

Music Blurbs for 8-5-18

News and Notes

Today we again welcome our own Jim Rathvon at 8:00 a.m., and guest organist John Widemann at 10:30 a.m. John comes to us from Frederick. He will be playing music of Jan Zwart, a composer who is not really known outside of the Netherlands. It seems that Mr. Widmann has been in the Netherlands as a carillonneur and while there was able to meet Jan Zwart's grandson and play on Jan Zwart's practice organ. Hymns for this Sunday will include "The Church's one foundation," "Alleluia! sing to Jesus," and "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah."

Bulletin

The text of this morning's opening hymn, "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" was written by English hymnodist William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). It first appeared in *Altar Songs, Verses on the Holy Eucharist* in 1867 and then the following year in the Appendix of the first edition of the influential *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Dix also authored the texts of "As with gladness men of old" (for which the tune is named after him) and "What child is this?"

The music was written in 1830 by nineteen-year-old Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887), a native Welshman. The tune name "Hyfrydol" means "joyful" in Welsh. It first appeared in print in the composer's collection of songs for children, *Cyfaill y Cantorion* (The Singer's Friend) in 1844. The fact that it was written for children may well explain the narrow compass of its melody. With its appearance in *The English Hymnal* (1906) and then in *Alexander's Hymns* (New York 1915) the tune became wildly popular in the US and Great Britain. It became the tune used for this text and for "Love divine, all loves excelling" in the Episcopal Church's *The Hymnal 1940* as well as in our present hymnal.