have been accepted by you.

Minister: Make our acceptance of ourselves and each other complete

through Christ, our Lord.

People: Ame

*HYMN #198 - - - - - - - "When I Survey" - - - - - - Mason



SCRIPTURE - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Pastor

Behold my servant shall prosper, and he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. As many were astonished at him, his appearance was so marred, beyond human resemblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men - so shall he startle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they shall see, and that which they have not heard they shall understand.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not His mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise Him.

Hymn #191 - - - - - - - "Ah Holy Jesus" - - - - - - - Cruger how hast Thou Who brought this was Thy in since I can this up - on in - car - na can - not pay guilt - y? Je - sus, was judge Thee trea - son, sor - row, dore Thee, and will ev - er pray Thee, Think on judge Thee to was de - nied Thee:
bit - ter pas - sion most af - flict cru-ci - fied and Thy bit - ter pas - sion, For and Thy love un-swerv-ing, Not - va THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (Congregational lights dim) The Choir stands and sings the following: green hill far know, we can -we might be oth - er good dear - ly has a - way, Out - side a not tell, What pains He for-given, He died to e-nough To pay the He loved, And we must may not died that

TENEBRAE

Part 1 - The Shadow of Betrayal

Lamentations 1:10-11

The enemy has stretched out his hands over all her precious things; yea, she has seen the nations invade her sanctuary, those whom thou didst forbid to enter thy congregation. All her people groan as they search for bread; they trade their treasures for food to revive their strength. "Look, O Lord, and behold, for I am despised."













The First Candle is Extinguished.

The Handbell strikes once.

Part 2 - The Shadow of Desertion

Lamentations 2:11

The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have cast dust on their heads and put on sackcloth; the maidens of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.







The Second Candle is Extinguished

The Handbell strikes once.

Part 3 - The Shadow of an Unshared Vigil

Lamentations 1:1- 2

How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she that was great among the nations. She that was princess among the cities has become a vassal. She weeps bitterly in the night, tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her.











The Third Candle is Extinguished
The Handbell strikes once.

Part 4 - The Shadow of Accusation

Lamentations 3:22,27-30

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. Let him sit alone in silence when he has laid it on him; let him put his mouth in the dust - there may yet be hope; let him give his cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.

Relwin Inc





-







The Fifth Candle is Extinguished
The Handbell strikes once.

Part 6 - The Shadow of Death

Lamentations 2: 15

All who pass along the way clap their hands at you; they hiss and wag their heads at the daughter of Jerusalem; "Is this the city which was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth?"













PARCHMENT

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished The Handbell strikes once.

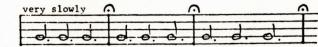
Part 7 - The Shadow of the Tomb

Then they took the body of Jesus down from the cross and carried it into the garden. They wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in the tomb.

Beiwin Inc.



AFTER ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE, THE CANDLE IS RETURNED TO THE CHANCEL. The high HANDBELL plays the following when the candle is being returned.



Pastor: Our Lord and His Spirit did not remain in the tomb. His goodness, His love, and His offer of salvation continued. He was life, and that life was the light of men. "Lux lucet in tenebrae." The light shines in the

The chimes play "Fairest Lord Jesus" as the Pastor and choir form an escort line, using the light of the Christ Candle to light individual candles. After the choir is arranged as the escort, the Pastor dismisses the congregation.

Pastor: "May your life stand also as a candle, anticipating the resurrection of Christ, our Lord. Go now in peace."

The ushers release the congregation. The chimes continue until all are gone. The doors of the sanctuary are locked until Easter Morning.

