

'Enlightenment' and 'Pragmatism': New Songs by an Adventist Composer

Margarita Merriman, who has been writing music since she was a teen-ager, took a doctoral degree from the Eastman School of Music in theory and composition. Her work at Eastman led to her belief that the contemporary composer must "seek to avoid sentimentality, saccharine sweetness, lush orchestration, bombast and obviousness." Something fresh and appropriate to the twentieth century is what she is aiming for in her compositions.

Dr. Merriman has recently been commissioned to do a number of works which have been given a careful performance: *The Millennium* (an oratorio for soloists, chorus and orchestra), a cello sonata, a piano sonata and a song cycle, two songs from which appear in this issue of *SPECTRUM*. Her *Symphony No. 1*, written as a part of her doctoral dissertation, was premiered in November of 1975. In addition,

she is working on a bicentennial work for chamber orchestra to be performed during the New England Sinfonia's tour of the southeast this year.

Dr. Merriman says that not only has this emphasis on creativity benefitted her personally, but it has also spurred great bursts of composing activity among music majors at Atlantic Union College where she teaches. "There are several competent composers in the denomination, most of whom are engaged in teaching," she says. "There are undoubtedly others with latent talent waiting to be developed. This ability should not be allowed to lie dormant. The denomination needs the injection of musical life-blood its composers are eager to provide."

For the songs that follow, Dr. Merriman has drawn from poetry by Lynn Sauls, professor of English at Atlantic Union College. Dr. Sauls took doctoral studies at the University of Iowa.

ENLIGHTENMENT

L. Sauls

M. Merriman 1974

Vivace

mp

mp

Two child- ren looked for

fire- flies.

mf

One

dim.

You caught one; The oth- er, none.

mf

dim.

mf

dim.

But both kept right on look- ing.

p

cresc

mf

rall. e dim.

pp

Ped. ----- *

PRAGMATISM

L. Sauls

M. Merriman - 1974

Andante *f*

Con- crete side-walks ru- ler like to force men's

simile

mp *cresc.*

paths. Men's well-worn paths quite of-ten, though,

mp *cresc.*

f show side-walks where to go.

fz *no rit.* *simile*