



ANNUNCIATIONS

ANNUNCIATIONS

Invitations to the divine life

Richard L. Rose

January 7, 2009

First book

Introduction, Librettos, and Afterword
Scores for *Johanin* and *Tennessee Song*

Second book

Scores for *Das Leben* and *The Good Samaritan*

Third book

Score for *Missa Brevis*

Annunciations

Invitations to the divine life.

Richard L. Rose
January 7, 2009

Johanin

Tennessee Song (Agee)

Das Leben (Herder)

The Good Samaritan

Missa brevis

Annunciations

LIBRETTO

By

Richard L. Rose

marginalnotesinwordsandmusic.org

ANNUNCIATIONS is a collection of five musical compositions that make announcements about compassion. It is the first section of the **Marginal Notes** project. Revisions of this project began in 2008. *Annunciations* was the first score to be revised.

PART ONE: Johanin, an oratorio written and performed in 1969, based on the story of the annunciation to Zechariah of the birth of John the Baptist, as recorded in the *Book of Luke*. Note that the translation of “John” or “Johanin” is “God is gracious.”

Annunciation 1: From Fear to Hope (Luke 1, Psalm 77)

Angels: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer is heard.
Your wife Elizabeth shall bear you a son,
And you shall call his name John.
You will have joy and gladness.
Many will sing at his birth.
He shall be great before God.
Filled with the Holy Spirit,
He will turn many:
A voice that soon will be heard,
Preparing the way before God.”

Zechariah: “I am just an old man, one old man.
My wife, Elizabeth, is much too old to bear a child.
Can you give a sign to us?”

Angels; “Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer is heard.
Fear cannot hear. Fear cannot speak.”

Zechariah: “Thou dost hold my eyelids from closing.
I am so troubled I cannot speak.
I remember the days of old.
I remember the years long ago.
Thou dost hold my eyelids from closing.” (He becomes mute.)

Annunciation 2: Compassion ends separation. (Rom. 8:39)

Woman” “Soft as a whisper,
Silent as sunrise,
Grace with its promise
Dawns in our hearts”