

Job, Lynn R., ELATIO: Praises and Prophecies. Doctor of Musical Arts (Composition), December, 1998, 584 pp., 28 illustrations.

ELATIO: Praises and Prophecies is an allegorical composition based upon a collection of carols, poetry and prose in selected verses, phrases and fragments from medieval Christian liturgy, the canonical Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and New Testament, and portions of various non-canonical Dead Sea Scroll texts (as translated and edited by Geza Vermes, The Dead Sea Scrolls in English, 3rd ed., New York: The Penguin Group, 1987). The languages used in the selections presented here are English, Medieval Latin (Italianized), and transliterated Biblical Hebrew (Sephardic pronunciation).

This composition contains a subset of sixteen independent musical works (each called a “fragment”) selected from the eventual 28. The individual texts are organized within several layers of allegorical schemes and mystical numeric designs falling into six musical sections. These sections are themselves constructed underneath the span of three superimposed palindromic arches. The instrumentation calls for tenor and lyric contralto soloists, men’s chorus, women’s chorus, and a mid-sized orchestra augmented with tenor recorders and extended percussion (featuring celesta). The performance time of the sixteen selections combined runs approximately one hour and forty minutes, not including an optional intermission. The 160-page essay which precedes the concert-pitch, study score contains as follows: the full text indexed to the score pages (with sources); a discussion of the allegory and numerical symbolism; a brief analysis of the composition; a list of related musical works; and a selected topical bibliography.