

## Program Notes for The Eternal God

**(taken from the program notes for Songs of Hope and Promise)**

*Songs of Hope and Promise* for chorus and organ was commissioned by St. Mark's Lutheran Church (San Francisco, CA) in celebration of their Director of Music's 25 years of service. The piece is constructed in three sections and is designed to be performed as one composite, or as individual movements that can be interspersed throughout a worship service. The text of each section, arranged by the composer, is intended to encourage the Director of Music in his ministry, as well as each singer or listener in their individual walk with God.

Section One, *The Eternal God*, with texts from Zephaniah, Jeremiah, and Deuteronomy, focuses on God's deep love for us, a love so strong that he delights in us, and walks with us through every step of our lives, promising to be our refuge.

Adonai your God is with you,  
A mighty one who will save.  
God will take great delight in you,  
And will quiet you with love.  
Adonai your God will rejoice over you with joyful songs.  
Zephaniah 3:17

"I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with loving-kindness." Jeremiah 31:3

God rides on the heavens to help you  
and on the clouds in his majesty.  
The eternal God is your refuge,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms. Deuteronomy 33:26-7