

DANIEL E. GAWTHROP

b. 1949

**Caprice
Chorale
Toccata Brevis**

Daniel Gawthrop, prolific American choral and instrumental composer, lives in eastern Tennessee. These three pieces, wonderfully idiomatic studies for the organ, pass through a wide range of moods in mere minutes. The *Caprice* is playful and joyful, the *Chorale*, brooding and noble, the *Toccata Brevis*, triumphant and exultant. Mr. Gawthrop provides an interesting insight into the Toccata: He wanted to compose a work that sounds more difficult than it is, a piece that intermediate students could play successfully. The result is this short piece played almost entirely on the “easier-to-hit-correctly” black notes.

Three Floral Preludes

I was honored to premiere Dan Gawthrop’s wonderfully comical *Floral Preludes* in 2010. The first is menacing and funny at the same time. The second is tricky to catch; listen carefully and sloooowly. The third is dedicated to me, in recognition of my many years in Texas. Dan Gawthrop adds these comments: “The practice of writing extended preludes on familiar tunes, typically hymn tunes or ‘chorales,’ is an ancient and honored one among composers for the organ. Bach wrote dozens of such pieces ranging from relatively simple little perambulations to sprawling works of considerable length and difficulty. Other composers of the Baroque also contributed whole volumes of such preludes to the repertoire. Though not many were created during the Classic period (essentially Haydn & Mozart, Inc.) the practice was revived with relish during the Romantic Age by such composers as Max Reger and Sigfried Karg-Elert and has remained something of a staple ever since in the output of such contemporary composers as the late Paul Manz. My Three Floral Preludes (not ‘choral’ preludes but ‘floral’ preludes...get it?) take as their inspiration well known melodies which don’t happen to be hymn tunes or chorales but which all have the name of a flower in their titles. You will doubtless recognize them as they unfold, but here is a hint: *Leucanthemum Vulgare* is the proper designation for the common Daisy; ‘*Durch die Tulpen*’ is best translated as ‘Through the Tulips;’ ‘*La Rose Jaune*’ is a yellow rose. Feel free to snicker aloud (or just smile knowingly) when you recognize the tune so that others seated around you will know that you ‘got it.’ These are written for your entertainment; attempts at formal analysis will be prosecuted.” Dan has even more entertaining comments inside the front cover of the score itself, which may be purchased through Subito Music.