

Searching the **eLibrary** for Anthems to Use on January Liturgical Days

Dr. Robert C. Mann, Resource Library Director

After the exhaustive musical demands of Advent and Christmas, it is perhaps understandable that those who plan music for worship might want to exert less effort to plan music for the two important liturgical days in early January: *Epiphany Day* (January 6, 2015) and *Baptism of the Lord* (January 11, 2015). However, both of these days are easier to plan than might be anticipated, and each has an abundance of music related to scriptures and emphases of the days that choir directors will want to utilize. In the past, fewer texts were written to emphasize lectionary readings associated with these days. This has changed, however, and presently there are many anthems for these January days that either fit the text directly or are general to the season. The CMI **eLibrary** offers search methods to locate such anthems, and I will walk you through the process by identifying several options.

To search for an anthem for *Epiphany Day, B* or *Baptism of the Lord, B*, do this:

SEARCH BY: Liturgical Reference [e.g., "*Epiphany Day, ABC*" or "*Baptism of the Lord, B*"]
Scripture Reference [e.g., "Matthew 2:1-12"]
General Word [e.g., Baptism, Epiphany (no quotes)]
Other Restrictions [e.g., "*Epiphany Day, ABC*" Easy 2-part Mixed]

In our **eLibrary** database, years for *Epiphany Day* are grouped as one reference: *Epiphany Day, ABC*, not separately as *Epiphany Day, B*. (See Search by Lectionary Reference in the CMI **eLibrary** Search Tips.) *Baptism of the Lord* is listed separately by year, *Baptism of the Lord, B*, because of its less general scriptural passages. If I enter "*Epiphany Day, ABC*," I get 254 results. If I enter "Epiphany Day," I get 265 results. If I enter the general word Epiphany (with no quotation marks), I get 1898 results.

If I want to restrict my search to a specific composer to see if that composer has composed any Epiphany anthems, I would do the following: Fedak Epiphany (no quotations) = 17 results. Hopson "*Epiphany Day, ABC*" = 5 results.

To do a scripture search, enter the gospel reading for *Epiphany Day, B*: "Matthew 2:1-12" = 155 results. Sometimes the exact scripture is not reflected in the **eLibrary**. When this happens, enter the chapter only: "Matthew 2:" = 208 results. By looking at the titles of the anthems pulled up, you can then decide to search the information page to determine the scripture used and if it fits your anthem.

Using these searches, I located some wonderful anthems for Epiphany Day that are not difficult. Please give consideration to the following by looking them up on our website:

Silent Stars Shine Down On Us Keesecker, Thomas 2-part mixed #3607 (gospel reading)

Let in the Light Fedak, Alfred 2-part mixed #6010

Here Is the Little Door Howells, Herbert SATB #3655 (gospel reading)

With All the Saints Hurd, Bob SATB #4917 (Isaiah 60:1-5)
New Year Rutter, John SATB #1858
Concertato on "Jesus Shall Reign" Hopson, Hal H. SAB #627
Eastern Sages Saw from Far Hopson, Hal H. SATB #6550
On this Day Earth Shall Ring Hopson, Hal H. SAB #2096
How Far Is It to Bethlehem? 8 settings by different composers
I Saw Three Ships 6 settings by different composers

For "*Baptism of the Lord, B*," I get 71 results. For the general word *Baptism* (no quotes), I get 237 results. To search the reading "Mark 1:4-11," you will have to input "Mark 1:" because the exact verses are not represented. (In this search, I found the David Cherwien setting of the text *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*, SATB, #2091 plus other settings.) Other results from the searches used:

Everflowing Streams of Praise Fedak, Alfred SATB #6005
Washed Anew Keesecker, Thomas SAB #4120 (Mark 1:9-11)
Down to the River to Pray 4 settings by different composers
We Sing the Mighty Power of God Hopson, Hal H. SATB #2817 (Genesis 1:1-5)
I Sing the Mighty Power of God 9 settings by different composers

As always, the **eLibrary** is a great resource to discover anthems your choir already sings that match scripture readings for *Epiphany Day* and *Baptism of the Lord*. And, don't forget to peruse the Hymns for the Day suggestions found in denominational aids for which you probably have some anthem arrangements. Please don't allow your musical fatigue to cheat your choir and congregation out of complete worship experiences on these liturgical days for which appropriate anthems could be performed.