THE LIBRARY

Five Choruses for SATB Voices Unaccompanied

Texts by JOSEPH ADDISON, VICTOR HUGO, JOHN MILTON, FRANCIS BACON, AND ISAAC BARROW

Music by BRUCE TRINKLEY

The Library

The texts are from the Rotunda and stairway of the Chicago Cultural Center, formerly the Chicago Public Library. The Library was designed by Shepley Rutan and Coolidge, architects from Boston, and was dedicated in October 1897. After the new Harold Washington Library Center was opened in 1991, the Chicago Public Library became the Chicago Cultural Center, housing performance and museum exhibition spaces.

During a composer residency in 2010 at the historic Ragdale Foundation, an artist colony in Evanston, Illinois, I visited the magnificent architectural landmark of the Chicago Public Library in the Loop. I was captivated by the texts in the Rotunda and lingered there to write them down - and that became my project for the Ragdale residency.

These choruses are dedicated to lovers of libraries and literature of all ages.

I. Books

Books are the legacies that a great genius leaves to mankind which are delivered down from generation to generation, as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn. Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

II. A Library

A library implies an act of faith which generations still in darkness hid, sign in their night in witness of the dawn.

Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

III. A Good Book

A good book is the precious life blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.

John Milton (1608-1674)

IV. The Real Use of All Knowledge

The real use of all knowledge is this: that we should dedicate that reason which was given us by God for the use and advantage of man.

Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

V. He That Loveth a Book

He that loveth a book will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome consellor, a cheerful companion, an effectual comforter.

Isaac Barrow (1630-1677)

I. Books For SATB Chorus Unaccompanied





II. A Library





III. A Good Book For SATB Chorus and Piano









IV. The Real Use of All Knowledge













V. He That Loveth a Book For SATB Chorus Unaccompanied







