

## **By Flowing Waters - English Chants for the Liturgy**

**Artist:** The Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle

**Language:** English

**Label:** Liturgical Press

**Period:** Contemporary

**Length:** 56'55

**Release date:** 1999

**Price:** \$16.95 USD

1. Glory and Honor and Praise
2. Alleluia, This Is the Day
3. By Flowing Waters
4. Springs of Water
5. You Were Sent to Heal the Contrite
6. Glory to God
7. Because I Have Sinned Against You
8. Come, My Beloved
9. Alleluia Psalm (Psalm 9)
10. Easter Vigil
11. Ascension Alleluia Psalm (Psalm 47)
12. Apostles' Creed in Question Form
13. My Redeemer Lives
14. In the Presence of the Angels
15. Holy, Holy, Holy
16. Memorial Acclamation A
17. Doxology Ending and Threefold Amen
18. Lamb of God
19. In Galilee You Will See Jesus
20. Ask and You Will Receive
21. Psalm 34 with Alleluias
22. We Give You Praise
23. You Knew Me, Lord
24. May Flights of Angels
25. May Choirs of Angels

If you enjoy listening to Gregorian chant but have always wondered how these beautiful melodies would sound in the English Language, this recording may become a favorite. With the popularity of chant recordings among English-speaking audiences, it may be surprising that such recordings are so rare. However, because the Gregorian melodies are so closely married to the rhythm and character of their Latin texts, replacing the original Latin with an English translation almost always leads to a very stilted, awkward sounding result. Another approach is to start with the English translations and find simpler Gregorian melodies -- perhaps with totally

different liturgical functions and unrelated texts -- and adapt them so they fit the meaning and rhythmic structure of the new vernacular text, while preserving the flow and feeling of the original melody. This is what Paul F. Ford has done in his English language adaptation of "Graduale Simplex, which itself is a compilation of simpler plain chants for use in smaller churches (that don't have the skilled choirs necessary to render the more elaborate chants of the Roman Gradual). Combining the principles of "Graduale Simplex" with the modern English translation of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible resulted in the publication of 679 chants for liturgical use, entitled "By Flowing Waters. This recording with the same name presents a selection of 25 them. The sources of these melodies are mainly from the Gregorian chant repertoire, although examples from the Mozarabic and Ambrosian tradition are also represented. By: **Joe Metzinger**

The Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle is the perfect ensemble for interpreting these chants because of its extensive pastoral experience. These interpretations sound effortless and prayerful, particularly in the rhythmic projection of both the texts and melodies. There is great variety of tone color with the constant alternation between cantors and full choir, men's and women's voices, and the use of hand bells, discreet percussion such as hand drums and finger symbols, and occasional organ accompaniment. Organal harmony and an occasional ison elaborate chants for festive occasions. In the communion chant "Ask and You Will Receive," a skillful antiphon with simple organ accompaniment is paired with a simple unaccompanied Psalm tone to create a particularly effective artistic whole. Another noteworthy selection is the unusual setting of the Apostle's Creed in its Ambrosian question-and-answer form. The exquisite texts and melodies of three chants for the funeral liturgy form a wonderful conclusion to this collection. In all, this recording is a valuable contribution for those who wish to experience the prayerful nature of western plain chant in the English language. It will be very useful as a reference tool for choirs of churches who use "By Flowing Waters" as a resource for their celebration of liturgy. The notes in the accompanying booklet give the sources of the melodies and often include performance details and interesting commentary on the Biblical texts.

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