

Notes about *A Joyful Noise (Psalm 100 with Alleluias)* from the composer Thomas Colohan:

I was honored and humbled to be asked to write a new piece to celebrate Paul Skevington's 25 years of service at Saint Luke Catholic Church in McLean, Virginia. The inspiration for "A Joyful Noise" came from Paul himself, who is one of the most joyful musicians I have had the privilege of knowing in my career. The Psalm 100 text came to me almost immediately, during my first phone call with Linda Roberts, the leader of the commissioning team. The combination of the Psalm 100 text with the commissioned requirements of trumpet, organ, mixed chorus, women and children's choruses, and baritone was a potent one. I decided to set each verse of the psalm for different vocal forces, setting verses 1&2 as a mixed chorus da capo refrain, with the organ and trumpet accompanying throughout. I chose the King James Version of the text for its poetic lyricism. The extended concert version includes a trumpet solo and children's chorus. These can be omitted when the work is being sung as an anthem for church services.

The organ part is modal and minimalist in nature, and I have attempted to emulate the late romantic French organ style to create a mystical atmosphere. The most rambunctious music is reserved for the mixed chorus, while the women and children are given more restrained, ethereal music. I included a chant section, and, in the extended concert version trumpet solo, a quote from Aaron Copland, to acknowledge both the American and Catholic elements of the commission and premiere.