

MUSICAL PRAYER

MARK HILLIARD WILSON

*St. James Cathedral Guitarist*

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“JUSTICE AND PEACE”

*Lift ev'ry voice and sing*

John Rosamond Johnson  
1873–1954  
arr. Mark Hilliard Wilson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun  
of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path  
through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might,  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places,  
our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine  
of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand.  
True to our God, true to our native land.  
— James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)

*Elegy*

Bryan Johanson  
b. 1951

“Méditation” from *Thaïs*

Jules Massenet  
1842–1912  
arr. Wilson

*Für Alina*

Arvo Pärt  
b. 1935  
arr. Wilson

Ricercare LVII in G minor

Francesco da Milano  
1497–1543  
arr. Rugero Chiesa

Andante

Mauro Giuliani  
1781–1844

*Lascia ch'io pianga*  
"Let me weep"

George Frederick Handel  
1685–1759  
arr. George Sisley

Largo from *Violin Sonata No. 3 in C major*, BWV 1005

Johann Sebastian Bach  
1685–1750

*We shall overcome*

Traditional

We shall overcome,  
we shall overcome,  
we shall overcome someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe,  
we shall overcome someday.

We'll walk hand in hand,  
we'll walk hand in hand,  
we'll walk hand in hand someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe,  
we shall overcome someday.

We shall all be free,  
we shall all be free,  
we shall all be free someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe,  
we shall overcome someday.

We shall live in peace,  
we shall live in peace,  
we shall live in peace someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe,  
we shall overcome someday.

**MARK HILLIARD WILSON** brings joy and technical finesse to the listener while integrating music from diverse backgrounds and different ages with a compelling story and a wry sense of humor. Performing regularly at festivals and concert series, Wilson has distinguished himself as a unique voice with programs that feature his own transcriptions of both the well known and the obscure. Wilson's compositions for the guitar have been appearing on stages throughout the Northwest US and Canada for over 15 years. He works in is the relatively unexplored genre of an ensemble of multiple guitars as the conductor, composer, arranger, and music director to the Guitar Orchestra of Seattle. Wilson has taught at Whatcom Community College and Bellevue College.

Wilson's CD *El Sueno del Camino* is the product of a series of concerts he played along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. Wilson has been busy promoting his latest CD, a Guitar Orchestra recording that features compositions for 10 guitars, inspired by the pilgrimage to Spain as well as pilgrimages closer to home: Chuckanut Drive and the Edmund Pettis Bridge. Since the start of 2019 he has produced concerts for the Guitar Orchestra of Seattle in fun and unusual venues for the classical guitar, such as the restored bar The Rendezvous in The Jewelbox Theater (built in 1932 as a movie theater); the experimental cafe theater Cafe Nordo; and the former Elliot Bay Book Company location in Pioneer Square. Solo engagements have taken him to numerous living rooms and gardens across Seattle through the organization Groupmuse. The summer of 2019, Wilson was engaged in 10 concerts over an 8-week spread, where he played solo concerts, a concerto written for him and the Octava orchestra, and a series of concerts in Portland with the soprano Jessica Israels and baritone Erik Hundtoft. Shortly after this, Wilson was the guest guitarist with the Sun Valley Symphony.

Wilson's work on a CD of Argentinian music featuring solo work and duo work with Stuart Zobel has been affected by the Covid-19 quarantine, and the same can be said of his work to release a CD of Good Friday music written by Nathan Jensen for the Guitar Orchestra of Seattle. The quarantine has not brought any of his work to a stop, but reoriented it: progress is still occurring and new skills are being acquired along the way! Please look for CDs this coming fall.