From the Odes of Solomon

Three settings for unaccompanied mixed choir

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From the Odes of Solomon

From Odes 1 & 3 of the Odes of Solomon	Duration 5'
From Ode 14 of the Odes of Solomon	Duration 5'
From Ode 17 of the Odes of Solomon	Duration 5' 30"

From the Odes of Solomon was first performed in concert by the Ars Brunensis Chorus on June 2, 2002, at the Husov Sbor, Brno. Recorded on June 1, 2002, at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, Brno - Husovice, Czech Republic. Roman Valek conducted the Ars Brunensis Chorus, Dan Kalousek choirmaster, Frantisek Poul recording engineer, and Annegret Lange producer. Released on CD by Capstone Records.

For information about the composer, visit: <u>www.gregbartholomew.com</u> or send email to info@gregbartholomew.com.

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From the Odes of Solomon

The Odes of Solomon are believed to have been written around the year 100 A.D., and include strong parallels to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Scholars have debated whether the Odes should be considered Jewish, Christian or Gnostic, and whether they were first written in Greek, Hebrew or Syriac. Early Christian writings refer to and quote from them. An old Syriac manuscript containing the text of most of the Odes was discovered in 1909 by the English scholar J. Rendel Harris, and other partial texts in various languages have also been found. There are 42 Odes. Some fragments are still missing from Odes I and III, and no part of Ode II has yet been found.

I have selected text from four of the Odes of Solomon which I found particularly compelling. The anonymous translation I have used comes from The Gnostic Society Library.

Greg Bartholomew October 7, 2000 Seattle

From Ode I

The Lord is on my head like a crown And I shall not be without him.

From Ode III

I clothe his limbs, his own limbs, and hang from them. He loves me.

How would I know how to love the Lord if he did not love me? And who can tell us about love? Only one who is loved.

I love the beloved, and my soul loves him. I am where he reposes, and I will be no stranger to him, because he is not petty, my high merciful Lord.

I have gone to join him for the lover has found his beloved.

From Ode XIV

As the eyes of a son to his father, so my eyes turn to you, O Lord, at all times, for with you are my consolation and joy.

Do not turn your mercy from me, O Lord, nor your kindness, but stretch out your right hand, and be my guide to the end.

Care for me, save me from evil, and let your gentleness and love be with me. Teach me to sing of truth, that I may engender fruit in you.

Open the harp of your holy spirit so I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes.

From your sea of mercy, help me, help me in my hour of need.

From Ode XVII

I was crowned by God, by a crown alive. And my Lord justified me.

I was freed from myself and uncondemned. The chains fell from my wrists.

The thought of truth drove me. I walked to it and did not wander off.

He glorified me by kindness and lifted my thought to truth. I opened closed doors, shattered bars of iron. My own shackles melted.

Nothing appeared closed because I was the door to everything.

I freed slaves, left no man in bonds.

I spread my knowledge and love and sowed my fruits in hearts and transformed them.

I blessed them. They lived. I gathered them and saved them.

They became the limbs of my body and I was their head.

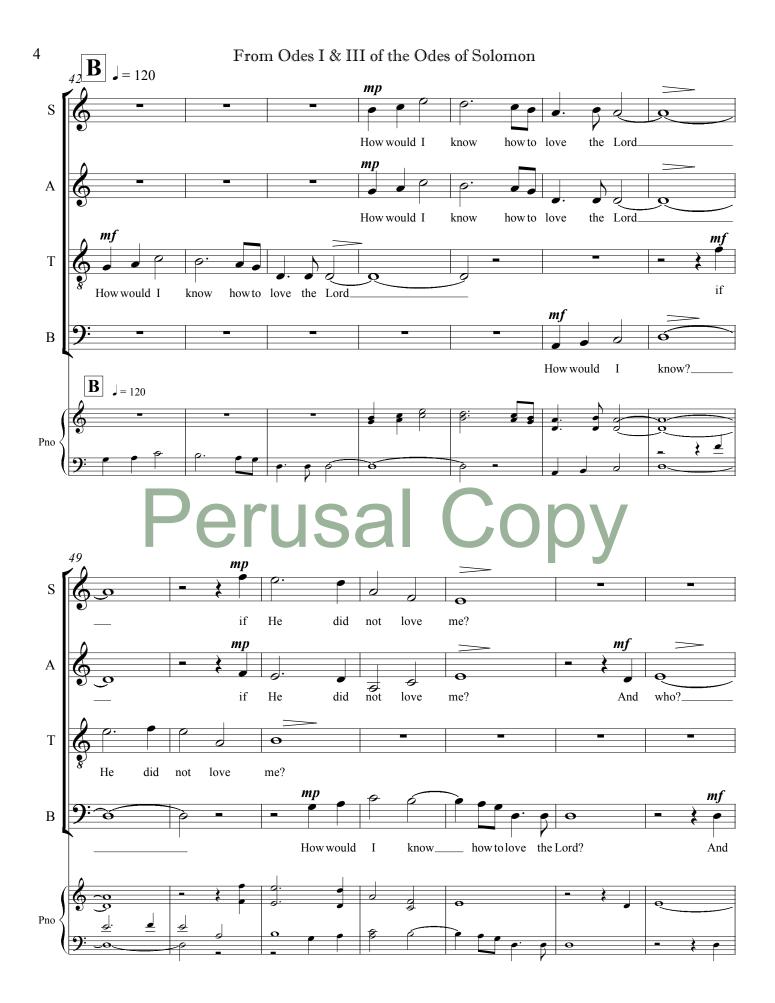
--anonymous translation excerpted from the Gnostic Society Library (www.webcom.com/~gnosis/library/odes.htm)



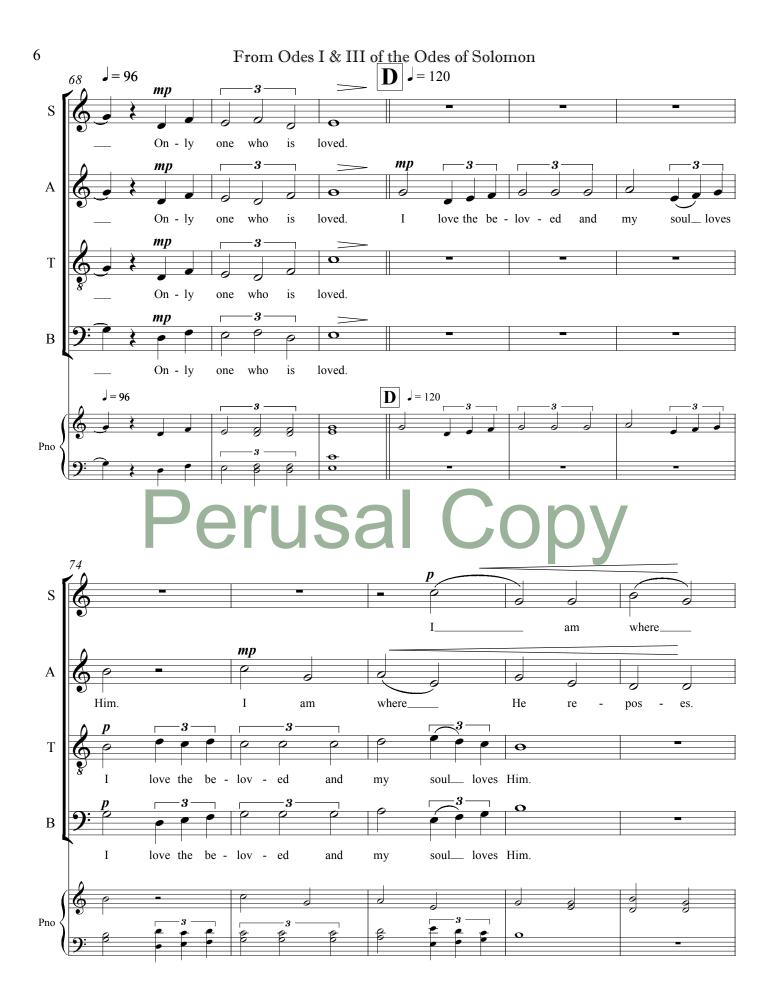


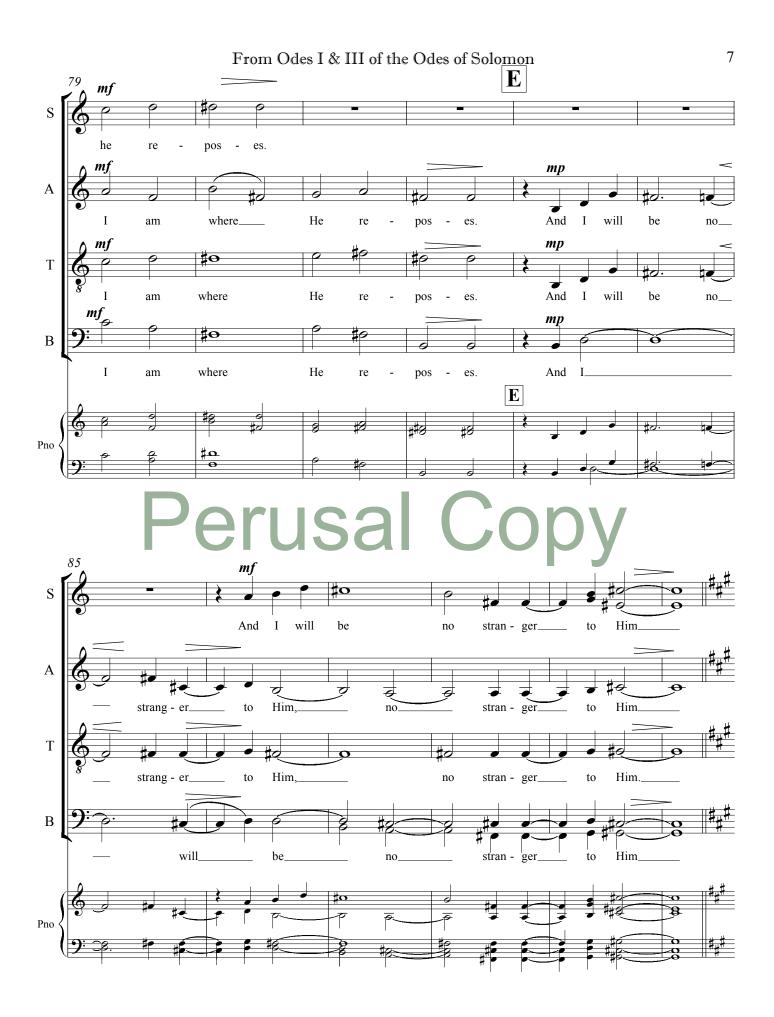


From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon











From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon





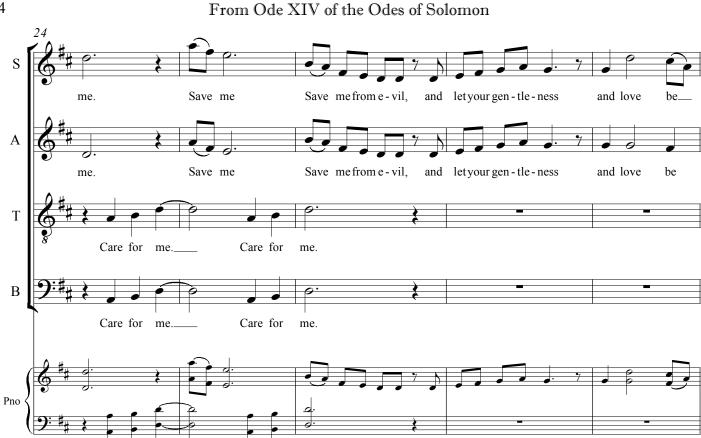
From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my father, Fletcher Lavallee Bartholomew





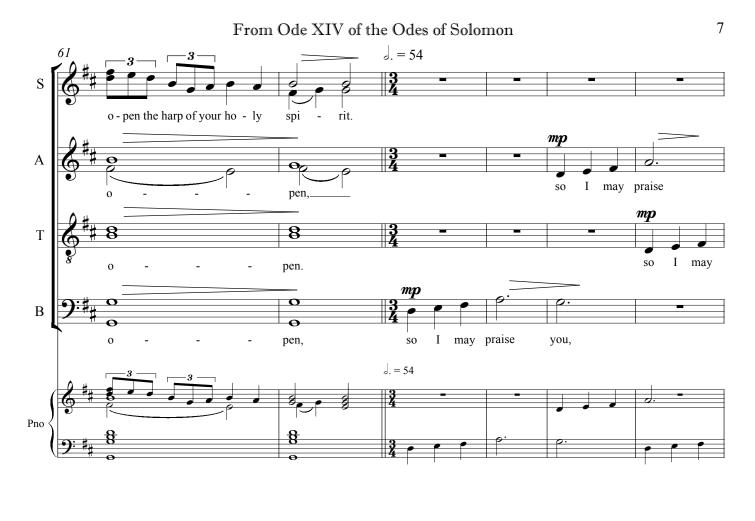










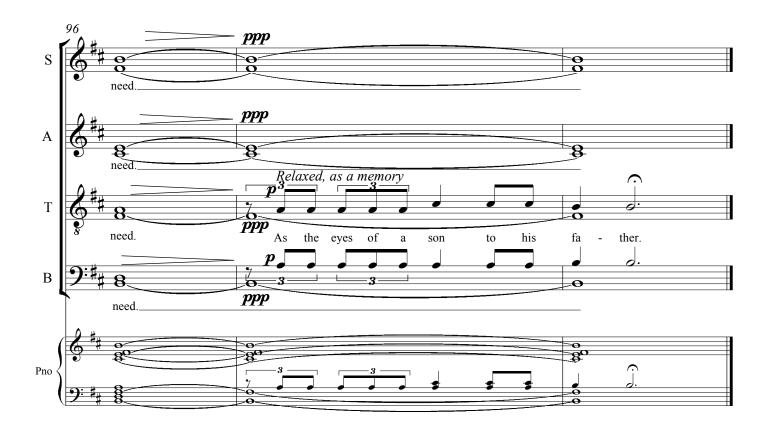








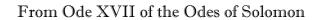




From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon



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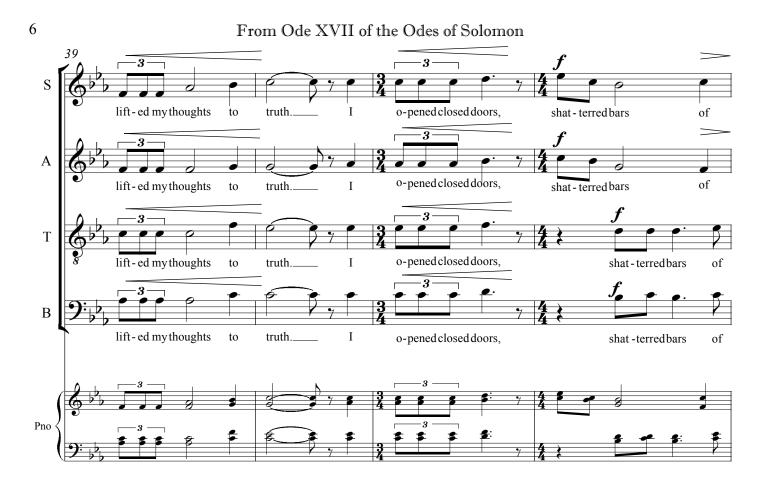






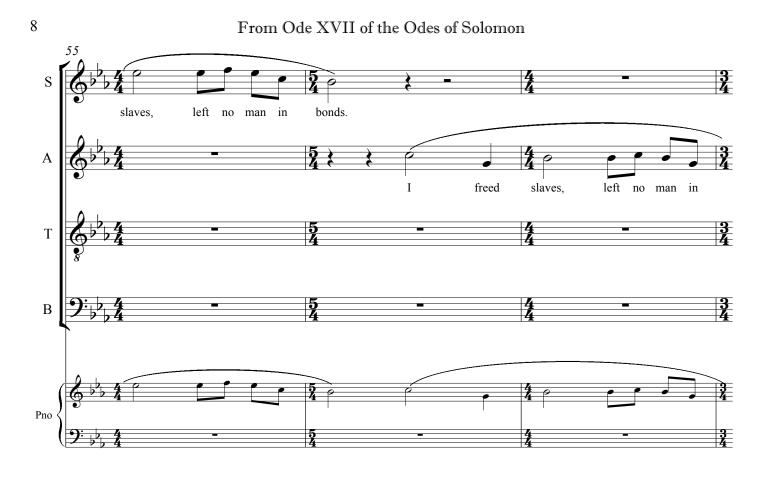






















God. was crowned by



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Leo, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2002 (Duration: 5:45) A setting of excerpts from *Astronomica*, a 1st Century B.C. Latin text by Marcus Manilius. Finalist in the 2007 Cincinnati Camerata Choral Composition Competition.

From the Odes of Solomon Available on CD from Capstone Records

From Odes 1 & 3 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:00)
From Ode 14 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:00)
From Ode 17 of the Odes of Solomon, 2000 (Duration: 5:30)
For unaccompanied SATB choir. The Odes of Solomon are believed to have been written around the year 100 A.D., and include strong parallels to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

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The 21st Century (A Girl Born in Afghanistan), for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2002 (Dur.: 6:40)

A setting of excerpts from United Nations Sec.-Gen. Kofi Annan's Nobel Peace Prize Lecture.
Available on CD released by Connecticut Choral Artists (Concora): *Songs & Stories of Liberation* (2007).
Finalist in the 2003 Briar Cliff University New Choral Music Competition.

Beati Quorum Via, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2003 (Duration: 2:30)

A new setting of the traditional Latin text.

The Fervid Hokey Poke, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2010 (Duration: 2:45)

A setting of the hilarious prize-winning poem by Jeff Brechlin.

Song of the Mountains, for mixed SSAATB choir with piano accompaniment, 2004 (Duration: 6 min.) A setting of text adapted from prose by American naturalist John Muir (1838 - 1914).

Stoke Fleming, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2000 (Duration 3:30)

A meditation on rocks and waves written at a small hamlet on the English Channel.

The Tree, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2003 (Duration: 3 min.)

A setting of the poem by American transcendental poet Jones Very (1813 - 1880).

The Promise of Liberty, or unison or 2-part chorus and piano, 2009 (Duration: 3 min.) Adapted from the poem, *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus ("Give me your tired, your poor...").

Three American Winter Settings

- A Country Boy in Winter, for unaccompanied TTBB men's chorus, 2001 (Duration: 3:20) A setting of the poem by American poet Sarah Orne Jewett (1849 - 1909).
- A Rainy Day, for unaccompanied SSAA women's chorus, 2001 (Duration: 4:15) A setting of the poem by American poet John Brainard (1796 - 1828).
- **To a Locomotive in Winter**, for unaccompanied SATB choir, 2001 (Duration: 6 min.) A setting of the poem by Walt Whitman (1819 1892).

Three Gnostic Poems

An Open World, 2007 (Duration: 3 min.)

When I Land, 2007 (Duration: 4 min.)

- And the Wind, 2007 (Duration: 5 min.)
 - For unaccompanied SATB choir. Three settings of poems by Fletcher LaVallee Bartholomew, meditations on the ineffable.